



Charter Township of Meridian
Senior/Community Center Task Force
Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Tuesday, December 10, 2024 – Minutes

Members

Present: Scott Hendrickson, LuAnn Maisner, Steve Vagnozzi, Suchir Nagisetty, Michele Steed, Mary Nardo Farris and Josh Robertson

Members

Absent: John Hood and Patrick Malley

Staff

Present: Interim Township Manager Timothy Schmitt, Deputy Township Manager Dan Opsommer and Parks and Recreation Director Courtney Wisinski

Others

Present: None.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the meeting to order and called the roll at 6:00pm.

2. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 6:03 pm.

Gregory Smith, Township Resident, mentioned he and his Euchre Club are in favor of the location behind the Fire Station. The driving range would be difficult for folks to get to and challenging turns in and out onto Grand River Avenue.

Julie Stauffer, Township Resident, questioned what happened to the proposal for the separate Senior Center at the driving range property on Grand River Avenue? The seniors would prefer a separate building. Will there be a separate building? All discussions seem to include a Community Center.

Supervisor Hendrickson responded to the questions stating they are working on two options to bring forward to the Township Board. One will be a stand-alone Senior Center and one will be a Senior/Community Center.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 6:07pm.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION BY MEMBER VAGNOZZI TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER FARRIS.
MOTION APPROVED 7-0.**

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES-November 19, 2024

MEMBER STEED MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 19, 2024 MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER MAISNER. MOTION APPROVED 7-0.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson acknowledged the emails received and placed them in the record. Please send any public comments to sctaskforce@meridian.mi.us.

6. PROGRAMMING AND COST DISCUSSION

Interim Manager Schmitt stated Staff are continuing to work on the site location options and now we are discussing the two options of a Senior Center versus a Senior/Community Center. The major differences on these two options will be programming and costs. There will be updates on the site location and the needs assessment at the January meeting.

Parks and Recreation Director Wisinski reported on the needs assessment session that was held for the public with Progressive. 30 people participated.

Director Wisinski shared a comparison of the local Senior/Community Centers related to hours, staffing, membership costs, operating costs, and square feet.

Deputy Manager Opsommer presented costs per square foot for operations and is looking for feedback on hours of operations and days of week. On average, the annual operating costs will be \$22-\$26 per square foot. Progressive estimated \$397 per square foot for new construction of the former Younkers building. This number will be higher on a stand-alone facility because there would be an additional wall needed.

Supervisor Hendrickson suggested calculating operational costs for the following to compare. First, a Senior Center operation at five days per week, eight hours per day. Second, a Senior/Community Center for six days per week, 14 hours per day.

Discussion about funding. How much can we afford? Supervisor Hendrickson stated we have a \$5 million grant from the State of Michigan, a possible federal appropriation of an undetermined amount, money in our capital projects fund, and will solicit major donors.

The next task force meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025. Progressive will be present. The task force will be giving an update at the January 7, 2025 Township Board meeting. Member Vagnozzi will present at that meeting to the Board.

7. PUBLIC REMARKS

Member Maisner thanked Staff for their work in putting together the chart comparing local Senior/Community Centers.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm without objection.