

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES  
Central Fire Station – Conference Room  
JULY 5, 2017 - APPROVED**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Chair Bill McConnell, Commissioners Susan Masten, John Sarver, Jim Kielbaso, Kirk Lapham, and Marina Ionescu

**ABSENT:** NONE

**STAFF:** Assistant Planner Jennifer Quinlivan

**OTHERS:** John Scott Craig, Township Planning Commission Liaison; Citizens' Climate Lobby

**1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Bill McConnell called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KIELBASO TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER MASTEN. MOTION APPROVED 6-0.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 7, 2017 MEETING**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MASTEN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER KIELBASO. MOTION APPROVED 6-0.

**4. PUBLIC REMARKS**

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) representative, Carolyn Randall spoke to request support of the Environmental Commission regarding their legislative proposal on carbon fee dividends. The Environmental Commission agreed to address the request at the August meeting. Randall also requested a recommendation by the Environmental Commission to the Township Board in support of a resolution of support on climate action. Randall provided a list of state and local municipalities in support of CCL's resolution for carbon fee dividends or climate action as well as a copy of East Lansing's resolution of endorsement of congressional measures to address climate action.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

NONE

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Sustainability and Climate Action Plan. Commissioner Sarver summarized the Energy Team's development of the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan to date. He noted a public hearing was deemed not necessary by the Energy Team and the current version of the plan was available online. Chair McConnell opened the discussion noting there are two levels of discussion regarding the plan: structural and typographical. He encouraged the Commissioners to use the discussion to concentrate on structural comments regarding the plan. He also encouraged public comment during the discussion of the plan. Comments regarding the plan are as follows:
- Each section should include an overview summary. Focus on the elimination of redundancy within the summaries.
  - The addition of an executive summary was noted.
  - The section on recycling was missing a summary, as well as how the section connects to the other sections of the plan.
  - Figures and images should be labeled in the plan.
  - Include more possibilities to link water and energy conservation within the plan.
  - How will the plan address monitoring and tasking of the goals and objectives? Will those be determined by the Township Board or Manager as appropriate?
  - Add xeriscape (water-wise) practices and promote the use of native plants.
  - The section on cross-cutting was reworked and read appropriately.
  - Improve the definition of proper action items relating to exploring and seeking action versus soft action items relating to encouragement of action.
  - Capital improvements should incorporate sustainability options or requirements. Noted, the Capital Improvement Plan is overseen by the Township Manager, who assess the proposals and directs them to the Township Board.
  - Hyperlinks should be found within the footnotes for ease of revision if necessary.
  - How does the plan address land use locations relating to transportation requirements and the Township fleet choices?

John Scott Craig questioned how the Environmental Commission would recommend the Township Board implement the plan within the Master Plan. Commissioner Sarver suggested a motion be made by the Environmental Commission at the August meeting requesting Township Board adopt the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan as is and as a reference within the Master Plan.

- B. Jacqueline Stewart, 852 Langford Hill, East Lansing, spoke in support of the plan. She raised the question of how implementation and promotion of the plans to other units of local government was anticipated and addressed within the plan?

Carolyn Randal, 2311 Shawnee Trail, Okemos, spoke in support of the plan.

Chair McConnell encouraged public involvement in the plan moving forward.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair McConnell reported on the success of the Meridian Food Truck Rally held on July 1, 2017. He commented on the possibility of integrating sustainable and environmentally friendly practices into the event next year.

**7. STAFF REPORT**

NONE

**8. COMMISSIONER SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Planning:** John Scott Craig, Township Planning Commission Liaison reported on the review of the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan and upcoming joint meeting with the Township Board to review the Master Plan.

**Land Preservation:** Commissioner Kielbaso reported Land Preservation was in the process of reviewing three land appraisals.

**Energy Team:** Commissioner Sarver reported the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association was arranging a tour on July 12, 2017 from 2:30 pm to 5 pm.

**Parks:** Commissioner Masten commented on the Celebrate Meridian events, the proposed Central Park Master Plan and alerted the Commission that the Meridian Farmers Market would be moving to the Meridian Mall Parking lot on Wednesdays during the summer.

**Transportation:** Commissioner Ionescu volunteered to be the liaison for the Transportation Commission and will be attending the upcoming meeting.

**9. PUBLIC REMARKS**

Judy Kindal of 2915 Margate Lane spoke in support of the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m. without objection.