



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
YOUTH COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 17th, 2025 5:30 PM
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP HALL 5151
MARSH ROAD OKEMOS, MI

1. YOUTH COMMISSION PHOTO RETAKE
2. CHAIR GEBARA CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER
3. CHAIR GEBARA CALL THE ROLL: Higgins, Gay, Gebara, Mahale, McCarthy, Regan, Sampathkumar, Shah, and Stecovich
4. PRESENTATION: LOCAL GOVERNMENT 103 – County Government vs. Local Government, What’s the difference?
5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
6. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES
 - a. October 20, 2025 Beautification Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
 - b. November 3, 2025 Beautification Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
7. PUBLIC REMARKS
8. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Township Youth Commission Beautification Project: Village of Okemos Site
9. NEW BUSINESS
10. PUBLIC REMARKS
11. OPEN DISCUSSION
 - * Members are encouraged to ask staff and the commission direct questions to determine goals of the Youth Commission and actionable steps to achieve them.
12. Next Meeting Date: General Youth Commission Monday December 15th at 5:30 pm
Beautification Subcommittee Monday December 1st at 5:30 pm Virtually
13. ADJOURNMENT



Charter Township of Meridian
Youth Commission
Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Monday, October 20, 2025– Beautification Subcommittee Minutes -DRAFT

Members

Present: Autumn Gebara, Finn Regan, Jacob Stecovich, and Rishabh Mahale

Members

Absent: None

Others

Present: Economic Development Director Amber Clark,

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Gebara called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

2. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Township Youth Commission Beautification Project

The Youth Commission Beautification Committee was established by the Youth Commission at their regular meeting October 20. There was support from the Commission about getting involved in two beautification projects. One project at the Village of Okemos site is the first order of business for the Beautification committee.

Director Clark provided some parameters regarding the Village of Okemos site and specifics of the site. Site contamination prohibits digging of the site to maintain public health. Director Clark recommends a temporary chain link fence, as this provides a secure enclosure around the site, and will allow for some creative art presentations. Director Clark proposed having portions of the chain link fence that are designated for different expressions. For instance one side could be an “awareness” art wall, another side could be a semi-permanent mural, etc. Director Clark noted that the best way to present a potential beautification of the site is to plan the overall project, determine the budget and request support financially from the Township regarding the site.

Chair Gebara stated this would be a great way to engage art students/programs at both Haslett and Okemos. Students would be entered into a design competition and selected designs will be showcased on the fence.

Chair Gebara asked members to begin planning their overall design of the beautification. Several options are proposed regarding the design of the potential project.

The project may include a temporary fence and involve local students to create art on a couple of the sides. In addition, there was some interest in involving local businesses with small stands at the event. The second project would be to work with the Haslett Beautification Association on plantings at the Haslett Road and Marsh Road corner in Haslett. These plantings would have a holiday theme. Both projects would be completed by May 2026. There was discussion to have a subcommittee work on these two events as the Commission's goals for 2025-2026.

4. OLD BUSINESS

None.

7. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

- Monday November 3, 2025 at 5:30 pm virtually

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY MEMBER REGAN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:46 PM. SUPPORTED BY CHAIR GEBARA. MOTION PASSES 4-0.



Charter Township of Meridian
Youth Commission
Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Monday, November 3, 2025– Beautification Subcommittee Minutes -DRAFT

Members

Present: Finn Regan Rishabh Mahale

Members

Absent: Autumn Gebara, Krishaan Shah

Others

Present: Economic Development Director Amber Clark,

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Member Finn Regan called the meeting to order at 5:27 pm.

2. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Township Youth Commission Beautification Project

The Youth Commission Beautification Committee determined the Village of Okemos beautification site is their first site to address.

Member Finn Regan provided an overview of a community art project using chain link fencing. The community would secure CD's to the fencing. CD's are colorful and can be recycled. These are things people typically throw away that could become a work of art.

Member Rishabh Mahale discussed he prefers to see an art project that include recyclable materials. He noted the community has strong support for recycling efforts, and it's important to keep that in mind. He notes he prefers designs that use solo cups as they are easy to install, easy to manipulate into creative designs, recyclable, and something most people can participate in.

Director Clark asked how the group plans to implement the designs. Would they host an event? Would they include the community schools? How about asking a local artist for help or support? Director Clark noted the Township may have connections with the local artist who provided the community with the local murals. These projects included connecting with the community to get the project completed. Director Clark offered to reach out to the Parks Department to seek assistance with this endeavor.

Member Mahale suggested that each beautification member could be assigned one section of the fence, each to manage one community art design along that side. They would determine the materials used, set the event details up, connect with the Youth Commission and community members to see it completed.

Member Finn asked if an event could be held in winter or would they prefer to wait. Director Clark stated that would be up to them. They could host a winter event with hot chocolate or other cold themed activities.

Director Clark provided the update that she has spoken with the property owner and a letter requesting permission to use the property for an art beautification piece is all that would be required. They have committed to signing that letter. Director Clark noted she has not had the chance to get a general budget yet from the Township. To put fencing along the entire parameter of the site would be the largest expense. Maybe \$16,000. Director Clark is willing to work with the Township and community to see it completed.

Subcommittee members are to bring final design options to the Youth Commission on November 17th. They are to bring their design ideas, what materials will be used, how much they cost to acquire, where/how they will store the materials (or do participants have to bring them?), how they will be secured to the fencing. They will need to determine whom in the community they want to partner with. Provide those details to the commission on November 17th

4. OLD BUSINESS

None.

7. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

- Monday November 17, 2025 at 6:30 pm IN PERSON

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY MEMBER REGAN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:56 PM. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER MAHALE. MOTION PASSES 2-0.

To: Meridian Township Youth Commission Members
From: Amber Clark Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director
Date: November 17, 2025
Re: Village of Okemos Beautification Project

The Beautification subcommittee has met twice since the general Youth Commission members have met, to discuss options for a beautification project at the Village of Okemos site. They have been instructed to come up with ideas for design and implementation that could include the community.

Township staff have been in conversation with the current property owner to gain authorization to place a temporary fence on the site that could be beautified. The attached is a letter staff submitted to the owner to have signed, granting our permission.

Next Steps:

1. Youth Commission determine which design or designs they would like to see on the site
2. Director Clark to determine budget and temporary fence costs
3. Youth Commission Subcommittee member to plan the implementation portion of the design (what materials, how to acquire the materials, who will manage the materials being put into place? Etc.)
4. Events/Communications Committee should be engaged once plans for implementation are set

Discussion: The members of the Beautification committee will share their ideas and how they plan to manage their portion of the project.