



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Economic Development Corporation
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, January 7, 2021– Minutes -DRAFT

Members

Present: Jade Sims, Joel Conn, Treasurer Phil Deschaine, David Ledebuhr, Tom Conway, Township Manager Frank Walsh, Mikhail Murshak, Brenda Chapman, Adam Carlson, Trustee Kathy Ann Sundland, and Kimberly Thompson

Members

Absent: Shawn Dunham

Others

Present: Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark, Community Planning & Development Director Mark Kieselbach

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Sims called the meeting to order at 7:30 am and Member Thompson read the mission statement.

2. **MISSION:** Set the standard in creating an entrepreneurial culture, be the example for revitalization of our business districts, and be the leaders in building sustainable public/private partnerships.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION BY MEMBER CHAPMAN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CARLSON. MOTION PASSES 11-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-December 3, 2020
- b. Financial Report
- c. Development Projects

MOTION BY MEMBER CARLSON TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 11-0.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Meridian Small Business Relief Grant Update
Director Clark reported that the Township Board did allocate \$500,000 to the grant program. She received 128 applicants. This second round of business grants has relaxed eligibility requirements

to include local franchises. The grant review committee consisting of the Township Supervisor Styka, Township Manager Walsh, EDC Chair Sims, DDA Chair Fulk, and Trustee Jackson will be meeting tomorrow to review the grants. The Township will announce the recipients tomorrow through a press release.

b. MABA Business Awards

Director Clark reported that she did submit the business list to MABA, but has not heard back from them. The EDC has committed to a \$250 contribution towards the purchase of the awards. She will also follow up with MABA regarding the Grub Grab program and report to the EDC via email.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. EDC 2021 Goals

Director Clark shared the drafted EDC 2021 Goals. She discussed how they are based on the Township's 2021 Goals. Discussion was had around continuing to work on updating and building a comprehensive Township business contact list. This item will be added to goal number 1. Director Clark mentioned she is working with the Communications Department on the ability for local businesses to go directly to the website to update their information. Chair Sims suggested to reorganize the Business Promotion & Outreach Committee. This committee would consist of Vice Chair Thompson, Member Conway, Member Chapman, and Treasurer Deschaine. The committee will work with the Communications Department to highlight local businesses and assist Director Clark with identifying local business contacts. Chair Sims and Director Clark will work on connecting with the schools to see how the EDC can support entrepreneurial programs in both districts. The drink cart project is on hold for now.

MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO ADOPT THE 2021 AMENDED GOALS AS PRESENTED. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CONWAY. MOTION PASSES 11-0.

8. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

a. Township Board

Trustee Sundland reported the following:

- The Board received a Redi-Ride Update. The hours of operation are 7:00am-6:00pm and that is going well.
- The Board appointed Dan Opsommer as Supervisor Pro Tem.
- The Board approved the new procurement policy.
- The Board will have a special meeting in February to discuss recreational marihuana.
- Treasurer Deschaine reported the Board did have a presentation on Form Based Code.

b. Township Manager

Manager Walsh discussed that tonight at 6:00pm there will be a public meeting for a minor amendment of the Village of Okemos project. The change has slightly reduced the commercial space and slightly increased the residential space for the project making no significant change in the total square feet of the project. Manager Walsh encouraged EDC members to attend the meeting tonight to help move this project forward. Member Ledebuhr suggested that the EDC draft a motion in full support of Director Kieselbach and the Village of Okemos project to be read tonight at the meeting. Chair Sims agreed to read the motion and work with Director Clark to draft the motion language.

MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR FOR CHAIR SIMS TO WORK WITH DIRECTOR CLARK TO CRAFT A MOTION SUPPORTING THE VILLAGE OF OKEMOS PROJECT AS IS. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CONWAY. MOTION PASSES 11-0.

- c. Planning Commission
Director Clark, on behalf of Commissioner Trezise, gave a report on the current Planning Commission activities.
- d. Chair
Chair Sims encouraged Director Clark to follow up on the MABA Grub Grab Program status.
- e. Staff
Director Clark reported the Township 2020 Annual Report is currently being developed. The demolition of the Village of Okemos is completed ahead of schedule. Treasurer Deschaine will follow up with MABA at their next meeting tomorrow regarding the Grub Grab Program.

9. COMMUNITY REPORTS

- a. Meridian Mall
Member Dunham was absent. Macy's is revealing their Michigan closings soon. Also, New York & Company is closing.
- b. MABA
No additional items.

10. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

None.

10. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

- February 4, 2021 at 7:30am

12. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Sims adjourned the meeting.