



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Economic Development Corporation
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, September 1, 2022– Minutes -DRAFT

Members

Present: Dave Ledebuhr, Shawn Dunham, Henry Kwok, Tom Conway, Chair Kimberly Thompson, Treasurer Phil Deschaine, Trisha Bird, and Township Manager Walsh

Members

Absent: Vice Chair Brenda Chapman, Adam Carlson

Others

Present: Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark, Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz, and Planning Commissioner Peter Trezise

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Kimberly Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:31 am and asked Director Shawn Dunham 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 MEMBER DUNHAM TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CONWAY. MOTION PASSES 6-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-Meeting August 4, 2022
- b. Financial Report
- c. Development Projects

MOTION BY MEMBER CONWAY TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 6-0.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Introduction of Shop Local “Road Block” Program

Director Clark discussed the partnership with the Meridian Area Business Association (MABA) to support the businesses on the Grand River Avenue Corridor through a gift card program. There was discussion about how many businesses we could afford to include in the program. Assistant Manager Opsommer suggested to consider a “Back to School” Program with the MSU students as they return to campus. A suggestion was made to create boundaries on Grand River where businesses would be included in the program. Director Clark will create a map of the boundaries from roughly Jimmy John’s on Grand River through to Playmakers. She will reach out to the businesses that fall in that boundary and inquire if they are interested in participating in the gift card program. Director Clark will bring the list of interested businesses to the next meeting for the EDC to finalize a budget for the project.

MOTION BY MEMBER CONWAY SUPPORT \$3750 OF THE GIFT CARD ROADBLOCK PROGRAM AS A MATCH WITH MABA, SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 7-0.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Meridian Motorfest 2022 Trophy Sponsorship

Director Clark discussed the partnership High Caliber Karting and Entertainment, a locally grown entertainment venue in Meridian Mall. 2021 was the first inaugural year of the Meridian Motorfest, to bring some in person events to the community post COVID. This year the Motorfest has grown to include other family featured events, prizes and entertainment. Meridian Economic Development Corporation has been asked to sponsor two event trophies for the event, each for \$250.

MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR SUPPORT \$500 IN SUPPORT OF TWO TROPHY SPONSORSHIPS OF THE 2022 MERIDIAN MOTORFEST. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 7-0.

8. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

a. Township Board

Treasurer Deschaine reported the following:

- Mob the Roadblock event went well and several attendees present perhaps adjusting the time will work to engage more of the public.

b. Township Manager

Assistant Township Manager Opsommer reported the following:

- Township Board members will review the upcoming budget
- Election day revealed a few errors and steps will be taken to ensure a great November election
- Sign project for entrance signs to be placed on the major entryways into the community is well underway with Asst. Manager Opsommer and Director Massie
- Thanks to Amanda Garber our new finance director for working with staff and Management team to reveal a balanced budget for the community

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- Grand River/ Okemos Road intersection construction will not be completed by October. Okemos Road Bridge construction will not be done by November.

9. COMMUNITY REPORTS

a. Meridian Mall

Member Dunham mentioned two new businesses at the Mall. Ragstock and Atomic Tacos. High Caliber Karting is hosting a car show on September 4, 2022.

b. MABA

Director Clark announced the next meeting will be on Friday at 9:15am at MSUFCU.

10. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

None.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

- October 4, 2022 at 7:30am

14. ADJOURNMENT

8:28 am Chair moved to adjourn all in favor

Yas: all

Nays: None