

Charter Township of Meridian  
Meridian Economic Development Corporation  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Thursday, August 3, 2017 – Minutes

**Members**

**Present:** Jade Sims, David Ledebuhr, Shawn Dunham, Malinda Barr, Adam Carlson, Josh Hundt, Chris Buck, Trustee Phil Deschaine, Mikhail Murshak, Township Manager Frank Walsh

**Members**

**Absent:** David Olson and Lynda Rowlee

**Others**

**Present:** Treasurer Julie Brixie, Ex-Officio, Planning Commission Vice-Chair John Scott-Craig, Director of Community Planning and Development Mark Kieselbach, Senior Planner Peter Menser, Police Chief Dave Hall, Fire Chief Fred Cowper, Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Buck called the meeting to order at 7:32 am and asked Member Sims to 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. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION BY MEMBER BARR TO APPROVE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CARLSON. MOTION PASSES 9-0.**

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Communications
- b. Minutes-July 6, 2017

**MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 9-0.**

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. PRESENTATION

Police and Fire Millage presentation was given by Police Chief Dave Hall and Fire Chief Fred Cowper.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Brixie distributed and reviewed the financial report dated 8/3/17. Report on file.

**MOTION BY TRUSTEE DESCHAIINE TO APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORT. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 9-0.**

8. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

None.

9. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

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

10. NEW BUSINESS/CHAIR REPORT

a. Development Funnel

Chris Buck reported he is working on a document that will show the different phases of upcoming projects. This template will also be an asset to the DDA and CIA as it relates to what projects are ongoing and serve as a flow chart for development projects overall. A draft will be presented at the next month's meeting.

b. Sign Ordinance

Chris reported that the Redevelopment Ready Communities accreditation includes training sessions, self-assessment, sign ordinance review, Shaping the Avenue. In total, it will be up to a year process.

c. Portfolio of Commercial Parcels Available

Chris is working on developing a listing of parcels that are available. So, when development opportunities arise we can quickly respond to developers.

11. OLD BUSINESS

Business retention meetings and the matching grant façade improvement program have been tabled for now while we move through the Redevelopment Ready Community process.

12. CHAIR REPORT

Chris reported that he has had many meetings recently including LEAP, MEDC, Scott Weaver, Kris Elloitt, Brent Forsberg, Brian Hicks, Ken Stockwell, Meridian Mall, and Ed Gillespie. Marketing efforts include: Next Door App and Four Corners Alliance on Facebook. Shaping the Avenue consultants will be here August 14-16, 2017.

13. STAFF REPORT

a. Development Projects Update

Peter passed out the list of new business and project updates.

14. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

- Manager Walsh reported the Township has had a great year with revenue for building permits. He suggested that we use that additional revenue to pay debt.
- COSTCO is wanting to start construction at 2am instead of the 7am previously agreed start time.
- Medical Marijuana is going to be a topic of discussion for the Township Board upcoming study session in August.
- The Township budget is due to the Board on August 25, 2017 for their review.
- Looking to hire an Economic Development Director. Please send Frank what is most important to you in the ideal candidate.

15. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

- Phil reported the Board recently approved 2017 Sidewalk Order to Maintain and Georgetown Streetlighting.
- The MNRTF grant was also recently approved for the Central Meridian Trail Connector Project.
- Upcoming Board discussion items include vacant properties, Hannah Farms East, and the water main extension to Van Atta.

16. MERIDIAN MALL REPORT

- Shawn reported that Gus Macker was a success with 265 teams. The tenants at the mall reported an increase in sales that weekend.
- 9/11 memorial quilt is coming to the mall in September.
- New store-Torrent, plus size women's clothing, is coming to the mall.
- The mall has invested in all new carts.

17. FARMERS' MARKET RELOCATION UPDATE

Dave reported they did receive a grant recently for \$75,000 of the project and are still working on other funding sources. More multi-use concepts are being reviewed including a potential basketball court.

18. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

None.

19. PUBLIC REMARKS

John Sarver from the Environmental Commission reported that the commission approved the Climate Sustainability Plan at last night's meeting.

20. NEXT MEETING DATE

- Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 7:30am

21. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chris Buck adjourned the meeting at 8:45am.