

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD JOINT MEETING - **APPROVED** -
PARK COMMISSION
PLANNING COMMISSION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room
THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2007, **6:00 P.M.**

TOWNSHIP BOARD

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting, Trustees Brixie, Such,
Veenstra
ABSENT: Trustee Woiwode

PARK COMMISSION

PRESENT: Chair Dersch, Commissioners Banas, Jaramillo, Stephens
ABSENT: Commissioner Smith

PLANNING COMMISSION

PRESENT: Chair Jackson, Commissioners Deits, Honicky, Le Goff, Ochberg, Reicosky, Wilcox
ABSENT: Commissioner Smith

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP

PRESENT: Chair Richards, Members Hunting (ex-officio), Madle, Morrison, Thiel, White
ABSENT: Members Burch, Rowlee, Vine, A. Woiwode

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

PRESENT: Chair Hershiser, Trustee Such, Member Wilcox
ABSENT: Members Stier, Shoup

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

PRESENT: Chair Gregory, Members Clos, Kielbaso
ABSENT: Members Boyd, Eberhardt, Lederle

LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

PRESENT: Members Caszatt, Dersch, Helmbrecht, Thomas
ABSENT: Members Kindel, Webster, T. Woiwode

STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development
Mark Kieselbach, Director of Public Works and Engineering Ray Severy

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
Supervisor McGillicuddy called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Supervisor McGillicuddy led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. ROLL CALL
Supervisor McGillicuddy called the roll of the Board.
4. PUBLIC REMARKS
Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 4, 2007 *APPROVED*

State Representative Mark Meadows invited Board members and the public to his swearing in on January 10th at the State Capitol and to attend his open house from 2:30 to 5:30 P.M. He indicated he is currently working on legislation to alter the annexation provisions in state statutes.

Leonard Provenchur, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, expressed concern with the condition along the pathway in Hillbrook Neighborhood Park.

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

Clerk Helmbrecht swore in newly appointed and reappointed members of the various boards and commissions in attendance.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA — OR CHANGES

Trustee Brixie moved to approve the agenda amended as follows:

- **Remove agenda item #7B**

Seconded by Trustee Such.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

Trustee Such moved to adopt the Consent Agenda.

Seconded by Treasurer Hunting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follow:

A. Communications

(1). Board Information (BI)

BI-1

(2). Staff Communication/Referral (SC)

SC-1 Michigan Townships Association Legislative E-Report December 16

SC-2 Michigan Townships Association Legislative E-Report December 28

Trustee Such moved that the communications be received and placed on file, and any communications not already assigned for disposition be referred to the Township Manager or Supervisor for follow-up. Seconded by Treasurer Hunting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

C. Bills

Trustee Such moved that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows:

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Common Cash	\$ 223,389.72
Public Works	\$ 106,908.73
Total Checks	\$ 330,298.45
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 10,898.86
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 341,197.31</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 306,800.96</u>

Seconded by Treasurer Hunting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Veenstra, Supervisor McGillicuddy,
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting
NAYS: None
Motion carried 6-0.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

8. VISION SESSION/ENDS: Joint Meeting with Township Boards and Commissions
Supervisor McGillicuddy explained the purpose of the joint meeting was to promote alignment within our community among the boards and commissions and to discuss accomplishments and future goals of each body. She requested discussion of current projects and goals of the respective bodies, as well as goals for the ensuing year.

Supervisor McGillicuddy summarized the following Board accomplishments:

- Approval of The Hamptons (MUPUD) at Hagadorn and Mount Hope Road
- Formation of the Okemos DDA
- Recycling program within the Township
- Passage of the Land Division Ordinance
- Purchase of Land Preservation properties
- Current work on Outdoor Lighting revisions
- Promoting better communication between business and Meridian Township through MABA Expo

Meeting participants discussed the following goals and accomplishments:

Zoning Board of Appeals

- Appreciation to the various Board and Commission members for their sacrifices on behalf of the community
- Certification training for ZBA members to enable them to make more educated decisions on cases before them
- More closely adhere to the criteria from the State of Michigan
- According to state law, the granting of a variance can occur only if all standards listed in the local zoning ordinance are met

Economic Development Corporation

- Identify and support redevelopment of existing commercial properties
- Research options to improve the railway system through the Township
- Potential for an Amtrak station in the Township
- Promote revitalization of the business areas (M-TEAM)
- Promote and facilitate better communications between business owners and the Township (MABA Expo)
- Support of existing business retention programs

Planning Commission:

- Promotion of good land use decisions based on good planning principals, Board policies and community values
- Completion of land use decisions

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- Adjustments to zoning amendments related to compliance with new zoning laws
- Completion of the Okemos Future Study Area as well as the other five (5) study areas
- Ways to facilitate redevelopment in the Township
- Addition of adherence to the Master Plan as a Township Board goal
- Several land use decisions based on the Master Plan in 2006
- Board approval for new Planning Commissioners to attend courses in land use planning
- Board prioritization of Township Board goals and ends to allow facilitation of land use planning
- Shift from a regulation based to a design based method of planning involving more qualitative analysis
- Design based ways to view redevelopment in the future
- Need for all Board members to exercise caution when relinquishing road setbacks

Park Commission

- Park Commission responsible only for parks and park facilities
- Commission provides a tangible service to the residents of the community
- Citizen donation of one-third acre towards a parking lot for Brattin Woods Park
- Redevelopment of a trail system in 2007
- Continued upgrades of parks within the community
- Ideas for Lederbuhr property adjacent to the Meridian Municipal Building
- Meridian Heritage Festival, Music In the Park, Okemos Drum Run, Fine Art Show in the Historical Village
- Expansion plan for the Harris Nature Center
- Installation of a pavilion for North Meridian Road Park
- Meridian Riverfront Park Master Plan development
- Developers Relation Committee to promote recreational facilities within developments
- Expansion of the Farmers Market
- New play equipment for Snell Towar Recreation Center
- Exploration of possible dog park, skate park and mountain biking area in the community
- Additional cultural events in the parks
- Improved directional park signage
- Build more neighborhood parks to increase community socialization
- Youth involvement in the community to become stewards of the parks through local business partnerships, private partnerships and foundations
- Grant from a local organization for construction of a greenhouse at Murphy Elementary School which will grow native plants to be placed into the Township park system

Land Preservation Advisory Board

- First community sponsored and funded land preservation program in the State of Michigan for the acquisition and permanent preservation of ecologically important open space and natural features
- Only program in the country which uses ecologically based screening criteria to prioritize property for acquisition
- The Meridian Land Preservation program was recognized by the USEPA as a national model in 2006
- Total acquisition to date of 22 parcels totaling approximately 500 acres through donations and purchases
- Approximately \$7.1 million generated through the Land Preservation millage since 2001, of which \$5.3 million was used to acquire property
- Sufficient remaining funds for long-term maintenance of land acquisitions
- Consideration of an additional 150± acres to be added over the next three (3) years
- Principle focus will move from land acquisition to land stewardship over the next four (4) years
- Implementation of thirteen (13) stewardship plans into management
- Neighborhood participation in property clean-up
- Completion of signage for land preservation property identification
- Coordination with Parks and Recreation Department for land management position to refine the land management process
- Coordination with the Ingham County Drain Commissioner for proper property management and compatibility
- Enhance public education programs through community wide presentations and invited experts

- Revised program overview to be placed on the Township's website
- Look at more creative and sustainable funding opportunities for continued acquisition

Environmental Commission

- Promotion and proactive approach through education and outreach
- Increase in site plan review and wetland permit review cases
- Stewardship Awards (e.g., Haslett Beautification Association and Meridian Township green vehicles)
- Outreach programs within meetings on recycling, groundwater, etc.
- Statement of Environmental Commission goals
- Development of objectives to continue conducting site visits, provide expertise for better conservation management of the Township's forest resource and review of the Natural Resources Assessment Checklist
- Development of a workgroup for potential wetland mitigation and improvement concepts for Township lands
- Draft of wetland mitigation guidelines for the Township Board
- Creation of educational outreach for homeowners, developers and commercial site managers to improve water quality, reduce runoff and encourage low impact designs
- Encourage energy conservation and recycling
- Appointment of Environmental Commission member James Kielbaso to the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) by the US Secretary of Agriculture
- Appreciation to the Board for its balance between environmental protection and economic development
- Appreciation for work performed by Township staff

Supervisor McGillicuddy thanked the participants for their attendance. She noted the Board will be discussing its goals during Policy Governance Review on Saturday, January 13, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. in the Town Hall Room.

9. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Trustee Brixie expressed appreciation to the attendees for their sacrifice as public servants. She suggested the possibility of creating a redevelopment bonus which has an environmental "twist" which could address the Environmental Commission's desire for proactive work tied with the Planning Commission's desire for redevelopment of difficult sites.

Trustee Veenstra suggested that the donation of land for the parking lot at Brattin Woods Park receive public acknowledgment if it has not already happened. He also suggested that such individuals be invited to a Board meeting in order to be publicly acknowledged on HOM-TV.

Treasurer Hunting suggested the Land Preservation recognition from the USEPA be placed on the Township's website and a press release be issued. He also recommended the general public be made aware of Dr. Kielbaso's appointment to NUCFAC in a similar manner.

Leonard Provenchur, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, again expressed concern with the condition of the pathway in Hillbrook Neighborhood Park.

Clerk Helmbrecht recognized the additional hours of work spent by those who serve on Boards and Commissions beyond the established meeting times.

Township Manager Richards noted an open advisory recycling group meets approximately once a month and works in conjunction with the refuse collectors and haulers. The focus of the group is to develop ideas to enhance recycling.

Planning Commission member Ochberg noted that beginning in May, 2007, an Artisan Market will be held at the Farmers Market Pavilion the second Sunday of each month

10. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 7:33 P.M.

SUSAN MCGILlicUDDY
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary