



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY
October 21, 2020 6:00 pm
Central Fire Station-5000 Okemos Road

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. MISSION: The Corridor Improvement Authority of the Charter Township of Meridian is dedicated to establishing the Grand River Avenue corridor in Meridian Township as a prime business and recreation destination in the Tri-County region. The Authority is focused on creating programs and projects that invigorate the streetscape and build partnerships among corridor property owners, and residents.
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. July 22, 2020- Corridor Improvement Authority Meeting Minutes
 - B. August, 20, 2020- Joint Corridor Improvement Authority and Meridian Transportation Authority Meeting Minutes.
5. PUBLIC COMMENTS
6. DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REVIEW
 - A. New Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark Introduction and Staff Updates
7. CORRIDOR DESIGN & RESEARCH
 - A. Letter to MDOT regarding Grand River Ave improvements
 - B. Dawn Ave- Hannah Connection discussion
8. MALL DEVELOPMENT
 - A. Update on Mall Development
9. REPORTS
 - A. Township Board
 - B. Planning Commission
 - C. Chair
 - D. Staff
10. OPEN DISCUSSION/ BOARD COMMENTS
11. PUBLIC COMMENTS
12. NEXT MEETING DATE
 - A. Next Meeting Date: November 25, 2020 - 6:00pm
13. ADJOURNMENT

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Board by contacting: Township Manager Frank L. Walsh, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4258 - Ten Day Notice is Required.
Meeting Location: 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 Township Hall
G:\Community Planning & Development\Planning\CIA\Meeting Packets



Charter Township of Meridian
Corridor Improvement Authority
5000 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Wednesday, July 22, 2020– Minutes -DRAFT

Members

Present: Bruce Peffers, Supervisor Ron Styka, Chris Nugent, Jeff Ross, Eric Foster and Barry Goetz

Members

Absent: Kellie Johnson, Chris Rigterink, and Brian Jones

Others

Present: Community Planning & Development Director Mark Kieselbach, Economic Development Director Ken Lane, Deputy Township Manager Derek Perry, and Planning Commissioner Holly Cordill

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Ross called the meeting to order at 6:03pm and 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. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION BY CHAIR ROSS TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER GOETZ. MOTION PASSES 5-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Minutes-June 24, 2020

MOTION BY MEMBER PEFFERS TO APPROVE THE JUNE 2020 MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER NUGENT. MOTION PASSES 5-0.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REVIEW

a. Staff Summary

Director Lane discussed the development projects under construction and under consideration in the corridor. The LaFontaine project at Grand River and Powell is suspended for now, but may resume in a few months. They have seeded the property and are working on screening for the home at the back of the property. Anna's House is working on construction and plans to open in the fall. Buddy's Pizza is beginning construction soon in the old Burger King building. Klingman's is

under construction in the old Toys R Us building and plans to open in the fall. Green Peak Innovations will be before the Township Board in August. Red Cedar Manor mixed use development will begin soon.

b. Clarion Pointe Zoning Board of Appeals Update

Director Lane discussed that they have not been back in front of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and they have not submitted their variance report. They will be changing their front entry overhang due to drainage issues.

7. CORRIDOR DESIGN & RESEARCH

a. Form Based Code

Director Lane reported the Planning Commission has been working on the draft of the form based code ordinance and the first area to be implemented will be Grand River west of Park Lake Road. The draft ordinance is expected to be delivered to the Township Board by the end of summer.

b. Dawn Ave-Hannah Connection

Director Lane did reach out to the Eyde Company and they would like to wait and see what happens with the Andev development before discussing the connection.

c. West Grand River Amenity & Vibrancy Opportunities

Deputy Manager Perry discussed the MDOT project along the Grand River Corridor at the June meeting. The Road Department is now thinking the project could be scheduled for 2021. Director Lane drafted a letter to MDOT, on behalf of the CIA, to inform them of the priorities of the CIA. The CIA reviewed the draft letter. A few additions to the letter were discussed. The suggestions included adding lighting to Park Lake Road, reducing the speed limit, and a crosswalk to connect the neighborhood near Montrose. Member Foster suggested to add, in addition to the 2019 survey results, these CIA priorities are a part of the Township's Corridor Improvement Authority Plan. The CIA recommended that Director Lane review Tim Potter's email regarding bike lanes from last year's discussion. They felt this information would be valuable to add to the letter. Director Lane will make the needed revisions and share the updated letter with the CIA.

Welcome Signs are on hold for now due to COVID-19. There will be more information to come as we move through the 2021 Budget process.

d. Joint Meeting with Transportation Commission

MOTION BY CHAIR ROSS TO RESCHEDULE THE AUGUST MEETING OF THE CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY TO AUGUST 20, 2020 AT 6:00PM TO ALLOW FOR A JOINT MEETING WITH THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION. SUPPORTED BY SUPERVISOR STYKA. MOTION PASSES 5-0.

8. MALL DEVELOPMENT

Director Lane reported there are rumors circulating that the company that owns the Mall may file for bankruptcy protection. JC Penney is not leaving the Meridian Mall. High Caliber Karting is expanding into the former Old Navy space.

9. REPORTS

a. Township Board

Supervisor Styka reported the following:

- Met recently with the developers for the Village of Okemos. They are planning on demolition of the buildings this fall. The project is expected to proceed in the spring of 2021.
- Working on the police and fire millage renewals.
- Working on the land preservation millage. The Board is deciding whether to renew the millage, or possibly reduce it.
- Working on a diversity, equity and inclusion plan task force.

b. Planning Commission

Director Lane reported the updates from the latest meeting.

c. Chair

None.

d. Staff

Director Lane discussed the new MI business restart program that will be administered by LEAP. 394 grants of \$10,000-\$20,000 will be awarded. Recently opened Township businesses include: Cheezy D's Deli and Dogs in Haslett and Continental Oceans Technology Corporation on Jolly Road. The Pine Village mixed use development in Haslett will begin construction soon. The Haslett Marathon will be demolishing the current building and building a new building. Lastly, a new residential neighborhood is slated for Bennett Road called Silverleaf.

10. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

Discussion regarding recreational marihuana.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

- August 20, 2020 at 6:00pm Joint Meeting with the Transportation Commission (tentative)

14. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Ross adjourned the meeting at 7:06pm.



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Transportation Commission
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, August 20, 2020– Minutes -DRAFT

Members

Present: Chair Vagnozzi, Vice-Chair Lovell, Commissioners Potter and Deschaine,

Members

Absent: Commissioners Hudson and Kolbasa

Others

Present: Corridor Improvement Authority Members Jeff Ross, Barry Goetz, Bruce Peffers, and Supervisor Ron Styka, Director of Community Planning & Development Mark Kieselbach, Deputy Manager Derek Perry, Bill McConnell, and Planning Commissioner Holly Cordill

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Vagnozzi called the meeting to order at 6:08pm

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR LOVELL TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY TREASURER DESCHAIINE. MOTION PASSES 4-0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Vagnozzi recommended an update to the draft minutes on the bottom of page 3. The bullet that states crosswalk will have a red flashing beacon for pedestrians to use will be amended to the following: Crosswalk will have Rectangular Rapid Flashing (RRF) beacons for pedestrians to use. These will be yellow lights that flash to advise motorists that a pedestrian is crossing.

MOTION BY TREASURER DESCHAIINE TO APPROVE THE AMENDED MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER POTTER. MOTION PASSES 4-0.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

Bill McConnell stated he was happy to see both the Transportation Commission (TC) and the Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) meeting together and looks forward to the conversation.

5. DISCUSSION

- a. Draft letter to MDOT-Corridor Improvement Authority

The Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) members reviewed the history of the letter and that it was related to the plans of MDOT to resurface the corridor in 2021. In March of 2019, the CIA conducted a survey with the businesses along the Corridor. Although the response was small, there were some common remarks relating to streetlighting, bike lanes, and crosswalks (McDonalds, Montrose, and Campus Hill Apartments). Transportation Commissioner Potter indicated that he was in support of the letter. Deputy Manager Perry commented that the Township has been working with the Drain Commissioner regarding Okemos Road flooding issues. They have convinced MDOT to push back the project until 2022 so some of these issues can be planned into the project. There was discussion regarding the MSU to Lake Lansing pathway serving that area for bikers, as well.

Discussion was had regarding the process of submitting the letter to MDOT. Transportation Commissioner Potter suggested that the letter be updated to include a fourth crosswalk at the area of Washington Heights. Both the TC and the CIA agreed with this addition. Director Kieselbach suggested that he and Deputy Manager make the update to the letter, add a signature line for the TC and will send it out to both the TC and CIA for final review.

MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR LOVELL TO AUTHORIZE CHAIR VAGNOZZI TO SIGN THE LETTER ON BEHALF OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER POTTER. MOTION PASSES 4-0.

b. Grand River Avenue

Discussion was had regarding streetlighting and that MDOT does not work directly on streetlighting. CIA Member Peffers mentioned that the CIA did have a Consumers Energy representative come in and discuss lighting for the Corridor with price quotes. That information can be reviewed at a later date.

Commissioner Potter asked Deputy Manager Perry about the intersection of Grand River/Dobie/Central Park and whether MDOT is planning a left turn arrow for north/south traffic. Deputy Manager Perry stated that MDOT did do a traffic study there and a left turn arrow is warranted. The issue now is budgeting. It will happen, we just are not sure when.

Treasurer Deschaine suggested there could be value for one or two joint meetings between the CIA and the TC annually. Specifically, the meeting with Chief Plaga regarding safety that will be held in a couple of months should be a joint meeting.

6. NEXT MEETING DATE

- September 23, 2020 at 6:00pm-Corridor Improvement Authority
- October 22, 2020 at 6:00pm-Transportation Commission

7. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Vagnozzi adjourned the meeting at 7:07pm.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Ronald J. Styka
Brett Dreyfus
Phil Deschaine
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor
Clerk
Treasurer
Manager



Courtney Wisinski
Patricia Herring Jackson
Dan Opsommer
Kathy Ann Sundland

Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee

August 25, 2020

Miranda Spare, PE
Cost and Scheduling Engineer
Michigan Department of Transportation
Lansing TSC
2700 Port Lansing Road
Lansing, MI 48906

Re: Grand River Avenue Improvements – Milling and Resurfacing Project

Dear Ms. Spare,

The Meridian Township Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) and the Meridian Township Transportation Commission (MTC) are dedicated to establishing the Grand River Avenue Corridor in Meridian Township as a prime business and recreation destination in the Tri-County region. In furtherance of that mission, the CIA and MTC are also supportive of transportation infrastructure improvements on Grand River that safely promote alternate modes of transportation and create the potential to spur economic growth within the Township through improved roadway conditions.

Adopted in 2017, the CIA's goals and objectives focus on the promotion and improvement of Grand River Avenue and include increasing safety and accessibility for vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists. In furtherance of its objectives, in 2019 the CIA conducted a survey of Township businesses and residents to determine, in part, what improvements or changes the community would like to see on Grand River Avenue to make it a safer, more community friendly roadway. In relation to roadway improvements that are between the curbs (not including sidewalks and streetscapes improvements within the rights-of-way), the survey results mirrored many of the CIA's objectives and resoundingly showed that the community would like to see the following improvements and changes: (1) enhanced pedestrian crosswalks (2) bicycle lanes (3) additional street lighting and (4) a reduction of the speed limit.

The CIA and MTC understand that the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is planning a milling and resurfacing project for Grand River Avenue from Oak Pointe Court west to Park Lake Road in the next 1-3 years. Accordingly, on behalf of the Township businesses and residents located in that area, the CIA and MTC requests that MDOT incorporate within its project plans the items listed above. Specifically, the CIA and MTC requests that MDOT consider;

- The addition of signalized pedestrian crosswalks (signals to include audible count-down and tactile feedback) within the 1800 block of West Grand River Avenue (near Washington Heights Avenue), the 2000 block of West Grand River (near McDonalds), the 2200 block of West Grand River (near the Campus Hill Apartments).
- The addition of dedicated bicycle lanes on Grand River from Park Lake Road east to Oak Pointe Court.

- The addition of more street lighting from Park Lake Road east to Dobie Road (current street lighting is helpful but insufficient to safely light the roadway and adjacent sidewalks).
- A reduced speed limit of 35 MPH, especially in portions of Grand River near the proposed pedestrian crosswalks.
- A traffic signal at Montrose Avenue.

The CIA and MTC appreciate the opportunity to share with you the results of our community survey and to present you with this desired roadway improvements list. We hope that our requests can be safely incorporated into MDOT's upcoming project.

We would be happy to meet with you to discuss these items in greater detail at your convenience. Additionally, we can provide you with more detailed information relating to each item.

Please contact us at (517) 853-4506 if you have any questions, concerns or if you would like to schedule a meeting. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Ross, Chair
Corridor Improvement Authority



Steven Vagnozzi, Chair
Meridian Transportation commission

cc:

CIA Members

MTC Members

Derek Perry, Deputy Township Manager/Director of Department of Public Works

Mark Kieselbach, Director of Community Planning & Development



To: CIA Board Members
From: Chris Buck, Economic Development Director
Date: 8.28.2019
Re: Dawn Avenue – Hannah Connection

On 9.12.19, the MSU Foundation will be hosting a grand opening event for the VanCamp Incubator and Research Lab located at 4942 Dawn Avenue, East Lansing (Meridian Township). The space will be used primarily by Michigan State University faculty and students. Township staff was approached by MSU Foundation staff and members of the Eyde Company to ask about the process by which a road connection could be considered to connect Dawn avenue, currently a dead end, to the back end of the Hannah complex and Eyde Parkway/Hannah Blvd.

This idea is very far from being an official project. The land where the bridge across the Red Cedar and railroad tracks would be is outside of the official CIA boundary, but such a connection could dramatically impact the Corridor.

The MSU faculty and students at the VanCamp lab would be working typical business hours, resulting in them trying to turn left from Dawn Ave, west onto Grand River without a signal during rush hour. Similarly, the Lodges in Hannah, the two hotels, the other student housing and at least two additional residential type projects being proposed, are all likely to desire trips to the central business district of Meridian Township (Best Buy, Mall, Home Depot, Target, Meijer among others). Currently, all of these travelers need to travel west down Hannah Blvd, turn right on Hagadorn, then right on Grand River. Currently the intersection of Hagadorn and Grand River Avenue is the busiest intersection in Ingham County. If a bridge could be constructed connecting Dawn Ave to Hannah Blvd, it would allow the residents in Hannah to turn right onto Grand River via Dawn Ave, and MSU faculty and students could go south on Dawn Ave to Hannah and across Hagadorn back onto campus – both avoiding the Hagadorn/Grand River intersection.

MDOT, Ingham Road Dept., Tri-County Regional Planning, Township staff, MSU Foundation and Eyde met to discuss the feasibility of this idea. At this point we are gathering two major information points; the expected cost of such a bridge and the modelling of current traffic patterns and new patterns if this bridge existed. We are waiting for these number to determine if this project has any likelihood of moving forward or not. If there is a possibility, we will engage EGLE to determine what is required to cross the Red Cedar, and the Railroad to allow the track crossing.

This is all very preliminary but I wanted to alert the CIA to the discussions that are just beginning.

Attachments:

A. Dawn Ave – Hannah Plaza Map

G:\Community Planning & Development\Planning\CIA\Meeting Packets\2019\9.25.19 - 8.28.2019 cancelled

