



Charter Township of Meridian
Senior/Community Center Task Force
Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Tuesday, March 11, 2025 – Minutes

Members

Present: Scott Hendrickson, Michele Steed, Steve Vagnozzi, John Hood, Mary Nardo Farris, Josh Robertson, Patrick Malley, Suchir Nagisetty, and LuAnn Maisner

Members

Absent: None

Staff

Present: Township Manager Tim Dempsey, Community Planning & Development Director Timothy Schmitt, and Parks and Recreation Director Courtney Wisinski

Others

Present: None

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Hendrickson called the meeting to order and called the roll at 6:02 pm.

2. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 6:03 pm.

Sonya Boruszewski, Township Resident, disappointed that the packet was published late. She stated seniors want a stand-alone facility with accessible parking.

Barbara O’Kelly, Township Resident, discussed the two floor plans in the packet. She wanted to address the importance of having a separate entrance and parking for the Senior Center.

Suzanne Leialoha, Township Resident, expressed concern related to the separation of staff and warming kitchen from the Senior Center in the plans.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 6:11 pm.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION BY MEMBER VAGNOZZI TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER ROBERTSON.
MOTION APPROVED 9-0.**

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES-February 25, 2025

MEMBER NARDO FARRIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 25, 2025 MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER NAGISETTY. MOTION APPROVED 9-0.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Hendrickson acknowledged the emails received and placed them in the record.

6. SENIOR CENTER RECOMMENDATION TO BOARD

Community Planning and Development Director Tim Schmitt addressed the question that Staff was previously asked to look into the potential for including solar in this project. Progressive put together a cost estimate of approximately \$1.5 million to add solar assuming we can find enough roof space for the panels.

We do have a \$550,000 fund balance in the Community Services millage that may be able to reduce some operational costs. After the facility is open and operating, we will have a good sense of what revenue looks like, the revenue projections included in the packet may be aggressive. Director Schmitt recommended to not tie any expenses to revenue projections for now.

Progressive shared two different conceptual plans of a combined Senior/Community Center. The major difference between the two plans is one plan shows the Senior Center positioned close to the road and the other has the Senior Center further back by the wetlands/water detention pond.

The Task Force discussed the following recommendations to the Township Board. There was a consensus that the Task Force thought the plan with the Senior Center on the south side of the property was preferred. There was agreement that it would be helpful if Progressive could design a Senior Center only model, with the possibility of a Community Center expansion to present to the Township Board.

MOTION BY MEMBER STEED TO RECOMMEND TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD THE CENTRAL FIRE STATION SITE, BETWEEN THE POST OFFICE AND THE FIRE STATION, AS THE LOCATION OF THE SENIOR CENTER OR SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTER. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER HOOD. MOTION APPROVED 9-0.

MOTION BY MEMBER MALLEY TO RECOMMEND TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD THE STAFFING/OPERATIONAL COSTS AS PRESENTED ACKNOWLEDGING FUTURE ADJUSTMENTS THAT MAY BE NECESSARY BASED UPON CHANGES OUTSIDE OF THE SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTER TASK FORCE. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER ROBERTSON. MOTION APPROVED 9-0.

MOTION BY MEMBER MAISNER TO RECOMMEND TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD THE BROAD CONCEPTUAL PLAN WITH THE SENIOR CENTER SOUTH ON THE PROPERTY OF THE COMBINED SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTER OR SENIOR ONLY FACILITY. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER STEED. MOTION APPROVED 9-0.

MOTION BY MEMBER ROBERTSON TO RECOMMEND TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD THE SENIOR CENTER NO GYM CONCEPTUAL PLAN. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER MALLEY. MOTION APPROVED 9-0.

MOTION BY MEMBER NARDO FARRIS TO RECOMMEND TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD THE SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTER WITH GYM CONCEPTUAL PLAN. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER NAGISETTY. MOTION APPROVED 8-1.

Supervisor Hendrickson stated the Township Board will have the Senior/Community Center on their April 3rd and April 15th agendas.

Supervisor Hendrickson expressed gratitude for the work of the task force and the public.

7. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor Hendrickson opened comments from the public at 7:45 pm.

Suzanne Leialoha, Township Resident, thanked the task force and Progressive.

Barbara O'Kelly, Township Resident, thanked the task force and Progressive. She announced there is a Senior Center Advisory Board meeting tomorrow.

Supervisor Hendrickson closed comments from the public at 7:47 pm.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm without objection.