

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
Meridian Municipal Building – Town Hall Room
February 1, 2017 - APPROVED**

REGULAR MEETING

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

ABSENT: NONE

STAFF: Senior Planner Peter Menser and Assistant Planner Jennifer Quinlivan

OTHERS: NONE

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

- Chair McConnell called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

- MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KIELBASO TO APPROVE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER JACKSON. MOTION APPROVED 6-0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM January 4, 2017 MEETING

- MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SARVER TO APPROVE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER MASTEN. MOTION APPROVED 6-0.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

NONE

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. The Green Themes Presentation schedule was presented. Staff requested potential names of presenters for upcoming presentations. Commissioner Sarver suggested a representative from the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office to speak on storm water management and green infrastructure, and a representative from East Lansing's Environmental Commission to speak on East Lansing's climate change plan. Staff will follow up and report back to the commission on status of presentation.

CHAIR McCONNELL AMENDED THE MEETING AND MOVED TO ITEM #8 ON THE AGENDA TO THE NEXT ORDER OF BUSINESS AND INTRODUCED THE GREEN THEME PRESENTATION.

6. GREEN THEMES PRESENTATION

Climate Change and Health Impacts presented by Lorraine Cameron, Senior Environmental Epidemiologist for the Michigan Climate and Health Adaptation Program of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

7. OLD BUSINESS: 2017 GOALS

NONE

8. ACTION ITEMS

- Chair McConnell introduced newly appointed member Marina Heos.
 - a. Election of Officers:
 - MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KIELBASO TO RE-ELECT CHAIR McCONNELL AS CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER JACKSON. MOTION APPROVED 6-0, CHAIR McCONNELL OBSTAINED.
 - MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SARVER TO ELECT COMMISSIONER JACKSON AS VICE-CHAIR. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER MASTEN. MOTION APPROVED 6-0, COMMISSIONER JACKSON OBSTAINED.
 - b. Commissioner Jackson and Commissioner Masten presented their review of the Parks and Recreation Department's Park Master Plan to the Commission. The Environmental Commission discussion included the following:
 - The Park Master Plan was noted that a large portion of the Township is reserved for parks, greenspace and land preservation
 - There is a plan to increase the facilities found within the existing parks and the services that the parks offer.
 - It was noted that there is an improved awareness regarding the need for wayfinding within the park system in the Township.
 - Safety did not appear to be prioritized and addressed in the action portion of the Master Plan.
 - Chair McConnell posed the question regarding the health impacts associated with climate change and how the parks adapt to that issue.

9. CHAIR'S REPORT

- MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KIELBASO TO APPROVE RESOLUTION. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER MASTEN. MOTION APPROVED 6-0.

10. STAFF REPORT

- a. Staff reminded the Commission of the one vacant seat on the Commission.

11. COMMISSIONER SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning: The Commission is waiting for the Township Master Plan to be presented to the Township Board and will report the results at the next Environmental Commission meeting.

Land Preservation: NONE

Energy Team: Reported that the Energy Team was continuing to partner with Consumers Energy on Energy Efficiency programs in the Township.

Student Engagement: None

Parks: None in addition to the Park Master Plan report

Transportation: The newly developed commission may need a liaison from the Environmental Commission.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

- Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett commented on the scheduling of park and recycling cleanup program dates.
- Commissioner Masten requested a resolution be considered to affirm and enforce the protection of the environment within the Township through recommendations to the Township Board. Commissioner Masten offered to provide draft language for the resolution to staff.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. without objection.