

Charter Township of Meridian  
Meridian Economic Development Corporation  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Thursday, October 5, 2017 – Minutes

**Members**

**Present:** David Ledebuhr, Shawn Dunham, Chris Buck, Trustee Phil Deschaine, Mikhail Murshak, Joel Conn, Jade Sims, David Olson, Township Manager Frank Walsh

**Members**

**Absent:** Josh Hundt, Adam Carlson and Lynda Rowlee

**Others**

**Present:** Treasurer Julie Brixie, Ex-Officio, Planning Commission Vice-Chair John Scott-Craig, Director of Community Planning and Development Mark Kieselbach, Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz, and Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Buck called the meeting to order at 7:31 am and Member Dunham read the mission statement. Chris introduced new member Joel Conn from Friedland Industries.

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

Chair Chris Buck suggested combining item 12-Chair Report and item 13-Staff Report together and moving item 11a-to the combined item 12/13.

**MOTION BY MANAGER WALSH TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 10-0.**

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Communications
- b. Minutes-September 7, 2017

**MOTION BY MANAGER WALSH TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 10-0.**

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. PRESENTATION

Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner discussed the relocation of the Farmers' Market. She reported that they are working on a public/private partnership with the CBL Properties to create the "Marketplace on the Green" at Meridian Mall in the grass area near Studio C. The total cost of the project is \$840,000.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Brixie had no financial report.

8. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

None.

9. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Planning Commission Vice-Chair John Scot-Craig provided a summary of recent Planning Commission activities.

10. NEW BUSINESS/CHAIR REPORT

a. Redevelopment Fund

Chris Buck reported that the EDC will make the rules for the fund. He is investigating other similar funds in other communities. Further discussion will occur in the coming months on how the funds will be allocated and for what types of projects in the core commercial areas.

11. OLD BUSINESS

a. Sign Ordinance

Signs for temporary grand openings, announcing signs, and temporary sales/event signs were discussed. Staff will bring a recommendation for changes to the ordinance to make a motion for the November meeting. There was support among the EDC members to consider waiving the \$75 temporary grand opening sign application fee.

b. Available Property for Development

Chris Buck discussed sending the list electronically and moving this item to staff report in the future. Current properties of interest include the Fifth Third Bank on Jolly Rd., Eastside of Best Buy, and properties near COSTCO.

12. CHAIR REPORT/STAFF REPORT

Chris handed out the updated development list. He reported several recent meetings/trainings he has been involved with including: Capital Commercial Events, Van Martin's new COO, DDA meeting, Shaping the Avenue meetings, interviewed brownfield consultants, attended MEDC toolbox training and RRC training.

13. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

- Manager Walsh reported the Township will host its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Board and Commission appreciation event on Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm.
- COSTCO ribbon cutting will take place on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 8am.
- Thank you to Jade and John for serving on the Economic Development Director interview committee.

14. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

- Trustee Deschaine reported the Board is working on adding water and sewer to the Sleepy Hollow neighborhood.
- Working with the Haslett Road Marathon on some property changes.
- Recently approved anti-gerrymandering resolution.

15. MERIDIAN MALL REPORT

- Shawn reported that the mall is getting ready for the holidays.
- Doing weekly leases for pop up stores.
- Moneyball Sportswear opened.

16. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

Chris mentioned he is currently the Chair for the EDC and also serves on the BRA. With his new staff role as Economic Development Director, he will step down from the BRA. Chris reported that the BRA will need someone to represent the EDC to serve in his place. In addition, he stated he would like to serve as a staff member on the EDC and was looking for a volunteer to serve as Chair.

17. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

18. NEXT MEETING DATE

- Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 7:30am

19. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chris Buck adjourned the meeting at 9:00am.