



Charter Township of Meridian  
Corridor Improvement Authority  
Central Fire Station 5000 Okemos Road- Okemos, MI 48864  
Wednesday, September 22, 2021 – Minutes - DRAFT

**Members Present:** Eric Foster, Barry Goetz, Jeff Ross, Chris Nugent and Ron Styka

**Members Absent:** Kellie Johnson, Chris Rigterink, Brian Jones

**Other Members Present:** Planning Commissioner Holly Cordill, Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark, Resident Roman Gay

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: 6:15 pm

Chair Ross called the meeting to order and member Jeff Ross read the mission statement for the Corridor Improvement Authority.

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, and residents.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION BY MEMBER GOETZ TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER NUGENT MOTION PASSES 5-0.**

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes- May 24, 2021

**MOTION BY MEMBER NUGENT TO APPROVE THE MARCH MEETING MINUTES WITH AN EDIT MARKING HIMSELF, CHRIS NUGENT AS ABSENT INSTEAD OF PRESENT. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER ROSS. MOTION PASSES 5-0.**

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.



6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Chair Foster presented the opening for the old business item regarding pedestrian crosswalks on Grand River Ave. Chair Foster thanked Commissioner Goetz and Director Clark for their work with MDOT to hold a formal meeting to review what updates would be made to Grand River during the resurfacing project in 2022.

Commissioner Goetz gave a synopsis of the meeting he participated in with MDOT and members of the Meridian Township development team. Community Development Director Tim Schmitt, Deputy Manager Perry, and Director Clark attended the meeting with Commissioner Goetz and the Michigan Department of Transportation Lansing TSC Cost & Scheduling Team. As the authority for management of M-43/Grand River Ave, MDOT received the letter from the CIA and the Transportation Authority in October of 2020 responding to what elements of improvements could be made to Grand River. One of these requested improvements will be implemented; 3 center lane pedestrian crosswalks that will safely allow for pedestrians to cross Grand River Ave.

Supervisor Styka and Commissioner Goetz commented on continuing to address the request for a traffic light at Montrose Avenue off of Grand River Avenue and a traffic study to review the impact. MDOT indicated in the meeting they are willing to coordinate the traffic study; however, the traffic light will not be included in the upcoming updates for Grand River.

**MOTION BY MEMBER GOETZ TO APPROVE THE LETTER AND INCLUDE A REQUEST FOR A TRAFFIC LIGHT AT MONTROSE AVE IN RESPONSE TO PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS ON GRAND RIVER. RESPONSE SHOULD INCLUDE A REQUEST TO MDOT TO COMPLETE THE TRAFFIC REQUEST AT SHORT STREET. SUPPORT BY SUPERVISOR STYKA MOTION PASSES 5-0.**

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Chair Foster thanked Director Clark for continuing to place the goals on the agenda as requested by the commission to ensure that the vision and goals of the CIA are being met. The priority of the commission remains to better develop the corridor and to begin with engagement. The commission prioritizes goal #1 "strive to increase business relationships with corridor business owners through improved communications and outreach" and to begin with task #1 providing a common corridor vision.

Three commissioners agree that prioritizing that goal is in the best interest of the committee.

Commissioner Ross agrees and stated that the CIA should find a way to communicate all that they have achieved for the benefit of the business community. The crosswalks being the first major successful item, as it is the first step in creating more walkability on Grand River. Commissioner Ross suggests a campaign with a letter to businesses on the corridor to say what was achieved. Let the business owners know that work will be underway on Grand River and what that timeframe will look like. In addition, suggest if they have questions or concerns to reach out to Director Clark at the Township.

Commissioners agreed that a campaign letter was a good idea stating the work that has been done and requesting business owners reach out to us to stay better engaged. Director Clark stated she would begin working on that letter.



**MOTION BY MEMBER ROSS TO PROCEED WITH CREATION OF DRAFT CAMPAIGN LETTER TO BUSINESS OWNERS ALONG THE CIA TO ENGAGE BEFORE GRAND RIVER AVE IMPROVEMENTS. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER NUGENT. MOTION PASSES 5-0.**

8. DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REVIEW

A. Current CIA Development projects: Director Clark is working closely with the operator of Nothing Bundt Cakes to move them into a location on Grand River. We are excited for this national franchise with heavy operation out of Detroit, MI to come to Meridian Township. Chair Foster was happy to hear that Nothing Bundt Cakes was interested in coming to Meridian and now he would have access to this specialty bakery close to home. Members were happy to hear the news.

Buddy's Pizza is still under construction and submitted new layout plans to the Township. This was reviewed internally and all changes have been approved. Construction should commence within 30 days

9. REPORTS

A. Township Board

Supervisor Styka spoke regarding the approved Township Budget, and community survey results had been posted and can be seen online. Staff are working hard to fill staffing positions for Police and Fire Departments by assisting candidates through the special training programs. The Daniels Drain Project is currently underway and the County will complete the necessary work to open up the roads to the public as soon as possible.

B. Planning Commission

The Planning Commission had a short meeting in September. Currently, the Board has the recommended changes to the MUPUD to review and adopt. Currently working on the sign ordinance with a subcommittee set to review and discuss changes.

C. Chair

No comments

D. Staff

Director Clark is working with the Mall to fill another large space for a useful tenant. Site selection is a portion of the work provided by Director Clark and finding good locations for new possible tenants within the Mall and on Grand River has been her focus. Director Clark will make the next meeting a virtual option to make it easy for members to participate.

10. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Goetz discussed his frustration with the current road improvements being made on Okemos Road through Consumers Energy gas updates before the Okemos bridge construction. At the same time, Ingham County Road Commission had construction on Dobie Road and Central Park. With both north/south options in the community closed or backed up with traffic Commissioner Goetz was surprised to see the no thru traffic enforcements around the Indian Hills neighborhood. He expressed his complete frustration with Ingham County and Meridian Township officials for



enforcing the no-thru traffic as it negatively impacts the Cedar Bend Neighborhood traffic. When Commissioner Goetz voiced his concerns to Ingham County and the Township, they explained their methods behind the locations of the barricades to Indian Hills. He voiced that he may bring it up again to the Corridor Improvement Authority as traffic on Grand River is the cause of the frustration and it will be worse with the road improvements and new development.

11. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

12. NEXT MEETING DATE

November 17, 2021- 6:00pm

13. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Foster adjourned the meeting at 7:29 pm