



Charter Township of Meridian  
Meridian Economic Development Corporation  
Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Thursday, November 7, 2024– Minutes -DRAFT

**Members**

**Present:** Treasurer Phil Deschaine, Chair Kim Thompson, Shawn Dunham, Nate Ide, Adam Carlson, Sai Turlapati, David Fosdick and Trustee Kathy Sundland

**Members**

**Absent:** Dave Ledebuhr

**Others**

**Present:** Economic Development Director Amber Clark, Fire Chief Mike Hamel and Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order and read the mission statement at 7:33 am.

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. PRESENTATION-Meridian Township Heart Safe Program

Chief Hamel presented regarding the Fire Department’s partnership with Stryker. The Township has entered into a contract with Stryker which allows for replacement equipment every five years for the department. Through this program, Stryker will give us 30% discounts on the purchase of AEDs. Early use of an AED results in a 30-50% increased chance of survival. Chief Hamel proposed a partnership between the EDC and the Fire Department for the purposes of increasing the numbers of AEDs in our local businesses. If a business was interested in purchasing a device, the fire department would order it tax free for \$2,100-\$2,400 (depending on additional features including wall cabinet, kit, extra pads), the local business would pay the EDC and the EDC would reimburse the fire department for the expense. This program offered through Stryker is called Heart Safe Community Program.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION BY MEMBER CARLSON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 7-0.**

5. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Minutes-Meeting August 1, 2024

b. Financial Statement

**MOTION BY MEMBER CARLSON TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 7-0.**

6. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

7. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Meridian Township Heart Safe Community Program

The EDC discussed the Heart Safe Community Program and the fact that Lansing and Detroit are already involved. There was support for the program. Member Carlson suggested the EDC have a standing agenda item under old business to discuss the program's progress.

**MOTION BY MEMBER CARLSON TO AUTHORIZE THE MERIDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AS THE COLLABORATIVE FIDUCIARY PARTNER FOR THE MERIDIAN HEART SAFE COMMUNITY PROGRAM, AUTHORIZE STAFF TO COORDINATE THE EXECUTION OF THE PROGRAM WITH THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT AND LOCAL BUSINESSES. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER SUNDLAND. MOTION PASSES 7-0.**

b. Lunar New Year Sponsorship Request GLCA

Director Clark reached out to the GLCA regarding the information for the 2025 Lunar New Year celebration. It will be held on February 2, 2025 at the Meridian Mall. She suggested the EDC consider the same \$1,500 sponsorship as last year. There was discussion about having an EDC booth at the event.

**MOTION BY MEMBER CALSON TO APPROVE SPONSORSHIP OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION AT MERIDIAN MALL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,500. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER SUNDLAND. MOTION PASSES 6-1 (MEMBER DUNHAM OBSTAINED).**

c. 2025 Meridian EDC Calendar

Chair Thompson shared the proposed 2025 calendar.

**MOTION BY MEMBER CARLSON TO APPROVE THE 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP AS PROPOSED SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 7-0.**

**Member Carlson left the meeting.**

d. 2025 Meridian EDC Budget

Director Clark stated the EDC recently received the \$10,000 check from the Burcham Hills bonds and planning on continuing to be the fiduciary for Juneteenth. There was

discussion about beginning a new business improvement grant similar to the one established by the DDA for exterior improvements, not related to maintenance. The EDC would need to work on criteria for the program with reimbursements no more than \$10,000.

**MOTION BY MEMBER DUNHAM TO ACCEPT AND ADOPT THE 2025 ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AS PRESENTED. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER FOSDICK. MOTION PASSES 6-0.**

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. EDC Annual Training Review

Chair Thompson reported on the article entitled New Life for Downtowns as Innovation Districts. She stated the article discussed smaller districts for industrial/IT use.

Director Clark summarized the article entitled 15 Minute City- Hope or Hype and Hostility. She mentioned this is the concept that all important needs such as food, pharmacy, gas, and bank are within a 15 minute walk. MEDC has reported that this is the desire of young folks.

Trustee Sundland discussed the main ideas in the article entitled Plummeting Enrollment Leads More Colleges to Close. The article stated by the year 2029 4 year colleges will see a 9% drop in enrollments and 2 year colleges will see a 13% drop. Young people are questioning the value of education. Locally, MSU has not been affected, as much as, LCC.

Member Ide reviewed the article entitled Affordable Housing How Small is Too Small. The article discussed the change from 2006/08 of building bigger homes to the current small house buildings. It was discussed that your lifestyle will influence your housing choice. Director Clark stated that the township adopted an accessory dwelling unit ordinance. This ordinance states that the unit has to be attached to the home and the primary owner has to be living on the property.

10. COMMUNITY REPORTS

a. Development Project Updates

Director Clark reported the following:

- Tantay opened
- Herbana and Jars opening soon
- Updated liquor license ordinance
- Planning Commission is working on final approval for Panda Express drive through
- Midwest ACE Hardware will be opening in the old Stillwater space
- Starbucks will be coming next year to the old Bank of America building near Trader Joe's
- Storage for Pepperidge Farms is coming

b. Meridian Mall

Member Dunham reported the following:

- Planet Fitness has finished their expansion
- Schuler's relocation and expansion will open in February
- Working on a potential deal on the old Younkers space
- Getting ready for the holiday rush and Santa

c. MARS Tech Hub

Director Clark stated that MSU FRIB is working on creating a centralized technology hub. There will be opportunities for education and entrepreneurship.

11. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

Trustee Sundland mentioned the Township Board selected Amy Cell Talent to oversee the Township Manager search process. The Board will chose the finalists at the end of the month and conduct interviews on December 3, 2024. The Board has created a Community/Senior Center Task Force to examine the possibilities for a new Senior Center location and/or Community/Senior Center.

Chair Thompson announced she will be stepping down from the EDC after the December meeting.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

- December 5, 2024 at 7:30am at the Township Municipal Building-Town Hall Room.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 8:45am.