



Charter Township of Meridian
Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Monday, March 5, 2018 – Minutes

Members

Present: Bill Cawood, Susan Fulk, Jim Spanos, Will Randle, Sherry Fisher, Scott Weaver and Supervisor Ron Styka

Members Jim Raynak, Renee Korrey

Absent:

Staff

Present: Economic Development Director Chris Buck, Director of Community Planning and Development Mark Kieselbach, Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz, and Township Manager Frank Walsh

Others

Present: Township Trustee Patricia Herring Jackson

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Fulk called the meeting to order at 7:32 am.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION BY MEMBER RANDLE TO APPROVE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER FISHER. MOTION APPROVED 7-0.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2018

MOTION BY MEMBER CAWOOD TO APPROVE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER SPANOS. MOTION APPROVED 7-0.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

5. PRESENTATION

None.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

The report was not available. Director Buck explained he would send it via email this week.

7. AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS

MOTION BY MEMBER CAWOOD TO AUTHORIZE CONSUMERS ENERGY ELECTICITY PAYMENTS OF \$320.19. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER FISHER. MOTION APPROVED 7-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Annual Report

Director Buck discussed the DDA must submit an Annual Report each year that will need to be approved by the DDA and also by the Township Board. He is working with the Treasurer and Finance Director to complete this for review at the next meeting.

b. Meridian Redevelopment Fund

From the sale of the old fire station and the MARC, the Township wants to put the \$574,000 received into a grant or loan program for developers. The DDA reviewed the draft application. Once applications are received they would be vetted by the EDC and then moved onto the Township Board. Discussion was had around disbursing the money as a loan or as a grant, minimum amounts and when the disbursement should occur.

c. Future Tax Capture Plan

Discussion around as growth occurs in the DDA, more funds will be available for tax capture.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. MUPUD Zoning Ordinance Amendment Update

The Township Board voted 6-1 to move the issue to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission created a subcommittee that met last Friday to discuss possible height restrictions. Director Buck spoke with folks responsible for creating transformational downtown areas in Northville and Birmingham for some innovative ideas on height.

10. CHAIR REPORT

None.

11. STAFF REPORT

Director Buck reviewed the recent development projects.

- Fox Nissian will reopen in the old Nissian footprint
- The former Pizza Hut on Grand River has been leased to an Indian restaurant
- Okemos Elevation leasing office will open in May
- Famous Taco has moved from Haslett to North Lansing
- Rx Optical building on Grand River is for sale, as well as, 9,000 square feet of office space on Montrose

12. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported the Township had 84 million dollars in development in 2017. The redevelopment fund is going to help make Meridian prime for redevelopment.

13. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

Director Buck introduced Trustee Patricia Herring Jackson.

14. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

Member Randle was introduced. Member Spanos inquired regarding the status of the Okemos Bridge. Member Fisher mentioned that Member Raynak planted flower boxes in the past and another option might need to be put into place.

15. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

16. NEXT MEETING DATE

a. May 7, 2018, 7:30am

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned without objection at 8:34am.