



Charter Township of Meridian  
Meridian Economic Development Corporation  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Thursday, April 12, 2018– Minutes

**Members**

**Present:** Trustee Phil Deschaine, Mikhail Murshak, Joel Conn, Jade Sims, Kimberly Thompson, Tom Conway, Brenda Chapman, Shawn Dunham, David Ledebuhr, Township Manager Frank Walsh and Adam Carlson

**Members** None

**Absent:**

**Others**

**Present:** Treasurer Julie Brixie, Ex-Officio, Planning Commission Vice-Chair John Scott-Craig, Director of Community Planning and Development Mark Kieselbach, Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz, Economic Development Director Chris Buck

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Sims called the meeting to order at 7:32 am and Member Dunham read the mission statement. Welcome to Brenda Chapman.

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

Chair Sims requested an agenda amendment to postpone the Will Randle presentation until May.

**MOTION BY MEMBER CARLSON TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 11-0.**

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Communications
- b. Development Projects Update
- c. Available Parcel Update
- d. Minutes-March 1, 2018

**MOTION BY MEMBER CARLSON TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 11-0.**

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. PRESENTATION

Matt Kuschel from Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC discussed the details of the Meridian Redevelopment Fund. Director Buck and Matt Kuschel will discuss the fund application further and report back at the May meeting.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Brixie distributed and reviewed the financial report dated 3/31/18. Report on file.

**MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT.  
SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 11-0.**

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. MERIDIAN MALL REPORT

- Waldo's Waffles is now open in the former Nestle spot
- Launch Trampoline Park is working on renovations and expect to open in July or August
- Lotus Beauty Lounge is opening

11. FARMERS MARKET UPDATE

There are tax implications that need to be resolved involving the land lease with the Township. The Township recently applied for a \$10,000 placemaking grant through local and national Realtor Associations.

12. NEW BUSINESS/CHAIR REPORT

- a. Orientation Binders and Training  
Director Buck shared as part of the Redevelopment Ready Communities certification the Township needs a policy for recruiting and training Board members. To begin that program, all EDC members were given a binder with documents of interest.

- b. MABA Discussion and Update  
MABA is a networking group of Meridian business leaders with 120 members. At MABA.biz you can view a calendar of all upcoming local ribbon cuttings.

13. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Outdoor Entertainment Zoning Amendment  
The letter from the EDC was presented to the Township Board and now staff is developing the language to bring back to the Township Board.

14. CHAIR REPORT

None.

15. STAFF REPORT

- Bottoms Up is closing
- The Township has completed 41% of the Redevelopment Ready Communities criteria
- Brad Funkhouser from CATA will be presenting at the CIA meeting this month
- LEAP will be presenting at the next EDC meeting
- Toys R Us is closing
- Fox Nissian will be holding a ribbon cutting in early to mid-May
- Baskin Robbins is coming soon next to Great Harvest
- Aldi is doing a \$400,000 renovation
- Best Buy is doing a \$770,000 façade change
- Olive Garden will be doing a remodel
- There are no new property listings to report

16. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

The Township has developed a 6 person committee to develop a sexual prevention program for the community. Committee members include the Firecracker Foundation, Okemos and Haslett Schools, as well as, representatives from our Police Department and Treasurer Brixie.

17. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

- City Limits zoning amendment passed
- Denied MUPUD Concept Plan for The Grand Reserve of Okemos
- Approved expansion of Redi-Ride hours
- Working on Newton Road and Pathway redevelopment

18. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

- The zoning amendment for Downtown Okemos and Downtown Haslett is on the Township Board agenda for Tuesday
- Meridian recycling event on April 21<sup>st</sup> and Friedland document destruction day is on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 8am-2pm
- The Food Truck Rally will be coming to the Township again this summer

19. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

20. NEXT MEETING DATE

- May 3, 2018 at 7:30am

21. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Sims adjourned the meeting at 9:13 am.