

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
 2. ROLL CALL
 3. 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.
 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 5. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. Minutes –Meeting February 2, 2023
 - B. Financial Reports
 - C. Development Projects
 6. PUBLIC REMARKS
 7. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. MABA New Business and Existing Business Award Invoice
 - B. Economic Development Strategy –SWOT Analysis
 8. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. MARC FUNDS- Small Business Expo Support
 - B. Resolution supporting Juneteenth Festival in Meridian
 9. TOWNSHIP REPORTS
 - A. Township Board
 - B. Township Manager
 - C. Planning Commission
 - D. Chair
 - E. Staff
 10. COMMUNITY REPORTS
 - A. Meridian Mall
 - B. MABA
 11. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS
 12. PUBLIC REMARKS
 13. NEXT MEETING DATE
 - A. May 4, 2023, 7:30am - **At Central Fire Station 5000 Okemos Road, parking lot access is on Central Park Drive**
 14. 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



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Economic Development Corporation
Meridian Township Hall Room
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, Month Day, 2023--DRAFT

Members

Present: Phil Deschaine, Kathy Sundland, Kimberly Thompson, Brenda Chapman, Adam Carlson, Shawn Dunham, and Dave Ledebuhr,

Members

Absent: Manager Frank Walsh, Henry Kwok, Trisha Bird, and Tom Conway

Others

Present: Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark, Assistant Township Supervisor Patricia Herring Jackson, and Planning Commissioner Peter Trezise

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Kimberly Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:30am

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 AMEND THE AGENDA TO MOVE NEW BUSINESS TO OLD BUSINESS TO ALLOW THE GREATER LANSING CHINESE ASSOCIATION THE OPTION TO SPEAK ABOUT LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION SUPPORT. MOVE TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 6-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-Meeting November 3, 2022
- b. Development Projects

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

5. COMMUNICATIONS – Communication from Conner Bailey Haslett resident

6. PUBLIC REMARKS
NONE

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION SUPPORT

- i. Members of the Greater Lansing Chinese Association were present to request local support of the Meridian Economic Development Corporation for the January 29, 2023 Lunar New Year celebration to be hosted at Meridian Mall. Parks Department and Director LuAnn Maisner is also contributing to the event, assisting with coordination and getting tables for the festival. Previous years the Meridian EDC has supported the Lunar New Year festival with a financial contribution. The request for support allows for the contributor to have branding opportunities for logos and promotion of their business. In exchange the sponsorships help the GLCA fund the celebration. The festival includes traditional Chinese New Year cultural celebrations like a Lion dance, ceremonial observances and the engagement of the Chinese American community. Meridian Township boosts a concentration of Chinese Americans in our community and the Meridian EDC see the support of this event as enhancing awareness of culture in Meridian Township. The added benefit to Meridian Mall to host an attraction could persuade attendees to stay at the Mall, celebrate and patronize.

GLCA explained they have about \$1500 to cover for the festival to launch for 2023. Meridian EDC has previously sponsored including the two years of COVID-19. Now that COVID-19 is over the plan is to relaunch the event starting this year. The number of sponsors and patrons of the festival have lowered in recent years. Support from Meridian EDC will go far.

Member Ledebuhr made a motion with a second by Member Chapman to support the 2023 Lunar New Year celebration. Member Ledebuhr asked GLCA if they were confident they could cover the remaining \$500 for the festival. GLCA is confident the funding necessary will be received.

MOTION MADE BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO SUPPORT \$1000 FOR THE 2023 LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION BY THE GREATER LANSING CHINESE ASSOCIATION. MOTION DIRECTS STAFF TO COMMENCE PAYMENT TO GLCA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CHAPMAN. MOTION PASSES 6-0

B. MABA 2023 MEETING CALENDAR

NO ACTION REQUIRED- FYI FOR BOARD MEMBERS

C. NEW AND ESTABLISHED BUSINESS AWARDS 2022

- i. Director Clark discussed the 2022 New Business of the Year selected by MABA each year was Nothing Bundt Cakes and the Established Business of the Year is “Beewax Barrn”, formally Ralya House Beeswax. Meridian EDC partners each year with MABA to publicly award two businesses, one for each category. The businesses must be within the boundaries of Meridian Township. MABA at their November 2022 meeting held an open voting option with the MABA members to select a business for each category. Meridian EDC members were more in favor of a community wide selection process which allows more residents to be engaged on selecting a business they appreciate. Director Dunham asked if the Township could do a “best of town” award. Director Dunham discussed how important a business will feel to have the community select them. The two awards from MABA and the Meridian EDC are great start, an enhanced business award would promote other businesses that may get left out. Could Meridian Township create a business awards platform to select businesses

to promote based on industry and voting. For example: “best of town restaurant” “best of town automotive repair shop” “best of town landscaping” Different awards for categories of business industry and work with the Communications department to host these awards.

Director Clark suggests a quarterly award based on specific parameters. March is Women in Business, this would be a good time to feature business and host a survey. Then another in June, September and December. Director Clark should come back to the group in February with a list of things we want to do.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Meridian Township 2023 Goals

This item was accidentally left out of the packet. The Meridian Township Board in December voted to approve the Township’s annual goals for the community. There are three main goals that the Township will focus on this year:

1. MSU to Lake Lansing Trail Phases 1 and 2 which will be the last remaining steps to complete for the finalized trail system. This is a project that has taken several years to plan and coordinate. In the end we will have a non-motorized pathway system from Lake Lansing to MSU campus off of Hagadorn. This intergovernmental connection will allow pedestrians and bikers to gain access to the entire Ingham County region without the use of a car. As urban development continues to gain traction post COVID-19 the adjustment for communities to be resilient will be even harder. Having amenities in our community that are supported through our general tax revenue is a great economic plus for the Township.
2. Communications and Community Enhancement is a goal for 2023 the Township will prioritize. The 2022 construction year allowed Township staff to engage the general public on a regular basis. Meridian Township’s goal to enhance communication is a tactic that will allow for greater synergy in the community.
3. Meridian Township to create a taskforce to determine the feasibility of a Senior Community Library Center in Meridian.

9. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

a. Township Board

Trustee Sundland reported the following:

The Township Board adopted 3 main township goals (see above) for 2023. The Board discussed the MSU to Lk Lansing pathway as a major achievement for Meridian Township and supports the effort to establish equity in all places including development. Communications for the Township was stellar in 2022 especially related to the Grand River Ave. and Okemos Bridge construction. The community appreciates open communication and there are ways to improve our engagement among the residents. Not all utilize Social Media.

The Township Board approved the use of ARP funds to several different categories of use: Funding in support of Affordable Housing, Digital Plan Review, Wind Screens, Police Department Locker Room Update, 2023 Local Road Fund, Senior Community Feasibility, Meridian Historical Village Update.

Township Board created Capital Projects Fund in support of Township facility updates as Necessary. Approved Grand Reserve SUP for projects over 25K sq. ft.

b. Planning Commission

Planning member Peter Tresize spoke about approving the sign ordinance. Working through the approvals for Grand Reserve and updating the zoning regulations for

Marihuana establishments in Meridian Township. This update does not include permitted recreational retail use. The zoning updates removed grow/processor operations from permitted uses, which removed two overlay district areas. The Economic Development Department is in favor of the removal to preserve the available industrial for other economic development. The limited supply of large industrial parcels, makes it very unlikely an operation would come to the Township. The Planning Commission will make a determination on the updates and submit to the Township Board for review.

Treasurer Deschaine asked Member Ledebuhr if he would share his professional opinion on any negative effects Marihuana retail establishments have on surrounding parcels. Director Ledebuhr said in his experience the retail establishments are much like any other. How a community regulates their commercial parcels is shown by sign requirements, landscape requirements, regulating hours, parking, accessibility, green space etc. If properly regulated it should look and blend in with the communities other retail establishments. Other members spoke of their experience utilizing any Marihuana retail locations regionally. The regulation of development and not the market, will ensure any retail establishment is an enhancement of the community.

- c. Chair Kimberly Thompson advised everyone that 2023 is the year to select a new Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. If anyone would like to nominate themselves or anyone else please send those comments to Director Clark. The position serves two consecutive years before elections run again.
- d. Staff reported they are working on March is Women in business month celebration with a local business. That may be the first top of town selection for the community is a woman owned business. Juneteenth plans are underway and the committee will meet on Saturday. A three day festival is planned and should run right up to 'celebrate meridian' which will hopefully tie together nicely. No ribbon cuttings set for this month but Rally House on Grand River and Valley Wing on Jolly will open soon!

10. COMMUNITY REPORTS

- a. Meridian Mall- Shawn Dunham updated the committee that the Mall attendance numbers are dropping back to 2019 numbers which were lower than post COVID numbers. Some of the incubator spaces are being utilized and it is allowing for small businesses to stay open longer. Atomic Tacos signed a longer lease for their new space as well as Bubble Tea. Director Clark asked if the Mall was working with LEAP for the incubator space and the Shawn said that had been the case previously but not in recent years.
- b. MABA- Director Clark updated the group first meeting is Friday January 13th at MSUFCU Farm Lane Community Room 9:15 am.

11. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

- Member Ledebuhr recommends for Conner Bailey should be responded to. The letter should be sent to the Township Board for their review and inclusion in pursuit of the Snr Comm Center. A response from the Meridian EDC should also come, thanking the resident for their comments.

- Member Ledebuhr asked for Planning department staff to provide an in person explanation of the Sign ordinance and subsequent changes. Director Clark said she would speak to the Planning department about providing that at the next meeting.
- Brenda Chapman reviewed PA 338 of 1974 the Act that enables EDC's in Michigan. She stated part of our mission is support of agricultural development. What about the local farmers? What can we do to assist them? Director Clark stated there aren't many farmer's within the boundaries of the Township due to zoning. Rural Residential is the agricultural zone in Meridian however only MSU has an actual farm. The other "farming" done in the township would be considered more urban farming. Director Clark will work on a program to support a local farmer having a spot at the farmer's market to advocate farming.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

NONE

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

- February 2nd, 2023 at 7:30am

14. ADJOURNMENT

9:07am Chair moved to adjourn all in favor

Yas: all

Nays: None



230 W Main St
Ionia, MI 48846

Statement Ending 01/31/2023

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Page 1 of 2

Account Number: XXXXXXXX2419

>001078 7722672 0001 93443 10Z

00671668
P311
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP EDC/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
5151 MARSH RD
OKEMOS MI 48864-1104

Managing Your Accounts



Okemos



800.355.0641



IndependentBank.com



With Business Loan Express from Independent Bank, your new business loan is streamlined. Enjoy a fast, secure, and efficient loan application process. Close on your loan in as little as three business days, and take advantage of a simple application, secure document collection portal, digital closing documents, and more. Loans currently eligible to utilize Business Loan Express include: Term/Equipment loans (under \$100,000) and Lines of Credit (under \$50,000). All existing Independent Bank business deposit customers are eligible to use the Business Loan Express platform. Contact your local Community Business Banker to learn more and apply.

Summary of Accounts

Account Type	Account Number	Ending Balance
BusinessFlex TM	XXXXXXXX2419	\$54,297.93

BusinessFlex TM-XXXXXXXX2419

Account Summary

Date	Description	Amount
01/01/2023	Beginning Balance	\$55,279.28
	1 Credit(s) This Period	\$18.65
	1 Debit(s) This Period	\$1,000.00
01/31/2023	Ending Balance	\$54,297.93

Interest Summary

Description	Amount
Annual Percentage Yield Earned	0.40%
Interest Days	31
Interest Earned	\$18.65
Interest Paid This Period	\$18.65
Interest Paid Year-to-Date	\$18.65
Average Ledger Balance	\$54,892.18

Other Credits

Date	Description	Amount
01/31/2023	Credit Interest	\$18.65

Checks Cleared

Check Nbr	Date	Amount
1073	01/20/2023	\$1,000.00

* Indicates skipped check number

Daily Balances

Date	Amount	Date	Amount	Date	Amount
01/01/2023	\$55,279.28	01/20/2023	\$54,279.28	01/31/2023	\$54,297.93



BusinessFlex TM-XXXXXXXX2419 (continued)

Interest Rate Changes

Interest Rate As Of Date	Interest Rate
01/01/2023	0.4000%

CSTMTADV 1071 0001 127 07 20230201 PG 1 OF 1
00671668 45914323.4 0-0

Amber Clark Neighborhoods &
Economic Development Director
Meridian Township
Economic Development and Projects
March 2023

New Businesses Opening/Relocating

- Social Sloth Café 1745 Central Park Drive Opening Spring
- AK Tobacco 4790 Hagadorn Road
- Retail Automotive Services 2359 W Grand River Ave
- New Food Establishment at 2398 Jolly Road #200
- Valley Wing – 2398 Jolly Road Suite #600

Under Construction

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • American House Meridian | 1673 Haslett Road – Now Leasing! |
| • Cooper Creek | Haslett Road |
| • Silverstone Estates | Powell Road |
| • Silverleaf Estates | Bennett Road |
| • Woodward Way | Sirhal Drive- Now Leasing! |
| • Elevation Apartments | Jolly Oak |
| • Jim Giguere 5 Single Family | Hulett Road |

Approved/Not Commenced

- Consumers Credit Union- waiting on approvals for the Drain office
- Trader Joe's Northwind Drive across from Whole Foods
- Newton Ponte Apartments Multifamily mixed use Newton Road and Saginaw Hwy-
Foundation permits have been issued
- Village of Okemos 4661 Okemos Road Commercial/Residential development
Approved EGLE Brownfield, Meridian Redevelopment Fund
- Giguere Homes Nest Loft Farms Six New Single Family Homes
- Haslett Village Concept 2.0 1655 & 1621 Haslett Road
Approved MUPUD 290 units, Brownfield and Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption
- Lake Court drive 5-8 Single Family Homes
- Grand Reserve –Central Park and Powell Road
- 2421 Grand River Ave – Retail location coming soon!
- 4880 Marsh Road Tidal Wave Car Wash - Outback Steakhouse is planned to be redeveloped

Other Township Happenings:

- Juneteenth three day festival event for 2023 Planned Friday June 16, Saturday June 17th and Sunday June 18th



To: Meridian Economic Development Corporation

From: Amber Clark Director Neighborhoods & Economic Development

Date: March 2, 2023

Re: MABA – Meridian EDC Business Award Invoice

Summary

The Meridian Economic Development Corporation (EDC) assists the Meridian Area Business Association (MABA) with a list of nomination for Meridian Business awards. The two categories that the EDC assists with are New Business of the Year Award and Established Business of the Year Award. The EDC provides a list of businesses that should be included. MABA submits the list publicly for the community to advocate for their choice. The most voted businesses receive their award at the annual ceremony hosted by MABA.

History

The Meridian Economic Development Corporation (EDC) has engaged each year with MABA to bring awareness to some of the businesses that are small but have made a great impact on the community. The 2022 Awardees were Lil Emil's for New Business Award (no longer in business) and Orthopaedic Rehab Specialists for the Established Business Award. This year MABA gave members 30 days with a list of new and established businesses in Meridian Township. 2023 New Business Award goes to *Nothing Bundt Cakes* and Established Business of the Year goes to the *Beeswax Barrn*.

Motion: Move to approve \$292.85 for the New and Existing Business of the Year 2022 Awards to the Meridian Area Business Association.

INVOICE

A Dean Watkins Company East
2395 Jolly Road #170
Okemos, MI 48864

Phone: 517.349.7700
Email: adeanwatkins@aol.com

PO/Ref #:
Job #: 11123
Date: Jan 5, 2023

Bill To:

Meridian Area Business Association (MABA)
PO Box 234
Okemos, MI 48864

Ship To:

A Dean Watkins East, Inc
2395 Jolly Rd Ste 170
Okemos, MI 48864

Salesperson Robert Watkins	Ship Via	Est. Ship Date 12/30/22; In-hands by 01/04/23	Payment Terms
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Qty	Item #	Description	Unit Price	Ext. Price
2	AWS8753	10" Biagio Award (Established and New Business of the Year) Imprint: Etch	\$88.00	\$176.00
1	AWS8752	6" Salerno Award (President's Award) Imprint: Etch	\$68.00	\$68.00
1	AWS8741	6" Salerno Award (MABA Member of the Year) Imprint: Etch	\$68.00	\$68.00
4	PS	Personalization Charges	\$10.00	\$40.00
4	SU	Re-Setup	\$40.00	\$160.00

Subtotal	\$512.00
Shipping	\$40.55
Tax (6%)	\$33.15
Total	\$585.70

Pledge 2191 from Meridian Area Business Association

Meridian Area Business Association <quickbooks@notification.intuit.com>

Mon 1/30/2023 11:30 AM

To: Amber Clark <clark@meridian.mi.us>

INVOICE 2191

Meridian Area Business Association

DUE 03/01/2023

\$292.85

Review and pay

Powered by QuickBooks

Dear Meridian Township,

We appreciate your business. Please find your invoice details here. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Have a great day!

Meridian Area Business Association

Meridian Area Business Association

PO Box 234 Okemos, MI 48805

mababiz@gmail.com www.maba.biz

If you receive an email that seems fraudulent, please check with the business owner before paying.



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To: Meridian Economic Development Corporation
From: Amber Clark Director Neighborhoods & Economic Development
Date: March 2, 2023
Re: Economic Development Strategy – SWOT Analysis Discussion

Summary

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation's (MEDC) Capital Assistance Team connected with Meridian Township staff regarding the status of Redevelopment Ready Communities in Meridian. Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) is a progressive development program offered by the MEDC to align communities in Michigan with modern and efficient development processes. The efficiency of the development process helps market our communities competitively for quality developers and projects across the nation. One element to be updated and implemented is the Economic Development Strategy. One portion of the strategy should include where we are currently and where we are headed. Data related to the strengths, weaknesses, opportunity and threats for the township's foreseeable future. The goal of today's discussion is to identify the major strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats current in the township.

Strengths:

Give details of the strengths of Meridian Township, what do we excel at? It should be related to what we excel at regarding economic development/community development.

Weaknesses:

Give details of the weak points of Meridian Township, where are we underperforming? This should be related to what Meridian Municipal government is under performing regarding economic development/community development.

Opportunities:

Give details of the opportunities for Meridian Township, where can we gain an advantage? What favorable conditions can we create through incentives provided by the Township?

Threats:

Give details of the factors that could potentially harm our community. Is there a viable, known threat related to development that we should prepare for?



To: Meridian Economic Development Corporation

From: Amber Clark Director Neighborhoods & Economic Development

Date: April 6, 2023

Re: MARC Funds – MABA Small Business Expo

Summary

In 2015 the Meridian Area Business Association was the administrative operator for the MARC (Meridian Asset Resource Center) a small business incubator/event space in downtown Meridian Township. MABA is a small business association that represents the small business in and near Meridian Township. MABA members volunteer their expertise to create a business association to: “Do business with a member”. The MARC was the prime location for organizations and business to come together. Meridian Township municipality owned the MARC building and desired the small business development and incubator space to continue. Though MABA administered the use of the building the time and cost associated to providing this in the community became something that MABA could no longer operate. In 2015 MABA notified the Meridian EDC they would remit payment to the Meridian EDC of the administrative earnings of the MARC that MABA held at the time. Two checks were issued from the PNC bank account with MABA to the Meridian EDC Independent bank account for \$7041.54. The intent was that the Meridian EDC would find someone to run the MARC after MABA resigned. The MARC was later put up for sale and the Township sold the building closing the MARC completely.

MABA’s new leadership is interested in bringing back the Small Business Expo that was a guaranteed small business opportunity provided to our business community. For several years discussions with MABA members have emphasized the desire to bring back a small business event that allows for business to business and business to consumers sales. The proposal is to work with Meridian Mall to get a budget for the cost to hold the expo centrally located. The Mall will allow commercial business sales and encourage small business events like this. Currently we have no proposal for the event costs. We expect to host the event the first or second week in November 2023.

Your concurrence is appreciated.



To: Meridian Economic Development Corporation

From: Amber Clark Director Neighborhoods & Economic Development

Date: April 6, 2023

Re: Resolution for Meridian Juneteenth Festival

Summary

The following is an offered resolution by the Meridian Economic Development Corporation related to their support of an inclusive Juneteenth festival in Meridian Township. The EDC may adopt this resolution and submit to the Township Board for their review and concurrence.

Motion:

Move to adopt a resolution in support of Juneteenth (June 19th, 1865) a community celebration planned by volunteer committee members to plan an inclusive community festival that honors and highlights American Freedoms

At a regular meeting of the Meridian Economic Development Corporation the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Township Hall on the ____ day of _____, 2023 at 7:30 a.m., Local Time.

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The following resolution was offered by _____ and supported by _____.

WHEREAS, January 3, 2020 is accredited as the first confirmed cases of COVID-19 in America. COVID-19 also called Coronavirus, a novel SARS-CoV-2 virus spread rapidly worldwide. To prevent the spread of the disease, restrictions that isolated residents, business owners and the community were established and enforced by State statute. Restrictions during the pandemic maintained a six foot distance between people and special protocols for a person that falls ill. The COVID-19 pandemic through the course of three years claimed more than 1.1 million lives nationwide. In 2021 in Meridian Township; public events, festivals and congregating were discouraged or eliminated to reduce exposure of the public; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 the residents and business owners of Meridian Township through the 2021 Community survey highlighted the need for cultural celebrations in Meridian Township to emphasize the diverse lifestyles, cultures and people that make up our community. The community continued to practice "social distancing" efforts to keep residents at home, which impacted the mental and emotional state of residents. Members were experiencing high levels of anxiety and burnout related to managing through the pandemic. A proposal from the Chair of the EDC to bring a joyful to Meridian Township was presented; and

WHEREAS, the Meridian EDC and the Director of Neighborhoods & Economics worked to plan a no cost celebration of Juneteenth to commence June 18, 2021. The program consisted of over 30 Meridian Township small business owners engaged in a gift card giveaway to promote the Juneteenth Holiday. Clues were given to the members of the community embrace a "gift giving" program and celebrate Juneteenth without congregating members together due to COVID-19. The celebration of Juneteenth captured the attention of the Greater Lansing Region and volunteers of Meridian Township. These volunteers elected to start the Juneteenth for Meridian Planning Committee, to provide assistance in the planning of the event annually; and

WHEREAS, On June 17th-June 19th, 2022 the Meridian EDC and others sponsored the Juneteenth Freedom fest event held at various locations through the community. A movie screening of Akeelah and the Bee, Community Discussion and a Spiritual presentation was our first successful Juneteenth event post COVID-19. During the event members of Meridian expressed this was their first Juneteenth event and was honored to be included in a community event that highlights the complete story of American freedoms; and

WHEREAS, the Juneteenth for Meridian Planning Committee has gained momentum and planned a celebration in honor of Juneteenth (June 19, 1865) to celebrate the day that America abolished the practice of slavery and highlight our belief that all are inherently free. The event is open to the public and will focus on efforts to embrace the stories of Black/African

