



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Economic Development Corporation
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, May 5, 2022– Minutes -DRAFT

Members

Present: Chair Kim Thompson, Vice Chair Brenda Chapman, Dave Ledebuhr, Adam Carlson, Shawn Dunham, Trustee Kathy Sundland, Treasurer Phil Deschaine, Henry Kwok, and Township Manager Walsh

Members

Absent: Tom Conway

Others

Present: Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark, Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz, Planning Commissioner Peter Trezise, Supervisor Patricia Herring Jackson, MABA President Nate Kirk, and MABA Vice President Chaz Carrillo

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Kim Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:30 am and read the mission statement.

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

MOTION BY MEMBER DUNHAM TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 9-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-Meeting April 7, 2022
- b. Financial Report
- c. Development Projects
- d. MABA Awardees

MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY VICE CHAIR CHAPMAN. MOTION PASSES 9-0.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. PRESENTATION

- a. MABA President Nate Kirk gave an overview of the Meridian Area Business Association (MABA). MABA currently has 60-70 members and meets on the second Friday of the month at 9:00am at MSUFCU. The Association is a great networking opportunity for local businesses to pass referrals.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Community Engagement-Branded Bags, etc.
Chair Thompson discussed the idea of community activities. Discussion of how the activity will impact economic development. Chair Thompson will provide ideas for activities as they come.

MOTION BY MEMBER CARLSON TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD FLAGS OVER MERIDIAN 2022 SPONSORSHIP. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 9-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Flags over Meridian 2022 Sponsorship
Director Clark brought the revised invoice from the Kiwanis Club to sponsor the flags.

MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO SUPPORT THE SPONSORSHIP OF 20 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FLAGS WITH KIWANIS OF HASLETT- OKEMOS FOR A TOTAL OF \$800. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CARLSON. MOTION PASSES 9-0.

- b. Joint Small Business Endeavors with MABA 2022

Vice President of MABA Chaz Corrillo suggested that the EDC and MABA continue to collaborate within existing committees to honor Small Business Week, hold an Annual Joint Meeting, Shop Small Shop Local Saturday, and the MABA Golf Outing.

- c. MABA Golf Sponsorship

Discussion regarding supporting the MABA Golf Outing. The proceeds of the golf outing support the MABA Philanthropic Grant Program. This year's event will be held on Friday, June 10th at Meridian Sun Golf Club.

MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE A \$50 GOLF HOLE SPONSORSHIP TO THE 2022 MABA GOLF OUTING. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 9-0.

9. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

- a. Township Board

Trustee Sundland reported the following:

- Discussing the use of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to projects including local roads, IT, broadband, pathways, and fire cots
- Village of Okemos request from the Meridian Redevelopment Fund
- Haslett Village Square redevelopment project is moving along
- The assessment roll for the Daniels Drain project was approved

b. Township Manager

- Local road bids are approximately 20% over budget. We are planning to use ARP funding to help close the gap.
- Contracted with Brightline Technologies to fix our IT infrastructure
- Increased Police compensation
- Working on creating a Community Rehabilitation Act (CRA) for the \$60 million project at Haslett Village Square
- New Finance Director will start in a couple weeks
- New community signs will be coming to the Board for approval
- Event is planned for Juneteenth at the Marketplace on the Green
- Celebrate Meridian will be held on June 25th
- Working on a Stimulus Inflationary Payment (SIP) for all employees

c. Planning Commission

Commissioner Trezise reported the Planning Commission has seen the Haslett Village Square Project consisting of 300 dwelling units and 21,000 square feet of commercial space. They are favorable to the plan. The Commission has been reviewing an expansion at Bickford for a memory care unit.

d. Chair

None.

e. Staff

Director Clark discussed the following:

- Sign campaign is complete with 11 signs for \$700 to help during the road construction
- Met with local municipalities to collaborate on a calendar for Juneteenth
- An updated market study would be helpful for the Master Plan
- Macy's grand re-opening will be held on May 28th at 9:30am

10. COMMUNITY REPORTS

a. Meridian Mall

Member Dunham mentioned the new Imachinations costume shop has opened. B12 had a successful opening. Attendance at the Mall has increased over pre-pandemic levels. Lil Emil's in the Mall has closed.

b. MABA

President Nate Kirk thanked the EDC for inviting MABA to the meeting. There will be a social networking event on May 19th from 4:00pm-6:00pm at the Blue Gill Grill.

11. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine thanks CBL for paying lost property taxes from a Mall food court business. The business ended up paying their property taxes and the Township was able to reimburse CBL.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

- June 2, 2022 at 7:30am

14. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 8:35am.