

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
Meridian Municipal Building – Town Hall Room
JUNE 7, 2017 - APPROVED**

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Chair Bill McConnell, Commissioners, Ned Jackson, Ben Holland, Susan Masten, John Sarver, Jim Kielbaso, Kirk Lapham, and Marina Ionescu

ABSENT: NONE

STAFF: Assistant Planner Jennifer Quinlivan

OTHERS: NONE

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Bill McConnell called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. GREEN THEMES PRESENTATION:

David Arnost from Haslett Community Church presented on the solar panel project they have recently completed at the church. He stated the project was more of a focus on the “human side and outreach” of a solar panel installation lead by the Haslett Community Church Green Team. The team started working on the project in 2014 and conducted a variety of community talks regarding the use of solar panels to offset energy costs. They set a deadline of 2017 for the installation of the solar panels. By the end of 2016 Haslett Community Church had secured the funding necessary to purchase and install the panels. With a partnership with Consumers Energy and Michigan Interfaith Power and Light they were able to install the panels by their deadline. The solar panel ribbon cutting occurred on Earth Day 2017 and was dedicated to long-time supporter, Joyce Bartles. Bartles was instrumental in the establishment of the solar panel project. The solar panels are expected to reduce the annual energy expenditures by two-thirds, approximately \$3,000 in savings. Arnost stated as they move forward the Green Team plans to share their experience and promote solar panels within the community. On September 24, 2017 the Haslett Community Church plans to host a solar open house.

3. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MASTEN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER JACKSON. MOTION APPROVED 8-0.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 3, 2017 MEETING

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MASTEN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER KIELBASO. MOTION APPROVED 8-0.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

NONE

6. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Masten read a statement regarding the support of the Paris Agreement by United States Mayors. Masten made a motion to forward the statement of support to the Township Supervisor; the motion was supported by Commissioner Sarver.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Chair McConnell addressed the work session held prior to the regular meeting on the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan. The Commission reviewed the draft of the plan as submitted to the Commission by the Township's Energy Team. Chair McConnell reported the plan had received comments from the Commission and would be circulated to the Planning Commission, Transportation Commission and Economic Development Corporation for further comment. He also requested a public hearing to comment on the plan prior to the Commission making a recommendation to the Township Board to have the plan added as an appendix to the Township Master Plan.

8. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair McConnell reported he had received an offer from the Township Manager and Chief of Police to speak on the upcoming Township millage vote in August.

9. STAFF REPORT

NONE

10. COMMISSIONER SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning: Chair McConnell reported the Planning Commission was reviewing their bylaws.

Land Preservation: Commissioner Kielbaso reported the Mud Ball was going to be held the following week at Davis Foster. The Land Preservation Commission was waiting on appraisals on multiple properties.

Energy Team: Commissioner Sarver reported the Township's Energy Team recently attended the Michigan Green Community meeting. The Township was awarded a silver designation for Michigan Green Communities. Commissioner Sarver also commented a link to the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan was available on the Energy Team's website.

Student Engagement: NONE

Parks: Commissioner Masten commented, construction of Towner Park was underway.

Transportation: Commissioner Jackson commented on the need for better signage and educational pieces relating to the Township Pathways.

11. PUBLIC REMARKS

Judy Kendal of 2915 Margate Lane spoke in support of the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan and in support of the statement for the Paris Agreement from U. S. Mayors.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m. without objection.