



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Economic Development Corporation
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, March 4, 2021- Minutes -DRAFT

Members

Present: Joel Conn, Treasurer Phil Deschaine, David Ledebuhr, Tom Conway, Township Manager Frank Walsh, Shawn Dunham, Henry Kwok, Adam Carlson, Trustee Kathy Ann Sundland, and Kimberly Thompson

Members

Absent: Brenda Chapman

Others

Present: Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark, Community Planning & Development Director Mark Kieselbach, Finance Director Miriam Mattison, and Trustee Patricia Herring Jackson

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:30 am and Member Conway 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. MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

Each EDC member introduced themselves by sharing some professional and personal information.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION BY MEMBER CARLSON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CONWAY. MOTION PASSES 10-0.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-February 4, 2021
- b. Financial Report-Year end unaudited report given by Director Mattison.
- c. Development Projects

MOTION BY MEMBER CARLSON TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 10-0.

6. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. MABA Business Awards Update

Director Clark explained that MABA launched nominations for the New Business of the Year and Existing Business of the Year in January. The votes were tallied and Cheezy D's is the winner of New Business of the Year and High Caliber Karting is the winner for Existing Business of the Year. The EDC discussed purchasing the awards with a cost estimate of \$200-\$300.

MOTION BY MEMBER CONWAY TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF THE TWO MABA AWARDS NOT TO EXCEED \$300. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 10-0.

b. Village of Okemos Update-Reimbursement Agreement

Director Clark stated the developer has not updated or signed the agreement. At this point, based on the agreement, the total eligible reimbursement continues to decrease. Vertical build on the site is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2021.

c. Business Outreach Subcommittee

Director Clark reported that the committee met last month along with the Township Communications Team to discuss marketing efforts for local businesses. Ideas from the group include the following:

- Adding local business advertising to the Prime Meridian Magazine. Possible EDC sponsorship for this item.
- A township directory added to the Prime Meridian Magazine.
- HOMTV interviews and/or highlighting a small business at the EDC meeting.
- Shop small business initiatives.
- Grub Grab was successful last year and there is interest to do it again.
- Connect with Okemos and Haslett High Schools after spring break.

d. Goals Plan of Action-Economic Development Implementation Matrix

Director Clark mentioned she is working on the MEDC Redevelopment Recertification. This process needs to take place every three years. As part of the process, the MEDC is requiring an implementation matrix. The draft matrix is in the packet for your review. Please provide feedback. The matrix is due in November.

8. NEW BUSINESS

None.

9. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

a. Township Board

Trustee Sundland reported the following:

- The Board held a study session on recreational marijuana on February 16th.
- The Board held a retreat on February 20th.

- The Local Officials Compensation Commission presented their findings at the February 23rd meeting. A few increases for Township Officials have been approved.
- The Election Commission met.
- The Board is working on a citizen's survey.
- The Board discussed expansion of Redi-Ride services.
- The Board passed a resolution in recognition of Women's History Month.

b. Township Manager

Manager Walsh reported the following:

- There is a prospective senior housing project for Grand River and Powell Road.
- The Service Center will have solar installed on its roof to power the entire building.
- The Prime Meridian Magazine is in the mail.
- Working on the Powell Road special assessment district for paving from Grand River Avenue to the Silverstone development.
- The deer management program is going well with 311 of their 326 goal.
- Working on a rezoning of Midwest Power at Jolly and Kansas.
- Walnut Hills demolition is complete.
- Woda Cooper development is progressing north of Whole Foods.
- Meridian Police are launching a program to provide mental health care when needed in partnership with Community Mental Health.
- Submitted a \$10,000 art grant to LEAP for art at the Marketplace on the Green.

c. Planning Commission

Director Kieselbach, on behalf of Commissioner Trezise, gave a report on the current Planning Commission activities.

d. Chair

None.

e. Staff

Director Clark reported the following:

- Working on compiling information for the Board on costs for the citizen's survey.
- Developing a Township Business Directory.
- Creating an interactive neighborhood map showing if there is a neighborhood group or any green environmental projects.
- Working with LEAP on development of SmartZones in the Township.
- Creating an organized business retention plan.

10. COMMUNITY REPORTS

a. Meridian Mall

Member Dunham reported that entertainment options are opening, but places like Launch and High Caliber Karting are not getting the traffic they are used to. The Cinema continues to be closed for now and the food court is picking up.

b. MABA

Director Clark reported that MABA is working on a member retention program and trying to define the "value" of the membership.

11. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

Discussion was had around the opening of Memorial Healthcare of Owosso, 3544 Meridian Crossing at the beginning of April in the old Sleep Diagnostic area.

10. PUBLIC REMARKS

Trustee Patricia Herring Jackson said thank you.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

- April 8, 2021 at 7:30am

12. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting.