



Charter Township of Meridian  
Youth Commission  
Virtual Meeting – Zoom  
Monday, December 1, 2025 – Beautification Subcommittee Minutes

**Members Present:** Finn Regan, Rishabh Mahale, and Krishaan Shah

**Members Absent:** Autumn Gebara

**Staff Present:** Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark and SEA Intern Neha Jampana

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

- a. Meeting started at 5:30 pm

2. PUBLIC REMARKS

- a. None.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Township Youth Commission Beautification Project

The Youth Commission continued discussing the Hamilton and Okemos Beautification Project and explored a new idea for a community- building event. Director Amber Clark provided an update on her recent discussion with the DDA regarding the project's scope and budget. She explained that while the DDA is supportive of the concept, they cannot offer financial support without a concrete design and detailed budget plan. The DDA emphasized that the proposal must be specific and well- presented. Director Clark also noted that the Township manager and others in East Lansing considered the previously discussed chain link fence option cost- prohibitive, referencing that even the downtown fencing-less than one acre-had to be purchased to be cost- effective (not rented). Based on these concerns, Director Clark suggested replacing the fence with pallet wood and limiting the decorative focus to the Hamilton and Okemos sides of the two - acre property. She clarified that covering the entire perimeter would interfere with ongoing community use of the site, including parking and utility access. Members Finn Regan and Rishabh Mahale agreed with this adjustment, and Member Regan noted that the subcommittee has been maintaining a shared Google document containing budgets and planning tabs, which will be shared with Director Clark.

Director Clark encouraged the group to revise their public art concept to reflect the updated circumstances and to begin developing a detailed plan that outlines design elements, necessary materials, cost estimates, and how those materials will be



obtained. She added that if the commission plans for the project to be completed before May, it will be up to the Youth Commission to present a finalized proposal, although there is no strict deadline and projects may also be carried out by future Youth Commission members. She also mentioned that a DDA representative may attend the Youth Commission meeting on December 15th to hear updates and review the commission's plans. Member Regan proposed an additional idea involving a community holiday event centered on decorating and lighting the large tree near Hamilton Road. He explained that the site is accessible for public use. Member Mahale suggested incorporating a holiday book exchange or book drive into the event, and Member Regan recommended partnering with the Capital Area District Library because of its proximity. Director Clark offered to communicate with businesses regarding potential donations or participation, noting that she can effectively handle outreach as long as the subcommittee members provide clear and specific requests, such as defined material needs or small monetary donations. Member Regan explained that the goal would be to bring the community together while tying the gathering to the Beautification Project. All members were supportive of this concept.

The group then considered the timing of the event. An initial date of January 3, 2026, was proposed, with the plan for the tree to be decorated in advance. However, members agreed that this would not allow sufficient time for planning or community engagement, and Member Mahale noted he would be out of the country from December 12-29th. Director Clark reminded the group that the event did not need to occur immediately and could instead take place in the spring, allowing more time for development. Members discussed alternative dates, including a time before spring break, and considered pairing a spring launch event with a recycling drive along with the beautification project.

Director Clark concluded the meeting by emphasizing that the subcommittee's December 15th presentation to the Youth Commission must include a clear and detailed outline of their selected project ideas, a complete budget, and an explanation of how materials will be gathered and managed.

4. OLD BUSINESS
  - a. None
  
5. PUBLIC REMARKS
  - a. None
  
6. NEXT MEETING DATE
  - a. Monday December 15, 2025 at 6:30 pm IN PERSON
  
7. ADJOURNMENT

