



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Economic Development Corporation
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, October 11, 2018– Minutes

Members

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

Members

Absent: None.

Others

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Sims called the meeting to order at 7:32 am and Member Carlson 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 TRUSTEE DESCHAIINE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER MURSHAK. MOTION PASSES 11-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Development Projects Update
- b. Minutes-September 6, 2018
- c. Financial Report – handed out at the meeting, not in the published packet. Attached to minutes.

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

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. PRESENTATION

LuAnn Maisner, Parks and Recreation Director gave a presentation on the Farmers' Market relocation project-Marketplace on the Green.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Farmers' Market Funding

After the presentation, there was discussion about the EDC supporting the nearly \$1,000,000 project.

MOTION BY MEMBER MURSHAK TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$50,000 TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR A DEFINED PORTION OF THE FARMERS' MARKET CONSTRUCTION. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CONN.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS: Trustee Deschaine, Members Murshak, Sims, Thompson, Chapman, Conn, Carlson, Conway and Manager Walsh

NAYS:

OBSTAINED: Members Ledebuhr and Dunham due to their connections to the project.

Motion Carries 9-0 (2)

b. Engaging Public Schools

Jade and Chris will be scheduling a meeting with Okemos Schools. They will also be reaching out to Haslett Schools and Ingham Intermediate District.

c. Business Retention, Expansion and Attraction

Director Buck has identified 7 business districts in the Township and continues to work on a database for these businesses.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2019 EDC Meeting Schedule

The EDC reviewed a draft resolution with the 2019 schedule.

MOTION BY MEMBER CONWAY TO APPROVE THE 2019 MEETING SCHEDULE RESOLUTION. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CONN. MOTION PASSES 11-0.

9. TOWNSHIP REPORT

a. Township Board

- Looking at overlay districts for medical marijuana
- Working on citizen survey, zoning requests and Marsh Point land donation

b. Township Manager

- Deer management program has 79 hunters
- The absentee ballots were mailed with the wrong instructions
- Discussed a road millage and the current land preservation millage
- Brianne's sexual assault program is complete

c. Planning Commission

Planning Commission Vice-Chair John Scot-Craig provided a summary of recent Planning Commission activities.

d. Chair

- Chair Sims discussed the recent restaurant closures. The EDC discussed how does the Township compare to our neighbors regarding taxes. Director Buck will compile data on this and report back.

e. Staff

- Working on the DDA TIF Plan Update
- Director Buck attended the arts council placemaking conference
- RRC Certification ceremony will be held on 11/16/18 at 3:00pm at the Elevation
- Expiramac ribbon cutting took place

10. COMMUNITY REPORTS

a. Meridian Mall

- Launch Trampoline Park is scheduled to open around the holidays

b. Farmers' Market

None.

c. MABA

Member Conway reported that MABA is growing. MABA will be hosting a wine tasting fundraising event on 10/24 at 6:30pm at Dusty's Cellar to raise funds for the Joan Smith Memorial Fund that supports grants for continuing education.

11. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

Member Conn reported he enjoyed the placemaking conference. He made a suggestion for Gil White to be a possible future presenter to the EDC.

14. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

15. NEXT MEETING DATE

- November 1, 2018 at 7:30am at the Central Fire Station

16. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Sims adjourned the meeting at 9:02 am.