

APPROVED

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
MERIDIAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (MTC)
MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2017

PRESENT: Commissioners: Chair Hackbarth, Vice-Chair Potter, Hudson (left at 8:00 p.m.), Kolbasa, and Vagnozzi

ABSENT: Commissioner Deschaine

STAFF: Dave Hall, Chief of Police
Ken Plaga, Assistant Chief of Police
Mark Kieselbach, Director of Community Planning and Development

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Hackbarth called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Vice Chair Potter moved to approve the agenda as written.

Seconded by Commissioner Vagnozzi.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

3. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Vagnozzi moved to approve the minutes of June 15, 2017

Seconded by Commissioner Hudson

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

4. Public Remarks

Donna Rose requested the Transportation Commission allow public remarks at the beginning and end of meetings. She thought there should be more discussion on the draft Redi-Ride recommendation. Ms. Rose also expressed a concern with dogs running loose and possibly attacking a person walking on a pathway or sidewalk.

Renee Korrey stated there were different opinions on CATA (Capital Area Transportation Authority) providing Redi-Ride Service to the Township. A 40 percent approval rating is a failure. CATA must earn the right to be the provider.

Neil Bowlby stated it was a bad practice to have a sole provider for Redi-Ride unless the provider was giving exceptional service.

Marina Ionescu introduced herself as a member of the Environmental Commission, she stated she had been asked to be the Environmental Commission's liaison to the Transportation Commission. Chair Hackbarth welcomed her to the meeting.

5. Communications

The Commission accepted the communications that had been received and placed on file.

6. Presentation/Discussion

A. Sustainability and Climate Action Plan

Chair Hackbarth welcomed Township Recycling Coordinator LeRoy Harvey and Environmental Commission member John Sarver.

- LeRoy Harvey introduced the draft plan dated July 11, 2017 (copy on file)
- The Township's Energy Team was established approximately ten years ago after the Township signed the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement.
- Township Board adopted a resolution in support of the continued adherence to the Paris Climate Accord
- The Energy Team helped write the draft Sustainability Plan.
- The Energy Team has worked on projects to improve the energy efficiency of Township buildings
- The Sustainability Plan is incorporated by reference in the Township's Master Plan
- Environmental Commission has recommended the Plan be adopted
- The Plan focus is on how the Township operates
- Transportation section has four objectives:
 - Encourage employee and citizen participation in Smart Commute
 - Decrease the use of petroleum in Township vehicle fleet
 - Use Land-use planning to reduce vehicle miles traveled and petroleum use
 - Adopt a policy on vehicle idling
- New school buses are more fuel efficient and environmentally friendly

B. Transportation Safety

Assistant Chief of Police Ken Plaga (presentation on file)

- Marsh Road/Grand River Avenue is highest crash area (2014-2016)
- Average 9 bicyclist crashes per year (2013-2016)
- Average 5 pedestrian crashes per year (2013-2016)
- Improved road design (road diets) and signals have reduced crashes
- Public education efforts:
 - Click it or Ticket it
 - Stop the texts, stop the wrecks
 - Speed warning signs mounted on a trailer or pole
- Distracted drivers have become more of a problem
- Some cyclists do not obey the traffic laws
- Traffic calming methods (narrow lanes and landscaping) help reduce speeds
- Largest number of crashes is on Grand River Avenue

- Future meeting with Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to discuss safety issues.

7. Commission Discussion/Review

A. Redi-Ride

Chair Hackbarth outlined the draft recommendation on the Redi-Ride Service Program dated July 13, 2017

- Misperception on what the Transportation Commission was recommending
- Township Attorney is reviewing the issue if CATA is not named as the provider is it still a millage renewal
- Need to expand the service
- Cost to increase capacity and hours
- Meeting with CATA to discuss the issues
- The recommendation should not include a sole service provider for the millage
- Length of the millage should it be less than 10 years
- Increase the amount of the millage
- Should the Township have a “mobility manager”
- CATA representative at next Transportation Commission meeting

8. Commission Comments

- If possible schedule a joint meeting with City of East Lansing Transportation Commission
- Presentations on safe routes to school and complete streets at the August meeting

9. Next Meeting Dates

- Commission’s next meeting is August 24, 2017
- Township Board’s next meeting is August 1, 2017

10. Adjournment

Chair Hackbarth called for a motion to adjourn the meeting

Vice Chair Potter moved to adjourn the meeting

Seconded by Commissioner Vagnozzi

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.