



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Economic Development Corporation
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, May 2, 2019– Minutes

Members

Present: Jade Sims, Mikhail Murshak, Kimberly Thompson, Joel Conn, David Ledebuhr, Trustee
Kathy Ann Sundland, Township Manager Frank Walsh and Tom Conway

Members

Absent: Adam Carlson, Treasurer Phil Deschaine, Shawn Dunham, and Brenda Chapman

Others

Present: Planning Commission Vice-Chair John Scott-Craig, Director of Community Planning and
Development Mark Kieselbach, Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz, and Economic
Development Director Chris Buck

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Sims called the meeting to order at 7:36 am and Member Conn read the mission.

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 LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MANAGER
WALSH. MOTION PASSES 8-0.**

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-March 7, 2019
- b. Financial Report
- c. Development Projects Update

**MOTION BY MEMBER CONWAY TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY
MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 8-0.**

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. PRESENTATION

Melissa Rabideau from tinkrLAB located at the Meridian Mall discussed their STEAM Learning Center and summer camp opportunities for kids in need in our community.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Committee Reports

i. Bylaws

The committee has reviewed the bylaws along with our counsel. They updates include a position of Deputy Secretary and electing new officers in January every two years beginning in January 2020.

MOTION BY MEMBER CONWAY TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED REVISIONS OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BYLAWS. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 8-0.

ii. Business Promotion

The committee has met several times with MABA leadership to discuss partnering on a business awards event in December. The also discussed marketing opportunities for local businesses with HOMTV. Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director will join the committee meeting in May.

iii. School District Engagement

EDC discussed possible engagement with tinkrLAB and was involved with the Okemos High School Shark Tank event earlier this year.

b. Haslett PICA Study

The MEDC will contribute up to \$25,000 for a predevelopment study of Haslett commercial district. They plan to match us with a consultant in the next couple weeks and the study should be complete in August.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion of TinkrLAB Presentation

The EDC expressed interest in sponsoring Meridian Township kids, which were identified by the schools as in need, to attend a week of TinkrLAB summer camp.

MOTION BY MEMBER MURSHAK FOR THE EDC TO CONTRIBUTE \$2,000 TO TINKRLAB SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM AIRMARKED FOR MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP KIDS. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER THOMPSON. MOTION PASSES 8-0.

9. TOWNSHIP REPORT

a. Township Board

- Medical Marihuana
- Local Road Funding
- Red Cedar Manor
- Senior Living Communities Zoning Amendment
- Central Park Road Diet

b. Township Manager

- Redi-Ride Contract
- Okemos Boardwalk is underway and expected to be complete on 7/1/19.
- Camelback Bridge Discussions
- 5/22/19 will be the Farmers' Market Groundbreaking
- Met with new Delta Dental CEO and asked for \$50,000 to Support the Farmers' Market Stage
- All Three Local School Districts are in the Top Five Percent in Michigan
- The Meridian Garden Club and the Haslett Beautification Committee will be receiving an Award on Monday, May 13, 2019 at 10:00am in the Town Hall Room

c. Planning Commission

Planning Commission Vice-Chair John Scot-Craig provided a summary of recent Planning Commission activities.

d. Chair

None.

e. Staff

- Big Lots Coming Soon (sign is up)
- Old Tannin Location has a sign for Bread Bites Coming Soon
- Old McAlister's will be a Vietnamese Soup and Sandwich Restaurant
- Old Salvation Army will be Crunch Fitness
- Okemos Elevation is Continuing Development
- Newton Park Development was Approved
- Plans to Demo the Old Leo's Restaurant and Build a Strip Mall Have Been Received

9. COMMUNITY REPORTS

a. Meridian Mall

- High Caliber Karts is scheduled to open in August

b. Farmers' Market

- Groundbreaking is scheduled on May 22, 2019 at 11:00am

c. MABA

- They are going to request a tinkrLAB presentation for their Board
- June 14, 2019 will be the MABA golf outing at Meridian Sun Golf Course

10. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

Congratulations to Member Conn for his successful completion of the Boston Marathon.

11. PUBLIC REMARKS

None

12. NEXT MEETING DATE

- June 6, 2019 at 7:30am

13. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Sims adjourned the meeting at 9:05 am.