



Charter Township of Meridian  
Meridian Economic Development Corporation  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Thursday, December 5, 2019- Minutes

**Members**

**Present:** Jade Sims, Joel Conn, Adam Carlson, Treasurer Phil Deschaine, Shawn Dunham, Kimberly Thompson, Mikhail Murshak, Tom Conway, David Ledebuhr, Brenda Chapman, and Trustee Kathy Ann Sundland

**Members**

**Absent:** Township Manager Frank Walsh

**Others**

**Present:** Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz, Community Planning & Development Director Mark Kieselbach and Economic Development Director Chris Buck

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Sims called the meeting to order at 7:30 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. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-October 3, 2019
- b. Financial Report
- c. Development Projects

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

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Officer election prep-2 year terms with vote in January 2020  
Chair Sims discussed prepping for new officers. If you are interested, please contact Chair Sims or Director Buck.
- b. 2020 Meeting Schedule and Resolution  
The draft schedule was reviewed.

**MOTION BY MEMBER CONWAY TO APPROVE THE 2020 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SCHEDULE RESOLUTION. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 11-0.**

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Committee Reports
  - i. Business Promotion-EDC/MABA Awards  
The EDC is partnering with MABA to sponsor two awards that will be presented at MABA's meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup>. MABA and the EDC voted and selected High Caliber Karting as New Business of the Year and Playmakers as Existing Business of the Year.
  - ii. School District Engagement  
Director Buck discussed that Scott Weaver is willing to donate 2 food carts to the schools. This might be an opportunity for the kids to learn some entrepreneur and business skills. Director Buck will discuss more with the schools and Scott Weaver after the holidays.
- b. Haslett Study  
The visioning, marketing and absorption study funded through the MEDC and MML has been received. It shows that Haslett can support an optimal number 660 new homes by 2025. However, a probable number of new homes is 350 by 2025. As far as commercial space, the study shows there will be the demand for an additional square feet of retail goods and related service space of between 62,000 and 142,000. It also shows middle housing is missing and modern office space is needed.

8. TOWNSHIP REPORT

- a. Township Board
  - Okemos Road Bridge Replacement discussion
  - Amendment to multiple family zoning ordinance
  - Bennett Road Rezoning
- b. Township Manager  
Chair Sims reported for Manager Walsh.
  - Working on the 2020 Road Plan
  - Discussing expanding the Township Hall hours until 6pm on Wednesdays
  - Deborah's farewell party is on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm-4:30pm
  - Wayfair is coming to the Township and bringing 500 jobs
- c. Planning Commission  
Planning Commission former Vice-Chair John Scot-Craig has moved out of the area. Next year the Planning Commission will choose a new liaison for the EDC to replace John.

- d. Chair  
Chair Sims discussed what the EDC 2020 goals may entail. Suggestions included promoting businesses that will be impacted by Okemos Village project construction, promote Carriage Hills, possible study for that area, support Farmers' Market opening. Discussion will continue in January.
- e. Staff  
Director Buck reviewed the development projects and the financial report showing a balance of \$37,955.89. Projects to highlight include the Courtyard Marriot opening, Zoom in Carriage Hills and Soldan's opening at their new location.

9. COMMUNITY REPORTS

- a. Meridian Mall
  - The Mall celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
  - Old Navy is closing
- b. Marketplace on the Green  
Dave Ledebuhr reported that we are working with the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's office to get the permit issued for construction to begin.
- c. MABA  
Tom Conway reported he was reelected to the MABA Board and the next meeting is next Friday.

10. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

The EDC discussed a donation request from the Greater Lansing Chinese Association for an event at the Mall at the end of February. Director Buck will check with Parks to see what gift they are considering. The EDC will vote on the donation in January.

11. PUBLIC REMARKS

None

12. NEXT MEETING DATE

- January 9, 2019 at 7:30am

13. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Sims adjourned the meeting at 8:59am.