



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
YOUTH COMMISSION
JANUARY 26, 2026 5:30 PM
UPSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM
MERIDAIN TOWNSHIP HALL
5151 MARSH ROAD OKEMOS, MI

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Gebara calls the meeting to order:
2. ROLL CALL: CHAIR GEBARA CONDUCTS ROLL CALL.
Members: Higgins, Gay, Gebara, Mahale, McCarthy, Regan, Sampathkumar, Shah, Stecovich
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
 - a. December 1, 2025 – Beautification Subcommittee Minutes
 - b. November 17, 2025 – Youth Commission Meeting Minutes
5. PUBLIC REMARKS
6. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Township Youth Commission Beautification Project – Village of Okemos Site
7. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Youth Commission Community Survey & Outreach
 - b. Youth Commission Brainstorm Committee
8. PUBLIC REMARKS
9. OPEN DISCUSSION
 - a. **General Youth Commission: Monday, February 2 at 5:30 PM**
Members are encouraged to ask staff and the Commission direct questions to help determine goals for the Youth Commission and identify actionable next steps.
10. UPCOMING/NEXT MEETING DATES:
 - a. Beautification Subcommittee: Monday, January 26 at 6:30 PM
 - b. General Youth Commission: Monday, February 2 at 5:30 PM
11. ADJOURNMENT



Charter Township of Meridian
Youth Commission
Virtual Meeting – Zoom
Monday, December 1, 2025 – Beautification Subcommittee Minutes

Members Present: Finn Regan, Rishabh Mahale, and Krishaan Shah

Members Absent: Autumn Gebara

Staff Present: Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark and SEA Intern Neha Jampana

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

- a. Meeting started at 5:30 pm

2. PUBLIC REMARKS

- a. None.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Township Youth Commission Beautification Project

The Youth Commission continued discussing the Hamilton and Okemos Beautification Project and explored a new idea for a community- building event. Director Amber Clark provided an update on her recent discussion with the DDA regarding the project's scope and budget. She explained that while the DDA is supportive of the concept, they cannot offer financial support without a concrete design and detailed budget plan. The DDA emphasized that the proposal must be specific and well- presented. Director Clark also noted that the Township manager and others in East Lansing considered the previously discussed chain link fence option cost- prohibitive, referencing that even the downtown fencing-less than one acre-had to be purchased to be cost- effective (not rented). Based on these concerns, Director Clark suggested replacing the fence with pallet wood and limiting the decorative focus to the Hamilton and Okemos sides of the two - acre property. She clarified that covering the entire perimeter would interfere with ongoing community use of the site, including parking and utility access. Members Finn Regan and Rishabh Mahale agreed with this adjustment, and Member Regan noted that the subcommittee has been maintaining a shared Google document containing budgets and planning tabs, which will be shared with Director Clark.

Director Clark encouraged the group to revise their public art concept to reflect the updated circumstances and to begin developing a detailed plan that outlines design elements, necessary materials, cost estimates, and how those materials will be



obtained. She added that if the commission plans for the project to be completed before May, it will be up to the Youth Commission to present a finalized proposal, although there is no strict deadline and projects may also be carried out by future Youth Commission members. She also mentioned that a DDA representative may attend the Youth Commission meeting on December 15th to hear updates and review the commission's plans. Member Regan proposed an additional idea involving a community holiday event centered on decorating and lighting the large tree near Hamilton Road. He explained that the site is accessible for public use. Member Mahale suggested incorporating a holiday book exchange or book drive into the event, and Member Regan recommended partnering with the Capital Area District Library because of its proximity. Director Clark offered to communicate with businesses regarding potential donations or participation, noting that she can effectively handle outreach as long as the subcommittee members provide clear and specific requests, such as defined material needs or small monetary donations. Member Regan explained that the goal would be to bring the community together while tying the gathering to the Beautification Project. All members were supportive of this concept.

The group then considered the timing of the event. An initial date of January 3, 2026, was proposed, with the plan for the tree to be decorated in advance. However, members agreed that this would not allow sufficient time for planning or community engagement, and Member Mahale noted he would be out of the country from December 12-29th. Director Clark reminded the group that the event did not need to occur immediately and could instead take place in the spring, allowing more time for development. Members discussed alternative dates, including a time before spring break, and considered pairing a spring launch event with a recycling drive along with the beautification project.

Director Clark concluded the meeting by emphasizing that the subcommittee's December 15th presentation to the Youth Commission must include a clear and detailed outline of their selected project ideas, a complete budget, and an explanation of how materials will be gathered and managed.

4. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. None

5. PUBLIC REMARKS
 - a. None

6. NEXT MEETING DATE
 - a. Monday December 15, 2025 at 6:30 pm IN PERSON

7. ADJOURNMENT





Charter Township of Meridian
Youth Commission
Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Monday, November 17, 2025– Minutes -DRAFT

Members

Present: Autumn Gebara, Reilly Higgins, Finn Regan, Krishaan Shah, Roman Gay, Jacob Stecovich, and Rishabh Mahale

Members

Absent: Neha Sampathkumar and Addison McCarthy

Others

Present: Economic Development Director Amber Clark, MSU Intern Neha Jampana, and Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Gebara called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

2. PRESENTATION

Director Clark gave a presentation on County versus Local Government. She shared how the State is divided into Counties and Meridian Township is a part of Ingham County. Ingham County has 15 Commissioners and four of those represent Meridian Township.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION BY MEMBER REGAN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER HIGGINS. MOTION PASSES 7-0.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. October 20, 2025 Beautification Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
- b. November 3, 2025 Beautification Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

MOTION BY MEMBER HIGGINS TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 20, 2025 AND NOVEMBER 3, 2025 BEAUTIFICATION SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER REGAN. MOTION PASSES 7-0.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Township Youth Commission Beautification Project: Village of Okemos Site

The subcommittee has had two meetings. They are working on creating art decorations on a chain link fence at the Village of Okemos site. Member Regan is working on glass/plastic items to arrange/collect to place into a school design. Chair Gebara is working on CD donations and volunteers to decorate. Member Mahale is working on a plastic cup design. Member Shah is working on a metal garden and involving the community through a contest with a winning design. The subcommittee will continue to work on the planning of the event to decorate the fence along with coordinating drop-off locations for the materials needed.

7. NEW BUSINESS

None.

8. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

9. OPEN DISCUSSION

Member Regan mentioned he has reached out to Okemos Community Food Pantry and is sharing information about volunteering with others. Director Clark stated that Meridian Cares needs food gift card donations.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

- December 15, 2025 at 5:30pm at the Township Municipal Building-Town Hall Room.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm without objection.



To: Meridian Township Youth Commission Members
From: Amber Clark Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director
Date: January 26, 2026
Re: Beautification Committee Update

The Beautification Subcommittee is continuing to develop design concepts and implementation plans for the Village of Okemos site. Township staff are working with the property owner to authorize a temporary beautification structure.

Next Steps

1. Select preferred design(s) for the site.
2. Create an implementation plan detailing materials, acquisition methods, and management responsibilities.
3. Coordinate with the Events/Communications Committee once implementation plans are finalized.

Discussion: The members of the Beautification committee will share their ideas and how they plan to manage their portion of the project.



To: Meridian Township Youth Commission Members
From: Amber Clark Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director
Date: January 26, 2026
Re: Youth Commission Survey/Community Outreach

Member Gay submitted a request to Chair Gebara regarding additional projects the Youth Commission could undertake. The Youth Commission is newly established to the Township. The packet includes links to Meridian Township's last survey: [Meridian Township Resident Survey and Priority Assessment 2024](#).

See draft survey created by member Gay

The Youth Commission could work to create a survey of their own. This survey would be distributed to the community with emphasis on the Youth. Data collected from the survey may result in the Youth Commission making a formal recommendation for activities in the future.

Discussion: Should the Meridian Township Youth Commission conduct a community survey to determine other tasks, programs, and projects that will support the youth of Meridian Township.



To: Meridian Township Youth Commission Members
From: Amber Clark Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director
Date: January 26, 2026
Re: Brainstorming Session

Member Gay submitted a request to Chair Gebara regarding a brainstorming session for the Youth Commission. The session would be a date and time determined by the Youth Commission. It could be during a regular meeting.

The goal of the session is to allow for open discussion of the commission regarding possible initiatives.

Discussion: Should the Youth Commission conduct a brainstorming session? Should that occur during a regular Youth Commission meeting? If not, when will the brainstorming session occur? Other conditions?