

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES  
Town Hall Room – Municipal Building  
AUGUST 2, 2017 - APPROVED**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Chair Bill McConnell, Commissioners Ned Jackson, Susan Masten, John Sarver, Jim Kielbaso, Kirk Lapham, and Ben Holland

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Marina Ionescu

**STAFF:** Assistant Planner Jennifer Quinlivan

**OTHERS:** Carolyn Randall, Scott Durett

**1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Bill McConnell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. GREEN THEMES PRESENTATION – Scott Durett, Michigan Energy Options: Sustainable Design.**

Scott Durett of Michigan Energy Options presented on the implementation of sustainable design in building design and efficiencies. The three main points of sustainable building design are reducing waste during demolition and construction and implementation of energy reducing products, the reuse of products and building elements, and recycling demolished building products. The most sustainable design practice in construction of buildings is the reuse and renovation of a building. Mr. Durett stated that 75% of waste material from a building renovation can be recycled. He presented examples of multiple Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) buildings in the Lansing area which utilized recycled materials, energy efficiencies, and sustainable design practices.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER KIELBASO. MOTION APPROVED 7-0.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 5, 2017 MEETING**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KIELBASO TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER SARVER. MOTION APPROVED 7-0.

**5. PUBLIC REMARKS**

Ruth Linnemann of 1154 Teakwood Circle, Haslett, spoke in support of the proposed Climate Sustainability plan prepared by the Township Energy team.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Citizen's Climate Lobby resolution request. Carolyn Randall, Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) representative, spoke to request support of the Environmental Commission regarding their legislative proposal on carbon fee dividends. The Environmental Commission agreed to address the request at the September meeting. Ms. Randall also requested the Environmental Commission recommend a resolution of support to the Township Board in support of climate action. Ms. Randall provided a list of state and local municipalities in support of CCL's resolution for carbon fee dividends or climate action as well as a copy of East Lansing's resolution of endorsement of congressional measures to address climate action.

The Commission discussed the request and how to proceed with a recommendation to the Township Board. Commissioner Sarver suggested using the East Lansing resolution as a model for the recommendation to the Township Board. He also suggested to only include the support of congressional measures to support climate action instead of carbon fees and dividends. Commissioner Masten suggested a recommendation to the Township Board in support of the measures to address climate action similar to the recommendation the Commission made to the Township Board concerning support of the Paris Accord, and requested staff include information in the next month's Commission meeting packet on that recommendation. Chair McConnell stated the Commission would wait on making a recommendation until next month and until receiving more information on the Township Board's discussion of the proposed Climate Sustainability Plan offered by the Township's Energy Team.

Further discussion on the request is scheduled for the September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Environmental Commission meeting and will be added to the agenda as old business.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Climate Sustainability Plan. Commission Sarver gave an update on the current progress of the plan. He noted the plan was reviewed and had received comments from the Transportation Commission, Economic Development Corporation, and Township Building and Engineering Departments. Staff presented the Commission with a draft motion to recommend the Township Board adopt the Climate Sustainability Plan and incorporate the plan by reference in the Master Plan.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JACKSON TO RECOMMEND THE TOWNSHIP BOARD ADOPT THE CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN AND INCORPORATE THE PLAN BY REFERENCE INTO THE MASTER PLAN. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER MASTEN. MOTION APPROVED 7-0.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair McConnell reported the Climate Sustainability Plan was on the agenda for discussion at the upcoming Economic Development Corporation. Chair McConnell and Commission Sarver volunteered to attend the meeting to answer questions regarding the plan.

**8. STAFF REPORT**

NONE

**9. COMMISSIONER SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Planning:** David Premoe, Planning Commission Liaison, reported on the review of the Master Plan and joint meeting with the Township Board to review the Master Plan.

**Land Preservation:** Commissioner Kielbaso reported the Land Preservation Advisory Board was in the process of reviewing a possible property for land preservation.

**Energy Team:** NONE

**Parks:** Commissioner Masten commented on the 175<sup>th</sup> Celebrate Meridian events and the proposed signage program starting in Ted Black Woods.

**Transportation:** Commissioner Jackson read a report from Commissioner Ionescu regarding the Transportation Commission meeting she attended, noting the Transportation Commission had discussed the Master Plan at their meeting.

**10. PUBLIC REMARKS**

Carolyn Randall of 2311 Shawnee Trail, Okemos, spoke on the carbon fee and dividend plan of the Citizen's Climate Lobby.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. without objection.