

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA
Wednesday, October 1, 2014
Town Hall Room
Meridian Municipal Building
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864**

Work Session

1. Call the work session to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Approval of the work session agenda
3. Review of the minutes of the September 17, 2014 work session/regular meeting
4. Other business
5. Public remarks
6. Adjournment

Regular Meeting

1. Call the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Approval of the regular meeting agenda
3. Approval of the minutes of the September 17, 2014, work session/regular meeting
4. Green Themes presentation by Commission Chair Ned Jackson entitled: “**Green Chemistry**”
5. Public remarks
6. Chair's Report
7. Communications/staff report
8. Other Business
 - a. Election of a new Vice-Chair
 - b. Resolution of appreciation for Jeralyn Moran
 - c. Replacing/replanting street trees
9. Study groups/liaison reports
10. Public remarks
11. Adjournment

WORK SESSION

PRESENT: Chair Jackson and Commissioners Searl, Scherbarth, Kielbaso, Sarver, McConnell and Moran (6:35)

ABSENT: None

STAFF

PRESENT: Richard F. Brown, Jr., AICP, Associate Planner

OTHERS

PRESENT: None

1. **CALL WORK SESSION TO ORDER**

Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE WORK SESSION AGENDA**

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Scherbarth to approve the work session agenda. Supported by Commissioner McConnell. Approved 6-0.

3. **REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 7, 2014 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING**

Two minor corrections were noted.

4. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Moran spoke about moving to California and stepping down from the Commission. Staff and the other Commissioners thanked her for her efforts.

Brief discussion on Green Themes topics for the balance of 2014. Associate Planner Brown suggested that Chair Jackson provide a brief Green Themes presentation at the October 1st meeting on the topic of Green Chemistry. He agreed.

5. **PUBLIC REMARKS**

None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Work session adjourned without objection at 6:52 p.m.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
Meridian Municipal Building
September 17, 2014 - draft**

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Chair Jackson and Commissioners Moran, Searl, Scherbarth, McConnell, Sarver, and Kielbaso

ABSENT: None

STAFF

PRESENT: Richard F. Brown, Jr., AICP, CBSP Associate Planner

OTHERS

PRESENT: Heather Seyfarth, Tonia Howen, Judy Kindle, and LeRoy Harvey.

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Scherbarth to approve the agenda with the addition of discussing the Greenspace Plan. Supported by Commissioner McConnell. Approved 7-0.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MAY 7, 2014 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

- **MOTION** by Commissioner McConnell to approve the minutes with corrections. Supported by Commissioner Sarver. Approved 7-0.

4. GREEN THEMES PRESENTATION ENTITLED "SOLAR READY COMMUNITIES" BY HEATHER SEYFARTH, AICP OF THE CLEAN ENERGY COALITION:

She summarized the ten steps to becoming a Solar Ready Community in Michigan.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Tonia Howen, Judy Kindle and LeRoy Harvey briefly spoke.

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

None

9. COMMUNICATIONS/STAFF REPORT

Associate Planner Brown summarized the following:

- Meridian Township won the 2014 Greater Lansing Smart Commute

- The next recycling event is on October 4th
- The ITC Tree Grant was awarded and the locations are to be picked this week.
- Guest speakers arranged for October and November.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Associate Planner Brown summarized the idea of the Commission helping homeowners finding replacement trees for streets trees lost to storm, disease, etc. Staff to provide the Commission with more background for the October meeting.

Commissioner McConnell inquired about the continued application of the Greenspace Plan and its effectiveness after 10 years. Staff summarized its successes.

- **MOTION** by Commissioner McConnell to as Associate Planner Brown to present a Green Themes summary of the status and effectiveness of the Greenspace Plan after ten years at the December meeting. Supported by Commissioner Moran. Approved 7-0.

11. STUDY GROUPS/LIAISON REPORTS

No reports

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

None

13. ADJOURNMENT

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Kielbaso to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Supported by Commissioner Sarver. Approved 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

At a regular meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held on the 1st day of October 2014, at 7:00 p.m., local time.

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____.

WHEREAS, Jeralyn Moran served as an active member of the Environmental Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian from January 2013 through September 2014; and

WHEREAS, Jeralyn Moran served Meridian Township as Vice-Chair of the Environmental Commission and as one of the Commission's representatives to Meridian Leadership Team; and

WHEREAS, Jeralyn Moran devoted much of her personal time and energy educating the general public, other commissioners, and staff on important environmental issues; and

WHEREAS, Jeralyn Moran's service on the Environmental Commission has been greatly beneficial to the Charter Township of Meridian, its residents, and its natural environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN HEREBY extends its very best wishes to Jeralyn Moran in her future endeavors and expresses its profound gratitude for her service to the community.

ADOPTED: YEAS: _____

NAYS: None

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Chairperson of the Environmental Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Environmental Commission on the 26th day of January, 2012.

James E. Jackson, Chairperson
Environmental Commission

Meridian Charter Township, MI
Tuesday, September 23, 2014

Chapter 62. LAND DIVISION

Article III. Design Standards

§ 62-64. Landscaping.

[Ord. No. 2006-03, 8-1-2006; Ord. No. 2008-06, 4-20-2008]

The type of plant material (species), spacing and planting of all landscaping within a subdivision shall comply with the following standards:

- (1) General standards.
 - (a) Landscaping within 15 feet of a fire hydrant shall be no taller than six inches.
 - (b) The development and planting of required landscaping shall be the responsibility of the proprietor, not the individual lot owner.
 - (c) The landscape plan including street trees shall be approved by the Director of Community Planning and Development.
 - (d) Landscaping shall comply with the sight triangle requirements specified in § 86-474 of the Code of Ordinances.
 - (e) Landscape stone shall be limited to no more than 25% of the total landscaped area. Landscape stone shall not be located directly adjacent to a street or a pedestrian/bicycle pathway.
- (2) Street trees.
 - (a) Street trees shall be planted in a manner consistent with the street frontage for each lot, outlot, commons, parks, or other land within the subdivision as indicated on the following chart.

Street Frontage ¹	Number of Street Trees Required
Less than 100 feet	1
>100.00 to 150 feet	2
>150.00 to 200 feet	3
>200.00 to 250 feet	4

Street Frontage¹	Number of Street Trees Required
For every 50 feet over 250 feet	1

NOTES:

- ¹ Corner lots shall have the number of street trees determined by the frontage on each street separately.
- (b) Street trees shall be a minimum of two inches in caliper when planted.
 - (c) Tree species should be selected for tolerance to the roadside conditions and compliance with overhead clearance and sight distance requirements to avoid interference with underground utility lines, street lights or street pavement. To control tree loss due to insects or disease, no more than 25% of trees planted shall be of the same species. No more than two planted trees in a row shall be of the same species. Trees shall be selected from the list of approved species specified by the Ingham County Road Commission and the Township.
 - (d) Street trees shall be planted outside the sight triangle of the intersection of two streets or the intersection of a street and driveway as described in § 86-474 of the Code of Ordinances.
 - (e) Street trees shall be planted between the curb and sidewalk in accordance with the setback standards established by the Ingham County Road Commission and the Township; where curbs or sidewalks do not exist, trees shall be located between the right-of-way line and the edge of the pavement but outside of areas needed for open ditches or potential future sidewalks. Street trees may be located on private property within the first 10 feet of the front lot line for those lots where tree location in the public right-of-way is not possible due to conflicts with underground utility lines or restrictions of the Ingham County Road Commission.
 - (f) The lowest branch of any street tree shall provide minimum clearance of 13 feet above a public street and seven feet above a sidewalk, and nine feet above a pedestrian/bicycle pathway. Greater clearances shall be provided if required by the Ingham County Road Commission or the Township. Shrubs and hedges shall not be allowed to overhang a sidewalk or pedestrian/bicycle pathway.
- (3) Landscaping in cul-de-sac islands.
- (a) A minimum of one canopy tree or one conifer tree shall be planted for every 1,000 square feet of ground area within each cul-de-sac island.
 - (b) Canopy trees shall be a minimum of three inches in caliper and shall be planted at least 10 feet from the back of curb.

- (c) Conifer trees shall be a minimum of eight feet in height and shall be planted at least 15 feet from the back of curb.
 - (d) Canopy trees shall be maintained so the lowest branch is a minimum of 13 feet above the elevation of the street surface.
- (4) Subdivision entrances. Subdivision entrances may include landscaping, lighting, identification signs, fences, walls or other architectural features. All such features shall comply with the Code of Ordinances.
- (5) Landscape buffer. A landscaped buffer a minimum of 20 feet wide shall be provided when a subdivision borders a principal arterial, minor arterial, or collector street as identified in § **86-367** of the Code of Ordinances, a railroad and commercial or industrial land. The buffer shall include trees, shrubs, berms, walls or a combination designed in accordance with the landscape standards described in the Code of Ordinances. Existing natural features shall be retained wherever possible to promote a natural appearance and to protect the existing ecosystem within the landscape buffer. Pedestrian/bicycle pathways, sidewalks, or underground utilities shall not be installed within the required landscape or natural vegetation buffer. Where a berm is used as part of the landscape buffer, the minimum height shall be two feet, six inches. The maximum slope of the berm facing the primary road shall be 5:1 and the maximum slope of the berm facing the inside of the lot shall be 3:1.
- (6) Maintenance.
- (a) Maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, the caring for trees which are dead, dying, diseased, infected with harmful insects or harboring insect eggs, or damaged by any means so as to be rendered unsafe, or having unsafe branches.
 - (b) The maintenance of a street tree or the replacement of a street tree which dies within two years after planting shall be the responsibility of the proprietor. After two years the maintenance and the replacement of a street tree shall be the responsibility of the adjacent property owner.
 - (c) The upkeep and maintenance, including the replacement of plant material in cul-de-sac islands, at subdivision entrances, buffer areas, commons, parks or other lands shall be the responsibility of the proprietor for two years after the installation. After two years, the upkeep and maintenance shall be the responsibility of the homeowners association. If a homeowners association is not proposed, then the proprietor shall identify the person or organization responsible for the continuing upkeep and maintenance of these areas.