

**MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMISSION
MAY 9, 2024
ADMIN CONFERENCE ROOM**

PRESENT: Vice-Chair Robinson, Commissioner Webster, Commissioner Maingu,
Commissioner Turimella, Commissioner Langhals

ABSENT: Chair Styka, Commissioner Whiting-Dobson

STAFF: Human Services Specialist Love

BOARD LIASON: Trustee Wilson

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

A: Vice-Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Accepted as written.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Corrections:

4B. 5th bullet point “so commissioners know (*how*) the day will run.”

4C: communications commission should be capitalized to *Communications Commission*.

Commissioner Langhals moves to approve the April 10th minutes with the above corrections. Seconded by Commissioner Webster. Motion Carried 4-0

4. BOARD LISASON REPORT

- On Thursday, May 9, 2024, there will be a regular meeting of the Township Board.
- Trustee Wilson encourages people to attend if available or watch LIVE.
- Trustee Wilson shared details about the Community Center incorporating a senior center presentation that will be brought before the board during the meeting.

The proposed center may include.

- A dedicated senior center
 - Full court gyms
 - Auditorium
 - Warming kitchens
 - Bathrooms/Locker rooms
 - Meeting Space
 - Low impact work out space
 - Offices for the Senior Center staff and Parks and Recreation staff.
 - Etc.
- This summer there will be listening sessions for the community.

- This project, if approved by the Township Board, would appear on the November ballot.
- There will also be discussion regarding the Village of Okemos Concept Plan.
- Discussion took place regarding affordable housing.
 - Specialist Love will investigate the contact information for the developer of Woodward Way in Meridian Township. There was discussion by the CRC about potentially inviting him/her to a future CRC meeting to talk about how and why they choose to build low-income housing and how the Township might appeal to other developers to do the same.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A: Fundraisers

- Biggby Coffee Celebration April 11th
 - o Biggby selected Meridian Cares to donate the “roundup” money that was collected at their birthday celebration on April 11th.
 - o Biggby sent a check for \$64.19 for the emergency needs fund and Specialist Love sent around a thank you letter to be signed by the commissioners.

B: Community Resource Connection: April 23, 1-3 p.m.

- Commissioner Langhals coordinated a donation from Nothing Bundt Cakes for the event. Specialist Love sent around a thank you to have signed by the commissioners.
- Over 70 people were in attendance representing 40 organizations.
- The event went very well. The feedback has been positive and will plan to do it again in the future.
- Specialist Love will send a thank you card to community member Laura Thompson who assisted packing the bags at the event.

C: Protect the Pack: June 12, 5-7 P.M.

- Protect the Pack is a community event to support the physical and mental health of Okemos students. Last year they hosted hundreds of students and their families.
- This event will take place at Kinawa Middle School in the front lawn and bus circle.
- Meridian Cares will have a table at the event.
- Vice-Chair Robinson will work on a coloring/activity page that can be handed out to students. Specialist Love will include Meridian Cares information on the back of the coloring page and print when ready.
- Vice-Chair Robinson will give the coloring sheet to Specialist Love by Monday, June 10th so they can be printed at the Township offices.
- Commissioners will send Specialist Love their availability during the event.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

A: #Sockoutsuicide

- Specialist Love sent out an email to the Commissioners a few weeks ago to gauge their interest in Meridian Cares being an event partner for the #sockoutsuicide campaign.
- Commissioners were all in agreement to participate.
- #sockoutsuicide will take place on Friday, May 17, 2024. This annual campaign raises awareness and starts important discussions about suicide prevention and mental health. On May 17, Meridian Township community members are encouraged to wear fun, brightly colored socks and join OHS ACTION in taking the #SockOutSuicide pledge:
 - By Participating in #Sockoutsuicide, I pledge to:
 - Seek help or call 988 if I am having self-harming thoughts.
 - Encourage others to seek help from a professional if they are struggling.
 - Call 988 or 911 if I think someone is in danger of self-harm.
- Commissioners took a fun sock photo to be used on Friday, May 17th.

B: Intergenerational Art Project discussion.

- Commissioner Webster along with Commissioner Whiting-Dobson had previously brought up the idea of an art/note project that would bring together children's art with those in our community who are socially isolated.
- The idea would be to do this project in the winter of 2025, perhaps around Valentines Day.
- Specialist Love will reach out to Jen Baker, Bennett Woods art teacher as well as Jenny Cronin, Kinawa art teacher about this idea and how we might be able to partner with them and what if anything material wise, they would need from us. Specialist Love will pass along the information to Commissioner Webster and Whiting-Dobson for follow up.
- We could then take the artwork/notes to those in our community who are socially isolated.

Commissioner Maingu moves to approve moving forward with an intergenerational art project. Seconded by Commissioner Turimella. Motion carried 4-0.

7. HUMAN SERVICES REPORT

A: Emergency Funds used in April 2024 were \$3,821.95

B: We have used \$14,146.95 out of our budgeted \$40,000 for the year.

C: The ending balance of the emergency needs fund is \$27,816.72.

D: We have \$1,060.78 committed to the emergency needs fund from water bill and property tax round ups that have yet to hit our account. Hoping this is completed in May.

E: We currently have \$3,768.74 sitting in our PayPal account ready to be transferred.

Commissioner Maingu moves to approve the transfer of available funds that are currently in the PayPal account. This amount is \$3,768.74. After the transfer to Horizon bank, \$254.87 will be transferred to account 272-000.000-674.077 the Deschaine Memorial fund and \$3513.87 will be transferred to 272-000.000.674.060 to the emergency needs fund. Seconded by Commissioner Webster. Motion carried 4-0.

9. OPEN FORUM

Commissioner Webster provided the board with 3 articles related to low-income housing.

1. House First article.
2. Blog by CATO institute about Housing First.
3. Joh Bon Jovi Soul Foundation.

10. ADJOURNEMENT

Commissioner Maingu made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 P.M. with no opposition.