



Charter Township of Meridian  
Corridor Improvement Authority  
5000 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Wednesday, October 21, 2020– Minutes -DRAFT

**Members**

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

**Members**

**Absent:** Jeff Ross, Kellie Johnson, Chris Rigterink, and Brian Jones

**Others**

**Present:** Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark and Planning Commissioner Holly Cordill

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Foster called the meeting to order at 6:13pm and Member Peffers 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 PEFFERS TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY SUPERVISOR STYKA. MOTION PASSES 5-0.**

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Minutes-July 22, 2020

**MOTION BY MEMBER GOETZ TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER NUGENT. MOTION PASSES 5-0.**

b. Minutes-August 20, 2020-Joint Corridor Improvement Authority and Transportation Commission Meeting

The minutes from the August 20, 2020 joint meeting were reviewed.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REVIEW

a. New Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark Introduction and Staff Updates

Director Clark introduced herself and stated she has served on the Meridian Township Planning Commission for the last year. In addition, she has served as the Assistant to the Jackson City Manager for the last two years. Director Clark resides in Haslett. She is excited about the change in this position to formally include neighborhoods and is working on that plan.

7. CORRIDOR DESIGN & RESEARCH

a. Letter to MDOT Regarding Grand River Avenue Improvements

Director Clark reported that the letter discussed at the previous meeting has been distributed to MDOT. At the last Township Board meeting, the Ingham County Road Commission and Drain Commission provided a presentation along with Deputy Manager Perry on the flooding issue at Okemos Road and Grand River Avenue. There was discussion at that meeting that the 3 drains that service that area are not sufficiently sized and need to be replaced before road resurfacing occurs. Also, raising the road approximately two feet has been suggested in that area.

With a large project like this one, Director Clark discussed the need to engage the CIA in communication efforts as it relates to neighborhoods and businesses along the Grand River Corridor. She emphasized that it is important that these groups have a relationship with the Township.

b. Dawn Ave-Hannah Connection

Supervisor Styka reported that the idea of a vehicle bridge would probably not occur. They are lacking the property and the funding for that project. However, they have worked with the Eyde's on the idea of a pedestrian bridge through this area that would also connect to the trails with trail funding.

8. MALL DEVELOPMENT

Director Clark reported that 19 mall vendors left the mall during the pandemic. However, they are all trying to come back in some capacity for the holiday shopping season. High Caliber Karting has expanded into the former Old Navy space. The Marketplace on the Green held their ribbon cutting at the mall. The Township will continue to work with the mall on any rezoning needs they may have in the coming months.

9. REPORTS

a. Township Board

Supervisor Styka reported the following:

- Solar panels are being installed at the South Fire Station and the Marketplace on the Green
- The large dog park and Marketplace on the Green opened
- Welcome to Amber Clark
- Deer management goal has been increased this year from 150 to 300
- Township entrance signage planning is underway for 2021 implementation
- The Niche school rankings listed Okemos as #4, East Lansing as #21, Williamston as #28, and Haslett as #31 in the state

b. Planning Commission

Commissioner Cordill reported the updates from the latest meeting including serving on the MUPUD committee.

c. Chair  
None.

d. Staff

Director Clark reported that staff is working on a business survey. Also, working with WLNS on a promotion for small businesses in the Township. The redevelopment fund application for the Village of Okemos was approved for \$85,481.44. The Township will be joining the SmartZone in 2021. This will include a public hearing and Dawn Avenue as a new TIF area.

10. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

Supervisor Styka asked Chair Ross and Vice-Chair Foster to reach out to two CIA members who have not been attending meetings to find out their intentions. Also, he requested CIA members to think about business leaders located on the Corridor as prospective members of the CIA when vacancies arise.

11. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

12. NEXT MEETING DATE

- November 18, 2020 at 6:00pm

13. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Vice-Chair Foster adjourned the meeting at 7:16pm.