



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
November 1, 2017 7:00 pm



Work Session

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00 PM
2. APPROVAL OF THE WORK SESSION AGENDA
3. WORK ITEMS: 2018 Strategic Plan
4. PUBLIC REMARKS
5. ADJOURNMENT

Regular Meeting

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM
2. GREEN THEMES PRESENTATION- Anthony Pecchio, Christman Company -*LEED Case Studies in the Greater Lansing Area*

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
5. PUBLIC REMARKS
6. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. ACTION: 2018 Meeting Schedule

7. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. 2018 Strategic Plan

8. CHAIR'S REPORT
9. STAFF REPORT
10. COMMISSION/LIASON/WORKGROUP REPORTS
 - A. Planning
 - B. Land Preservation
 - C. Energy
 - D. Parks and Recreation
 - E. Transportation
 - F. Student Report
11. PUBLIC REMARKS
12. 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, Town Hall Room

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
Town Hall Room – Municipal Building
OCTOBER 4, 2017 - DRAFT**

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Chair Bill McConnell, Commissioners Ned Jackson, Susan Masten, John Sarver, Jim Kielbaso, Kirk Lapham, Marina Ionescu, and Ben Holland

ABSENT: NONE

STAFF: Assistant Planner Jennifer Quinlivan

OTHERS: Robert Binder, Michael Nurse, Carla Clos

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Bill McConnell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. GREEN THEMES PRESENTATION – Robert Binder - “Connecting Meridian Township’s Built Environment – Engaging with Transportation and Sustainability”

Mr. Binder presented on his experience studying bicycle friendly cultures in Europe during his study abroad program. He presented that many European cities including Copenhagen, Denmark focused the culture around creating bicycle friendly environments for children from an early age, making bicycle use a normal cultural phenomenon. Mr. Binder noted three main points to implement for the integration of improved and versatile modes of transportation: policies and long term cultural vision, coordination, and public engagement. He presented a variety of ideas Meridian Township may implement to foster a bicycle friendly culture including: traffic gardens, a bicycle culture, “super-cycle” highways, connecting modes, direct access corridors, and public messaging. Mr. Binder ended his presentation with an analyses of Meridian Township’s current bicycle and transportation culture which he determined consisted of rapid growth of the Township leading to more traffic congestion and a lack of coordination to improve the traffic congestions. He encouraged proceeding with short and long term goals to identify and improve congested traffic corridors, improve mass transit options, and bicycle paths.

3. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER KIELBASO. MOTION APPROVED 8-0.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 2, 2017 MEETING

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH AN AMENDMENT TO ITEM 7B. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER SARVER. MOTION APPROVED 8-0.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

NONE

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. ACTION: Wetland Use Permit #17-01 (Coyote Creek). Staff read the staff report for the Commission. Carla Clos, Deputy Drain Commissioner from the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office (ICDC) presented on ICDC's request for a wetland use permit to impact Wetland #33-2 as part of the Smith Consolidated Drain located near the Coyote Creek Condominiums. The project request is to create a 40-foot long ditch, 0.1 to 0.5 feet deep, 1.5 feet wide at the bottom, and 2.0 feet wide at the top. The total wetland area impacted by the request is approximately 0.001 acres, with the removal of 1.4 cubic yards of soil.

Mike Nurse, Streamside Ecological Services, prepared the application for the ICDC and clarified the ditch was a trench with minimal wetland loss. The project would remove a high point within the Smith Consolidated Drain area that was causing seasonal flooding of the maintained lawn areas in the Coyote Creek Condominiums. He presented photos to the Commission and informed them the project would take approximately four (4) hours to complete. Mr. Nurse addressed the possibility of alternatives to impacting the wetland. However, he determined the impact was small and would eventually allow for overall improvement of the wetland in the future.

Chair McConnell questioned revegetated plans for the area. Mr. Nurse explained the impacted wetland would be over seeded and he determined the existing perennial native plant material would regenerate within the impacted area within a year. Ms. Clos offered the possibility of wetland monitoring for a year and the over seeding of perennial grasses if needed.

Commissioner Masten questioned if the movement of soil upland would spread invasive species to the maintained lawn area. Mr. Nurse answered based on his examination of the wetland very few invasive species existed or would be transported. Commissioner Masten also requested signage identifying the wetland as a Township wetland and restricting dumping in the wetland. Ms. Clos agreed to install a sign at the wetland border.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MASTEN TO RECOMMEND THE APPROVAL OF WETLAND USE PERMIT #17-01 (COYOTE CREEK) WITH CONDITIONS TO THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER KIELBASO. MOTION APPROVED 8-0.

- B. Strategic Plan 2018 Review and Discussion. Staff presented the Commission with an overview of information from previous plans as well as potential goals and objectives to consider for the 2018 Strategic plan. Chair McConnell proposed to continue the discussion at a November work session.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Climate Sustainability Plan. Chair McConnell reported on the status of the plan, noting the plan would be on a future Township Board Agenda for review and acceptance.

8. CHAIR'S REPORT

NONE

9. **STAFF REPORT**

NONE

10. **COMMISSIONER SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Planning: NONE

Land Preservation: Commissioner Kielbaso reported the Land Preservation Advisory Board was in the process of reviewing a possible property for land preservation.

Energy Team: Commissioner Sarver presented on upcoming energy themed events for the month of October.

Parks: Commissioner Masten reported on the updated trail maps at Ted Black Park.

Transportation: Commissioner Ionescu reported on the discussion regarding Ready Ride.

Student Report: Student Commissioner Holland reported on the student website, Turning Green, and rain garden design at the Okemos High School.

11. **PUBLIC REMARKS**

NONE

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. without objection.



To: Environmental Commissioners
From: 
Jennifer Quinlivan, Assistant Planner
Date: October 12, 2017
Re: 2018 Environmental Commission Meeting Schedule

Following is the list of proposed Environmental Commission meeting dates for 2018. No special or work session meetings are planned but may be added by the Environmental Commission either now or during the year if warranted.

Typically the Environmental Commission meets on the first Wednesday of each month. The July meeting conflicts with the Fourth of July holiday and the date has been moved to the second Wednesday of July.

2018 MEETING CALENDAR

January	3
February	7
March	7
April	4
May	2
June	6
July	11
August	1
September	5
October	3
November	7
December	5

A resolution is provided to adopt this meeting schedule.

Attachments

1. Environmental Commission 2018 Meeting Schedule Resolution

G:\Community Planning & Development\Planning\ENVCOMM\Calendar\2018 meeting schedule_staff report

Environmental Commission Strategic Plan 2017

The purpose of the Environmental Commission includes promoting the wise management of natural resources, a healthy environment, long term economic health, and ensuring compliance with applicable local, state, and federal laws and policies (such as Wetland Use Permit Reviews).

Along with the Goals and Objectives below, the Environmental Commission will continue its routine public engagement activities that include the Environmental Stewardship Awards and "Green Theme" Presentations.

Collaborative Goal: *More actively collaborate with the Land Preservation Board, Park Board, and Planning Commission in promoting the wise management of natural resources in the Township. This effort will be strengthened with increased mutual data-sharing, reporting, and information gathering.*

Collaborative Objectives

1. Regularly engage the chairs of the Land Preservation Board, Park Board, and Planning Commission to align data needs and other planning tools related to environmental protection, land acquisition, and land improvement. (continual)

Policy Recommendation Goal: *Engage residents, businesses, and fellow appointed and elected officials in making recommendations on environmental planning issues and the sharing of ideas.*

Policy Recommendation Objectives

1. Improved wayfinding throughout the Township for pathways, businesses, parks etc. Partner with Parks, Engineering, and the DDA to promote improved signage and/or electronic applications for wayfinding related to parks, pathways, and other cultural amenities in the Township. (ongoing)
2. Zoning ordinance updates that address climate change, brownfield redevelopment, and street tree replacement. (mid to long term)
3. Create and share planning tools such as maps and data that aid environmental planning decision-making. (mid to long term)
4. Adopt Climate Action Plan.

Environmental Commission Strategic Plan Review

The strategic plan will serve as a map for activities and responsibilities assigned to the Environmental Commission. The plan identifies 10 responsibilities assigned to the Commission. The goals and objectives will be reviewed and modified annually to prioritize, evaluate, modify, and review achievement and implementation. Benchmarks are established to review and assess the objectives as well as assist in prioritization.

Responsibilities: *Identify, Develop, Advise, Encourage, Utilize, and Review*

1. Policy
2. Collaboration
3. Protection
4. Conservation/ Preservation
5. Management
6. Economic
7. Stewardship
8. General Public Welfare
9. Administration
10. Planning

Plan outline

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Goal
 1. Objective
 - Measure
 - Benchmark

**Goals and Objectives are reviewed yearly for prioritization, measures and benchmark assessment.

Topics to consider:

- Economic: Place-making
- Public Welfare: Wayfinding
- Water conservation practices
- Collaboration: Climate Sustainability Plan
- Stewardship: Green Themes Presentation
- Administration: College student involvement
- Planning: environmental amenities
- Planning: environmental incentives
- Native plant recommendations
- Solar incentives
- Greenspace plan
- Green buildings
- Pathway connections

DRAFT

- Educational outreach
- Recycling outreach and incentive partnerships
- Transportation partnerships
- Street Tree ordinance
- Irrigation practices
- Landscape requirements
- Pervious and Impervious requirements
- Lighting/ Dark Sky requirements