

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
Meridian Municipal Building – Town Hall Room
January 4, 2017 - APPROVED**

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Chair Bill McConnell, Commissioners John Sarver, Ben Holland, Ned Jackson, Jim Kielbaso, Susan Masten, and Donald Dickmann

ABSENT:

STAFF: Senior Planner Peter Menser and Assistant Planner Jennifer Quinlivan

OTHERS: Planning Commission Chair John Scott-Craig

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McConnell called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 7, 2016 MEETING

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

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

- Staff introduced Assistant Planner Jennifer Quinlivan to the Commission.

5. NEW BUSINESS: Review of 2016 Goals, discuss 2017 Goals

- Chair McConnell summarized the goals for 2016. Noting some of the goals may be missing from the document. Chair McConnell asked the commission to review the goals for 2016 and 2017 in the report. The commission reviewed the goals as follows:
 - All Administrative goals were achieved and should not be included in the goals for 2017. Some changes were made to the Commission bylaws under the administrative objectives.
 - Collaborative goals were achieved in part and should be retained as part of the goals for 2017. The first objective; to regularly engage chairs of other Township commissions and boards was achieved and should be retained for 2017. However, the second objective; to engage residents, businesses, fellow appointed and elected officials in discussion of environmental issues should become a "Policy Recommendation" goal which will make recommendations on Township policy as it relates to environmental issues.

Environmental Commission

January 4, 2017 Minutes

Page 2

- Policy Recommendation goals are comprised of the steps previously associated with the collaborative objective and would become objectives of the Policy Recommendation goal with the addition of a fourth objective regarding the creation and adoption of a Climate Action Plan through a partnership with the Township's Energy Team.
- The Commission plans to focus on wayfinding, reviewing the proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan, establishing a liaison from the commission to the Parks and Recreation Commission and encouraging student involvement on the Environmental Commission.
- Chair McConnell noted a budget request may be required to achieve the some of the goals.
- MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLLAND TO ADOPT THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVE FOR 2017 AS REVIEWED AND PROPOSED. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER SARVER. MOTION CARRIED (7-0).

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

- Chair McConnell distributed a list of ideas from the Energy Team regarding how the Commission can be involved in creation of a Climate Change Action Plan.

7. STAFF REPORT

- Staff reminded the Commission of the upcoming presentation by former Ingham County Sanitarian Garry Rowe. Mr. Rowe will be attending the March meeting to present his findings regarding water testing.
- Staff informed the Commission that next month's agenda will include the election of officers to the Commission.

8. COMMISSIONER SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Land Preservation: The purchase of an 89 acre property near Ponderosa subdivision and south of Legg Park is nearing final purchase.

Energy Team: Reported that a presentation was made at Okemos High School to the Earth Club regarding solar panels at the high school. The Energy Team also reported that they are working with the Township and Lansing Board of Water and Light on the solar panel park at Burcham Park in East Lansing.

Student Engagement: None

Parks: None

9. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. without objection.