

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
REGULAR MEETING PLANNING COMMISSION  
5000 Okemos Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198  
517.853.4000, Township Townhall Room  
Monday, May 11, 2026, 6:30 pm

PRESENT: Chair Romback, Vice-Chair McCurtis, Commissioners Brooks, McConnell, and Shrewsbury

ABSENT: Commissioner Nahum

STAFF: Principal Planner Shorkey, Land Preservation Coordinator Emma Campbell

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Romback called the May 11, 2026, regular meeting for the Meridian Township Planning Commission to order at 6:33 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Romback called the roll of the Board. All Board members were present except Commissioner Nahum.

3. PUBLIC REMARKS

None

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Romback asked for approval of the agenda.

**Commissioner McConnell moved to approve the May 11, 2026, Regular Planning Commission meeting agenda as amended. Seconded by Vice-Chair McCurtis. Motion passed unanimously.**

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Shrewsbury pointed out an error in the minutes and asked that the resolution of appreciation for Commissioner Snyder be attached to the minutes.

**Commissioner Shrewsbury moved to approve Minutes of the April 27, 2026 meeting as amended. Seconded by Vice-Chair McCurtis. Motion passed unanimously.**

6. COMMUNICATIONS

None

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. REZ #26005 – Garza

Principal Planner Shorkey opened the discussion and said that there were no changes since the public hearing and discussed the resolution to recommend approval in the packet.

**Vice-Chair McCurtis moved to adopt the resolution to recommend approval of Rezoning #26005 to rezone the Subject Property, approximately 0.8 acre in size, located at 1745 Mack Avenue, from RDD (Multiple-Family Residential) to RB (Single-Family Residential). Seconded by Commissioner Brooks. Motion passed unanimously.**

B. SUP #26009 – Huntington National Bank

Principal Planner Shorkey opened the discussion and said that there were no changes since the public hearing and discussed the resolution to approve in the packet.

Chair Romback asked what happened with the liquor license from Old Chicago.

**Vice-Chair McCurtis moved to adopt the resolution approving SUP #26009 to allow the construction of a new bank with a drive-thru at the property at 1938 West Grand River Avenue, subject to the conditions found in the resolution to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Shrewsbury.**

Commissioner Brooks asked, based on his observations, if there was a need for the drive-thru on the site, prime location. Chair Romback said that if it was a prime location then it would have been developed by now. Principal Planner Shorkey said a restaurant would be likely to have a drive-thru as well. Commissioner Shrewsbury said that she could not remember the last time she set foot in a bank and used drive-thrus and that she is supportive of the request.

Chair Romback said that Huntington must have a need for a drive-thru since they have an existing location in the Brookfield strip center.

Chair Romback called the question. **Motion passed unanimously.**

9. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Section 61 Review – Land Preservation Acquisition – Hamilton Property

Principal Planner Shorkey introduced the item and introduced Land Preservation Coordinator Emma Campbell to further discuss the request. Principal Planner Shorkey noted that a resolution was included but that no public hearing was required.

Coordinator Campbell described the application and the reasons that the Land Preservation Board was interested in the property. Chair Romback commented on the lack of public hearing required. Commissioner McConnell asked about maintenance that would take place on the property. Coordinator Campbell described the maintenance expected to take place. Commissioner McConnell asked about the vernal pools on the property.

Commissioner Brooks asked about the cost to the Township. Coordinator Campbell described the appraisal and purchasing process. Commissioner Shrewsbury asked about by-laws and notice requirements. Principal Planner Shorkey confirmed that it was not a public hearing and that the Planning Commission could act and that no notices were required.

Chair Romback commented about being the approving body for Township expense. Coordinator Campbell pointed out that the final authority came from the Township Board.

**Commissioner McConnell moved to adopt the resolution to approve the location, character, and extent of an approximately 1.95 acre vacant parcel on the west side of Hamilton Road at the intersection of Kenmore Drive in Okemos, directly adjacent and north of Mandenberg Woods Preserve. Seconded by Vice-Chair McCurtis. Motion passed unanimously.**

B. Mass Timber Construction Discussion

Commissioner McConnell asked about the MUPUD amenity point system, prompting Principal Planner Shorkey to confirm the commission needed to assign a point value to mass timber construction. The Planning Commission also briefly discussed how the point system would interact with LEED certification and how amenities could be measured against each other.

Principal Planner Shorkey agreed to present draft resolutions at the next meeting, one valuing mass timber at two points and one at three for the MUPUD ordinance and to draft a resolution for the CPUD ordinance.

10. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Township Board Update

Principal Planner Shorkey updated the Planning Commission on recent Board activities.

b. Liaison Reports

Commissioner McConnell reported that the last Environmental Commission meeting was canceled.

11. PROJECT UPDATES

None.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

None

13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Romback asked for a preview of upcoming projects.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Romback called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Commissioner McConnell moved to adjourn the May 11, 2026 regular meeting of the Planning Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Brooks. Motion passed unanimously at 7:22.**