



Charter Township of Meridian  
Corridor Improvement Authority  
5000 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Wednesday, June 24, 2020– Minutes -DRAFT

**Members**

**Present:** Bruce Peffers, Supervisor Ron Styka, Chris Nugent, Eric Foster and Barry Goetz

**Members**

**Absent:** Jeff Ross, Kellie Johnson, Chris Rigterink, and Brian Jones

**Others**

**Present:** Community Planning & Development Director Mark Kieselbach, Economic Development Director Ken Lane, Deputy Township Manager Derek Perry, and Planning Commissioner Holly Cordill

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Foster called the meeting to order at 6:04pm and Member Goetz read the mission statement.

2. **MISSION:** The Corridor Improvement Authority of the Charter Township of Meridian is dedicated to establishing the Grand River Avenue corridor in Meridian Township as a prime business and recreation destination in the Tri-County region. The Authority is focused on creating programs and projects that invigorate the streetscape and build partnerships among corridor property owners, business owners, and residents.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**NO MOTION MADE. THERE WAS A CONSENSUS TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.**

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Minutes-May 20, 2020

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR STYKA TO APPROVE THE MAY 2020 MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER PEFFERS. MOTION PASSES 5-0.**

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REVIEW

a. Staff Summary

Director Lane discussed the development projects under construction and under consideration in the corridor. Discussion was had regarding the sidewalk in front of the new building at the corner

of Grand River and Okemos Rd. Director Kieselbach confirmed that the plans do require a walkway from the building to the sidewalk.

b. Clarion Pointe Zoning Board of Appeals Update

Director Lane discussed that they have not been back in front of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). They will be changing their front entry overhang due to drainage issues.

7. CORRIDOR DESIGN & RESEARCH

a. Form Based Code

Director Lane reported the Planning Commission has been working on the draft of the form based code ordinance and the first area to be implemented will be Grand River west of Park Lake Road. The draft ordinance is expected to be delivered to the Township Board by the end of summer.

b. Dawn Ave-Hannah Connection

There was nothing new to report. Director Lane will reengage with the interested parties and report back next month.

c. West Grand River Amenity & Vibrancy Opportunities

MDOT is considering moving the milling and resurfacing for Grand River up to 2021 from 2023. Deputy Manager Perry reported the Township is working with the Drain Commissioner and the Road Department to coordinate fixing the drainage issues at Okemos Road along with the road project. Also, fixing the sidewalk across from Playmakers that is sinking into the wetland. At a recent meeting with MDOT, it was discussed that the road work from Oak Pointe Court west to Park Lake Road could be scheduled in 2021. Then, we would allow the reconstruction and elevation work that needs to be done in 2022-23 and then continue the road resurfacing to Marsh Road and potential crosswalks at McDonald's and Campus Hill Apartments. Deputy Manager Perry will continue to have regular meetings until the end of the year with MDOT, Road Commission, and the Drain Commissioner's office regarding this project. He suggested he would be willing to bring the project plan to the CIA when it is finalized. Discussion was had regarding street lighting along the corridor, as well.

Director Lane reviewed the CIA survey results regarding the corridor. He will draft a letter for MDOT that will encompass the priorities of the CIA for the corridor and will present the draft at the July meeting. Supervisor Styka suggested the following four items, from the CIA survey, be included in the letter: additional lighting, crosswalks, bicycle lanes and adjusting the speed limit.

**MOTION BY MEMBER PEFFERS TO APPROVE DIRECTOR LANE TO WRITE A DRAFT LETTER, ON BEHALF OF THE CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY, EXPRESSING THEIR PRIORITY ITEMS FOR MDOT. THE LETTER WILL BE REVIEWED AT THE JULY CIA MEETING. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER GOETZ. MOTION PASSES 5-0.**

Welcome Signs are on hold for now due to COVID-19.

8. MALL DEVELOPMENT

Director Lane reported that JC Penney is leaving the Meridian Mall. The mall staff have been in touch with a residential developer for one of the vacant anchor spaces.

9. REPORTS

a. Township Board

Supervisor Styka reported the following:

- The Board continues to meet via zoom twice a month
- The Board approved the EDC \$4,000 small business grants
- The Board appropriated \$62,000 for the Meridian Cares Fund
- The buildings are open and the HVAC system is being replaced in the municipal building
- Air conditioned pods have been placed outside of the building to serve the residents
- The local road program is underway
- Farmers' Market construction is expected to be complete in August
- Press conference today regarding a firefighter's racist comments on Facebook

b. Planning Commission

Commissioner Cordill reported the updates from the latest meeting including three public hearings.

c. Chair

None.

d. Staff

The Transportation Commission requested a joint meeting with the Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) on August 20, 2020. There was consensus from the CIA that the joint meeting would be welcomed.

10. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

None.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

- July 22, 2020 at 6:00pm

14. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Vice-Chair Foster adjourned the meeting at 7:28pm.