



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Economic Development Corporation
Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, May 1, 2025– Minutes -DRAFT

Members

Present: Treasurer Phil Deschaine, Dave Ledebuhr, Nate Ide, Adam Carlson, Sai Turlapati, David Fosdick, and Trustee Kathy Sundland

Members

Absent: Joy Hazard

Others

Present: Economic Development Director Amber Clark and Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:35am and Member Ledebuhr 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. PRESENTATION

Samantha Harkins presented on the activities and initiatives that Lansing 5:01 is implementing for the region. She shared the updated website that highlights Haslett and Okemos. The organization will be transiting to a 501c (3) and she will be serving as the first CEO later this year. Ms. Harkins requested continued support from the EDC for their marketing campaign for the region.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER FOSDICK. MOTION PASSES 6-0.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-Meeting March 6, 2025
- b. Development Projects

MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER FOSDICK. MOTION PASSES 6-0.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

7. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2025 Juneteenth Celebration Support

Director Clark presented the Juneteenth event to be held on Friday, June 20, 2025 from 3:00pm-7:00pm at the Marketplace on the Green. This free community event will have a variety of vendors in attendance along with local entertainment. She is requesting a donation from the EDC to cover the cost of the Global Village performance.

MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE A \$1,500 CONTRIBUTION TO HOST THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ON FRIDAY JUNE 20, 2025. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER TURLAPATI. MOTION PASSES 6-0.

b. Lansing 5:01 Contribution

Discussion was had about the importance of having a regional approach and promoting employment opportunities. There was a comment about encouraging Lansing 5:01 to host an event in Meridian Township.

MOTION BY MEMBER FOSDICK TO APPROVE A \$2,500 CONTRIBUTION TO THE LANSING 5:01 REGIONAL COMMUNITIES MARKETING CAMPAIGN. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 6-0.

9. OLD BUSINESS

None.

10. REPORTS/OPEN DISCUSSION

a. Township Board Updates

Trustee Sundland reported the following:

- Attended the MML Capital Conference and the MTA Annual Conference
- Celebrate Meridian will be on June 27 and 28
- Meridian Pride will be on May 31

Treasurer Deschaine reported at the May 8 Board meeting, they will be deciding on the millage question for the Senior/Community Center Project. The question will be on the ballot for an August special election.

Director Clark stated that member Dunham has resigned from the EDC and the Township Board will be reviewing an application for Adam Hodges from CBL to join the EDC in his place. She reviewed the development update, which includes the following:

- A new building has opened at Knob Hill to replace the one lost in the fire
- Contact with a car wash to replace the former Outback Steakhouse building
- Wheat Jewelers will be demolished soon

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

- June 5, 2025 at 7:30am at the Township Municipal Building-Town Hall Room.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Carlson adjourned the meeting at 8:19am.