

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
AGENDA**

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

**Town Hall Room
Meridian Municipal Building
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864**

Work Session

1. Call the work session to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Approval of the work session agenda
3. Review of the minutes of the December 3, 2014 work session/regular meeting
4. Other business
5. Public remarks
6. Adjournment

Regular Meeting

1. Call the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Approval of the regular meeting agenda
3. Approval of the minutes of the December 3, 2014, work session/regular meeting
4. Public remarks
5. Chair's Report
 - a. Summary of the joint meeting with the Board
6. Communications/staff report
7. Election of Officers (Chair and Vice-Chair) for 2015
8. Selection of Land Preservation Representative by the 2015 Chair
9. Other Business
 - a. Street trees and summary of discussion with the Planning Director
10. Study groups/liaison reports
11. Public remarks
12. Adjournment

WORK SESSION

PRESENT: Chair Jackson and Commissioners Kielbaso, McConnell, Sarver, Schools, and Searl

ABSENT: Commissioner Scherbarth

STAFF

PRESENT: Richard F. Brown, Jr., AICP, Associate Planner

OTHERS

PRESENT: None

1. **CALL WORK SESSION TO ORDER**

Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE WORK SESSION AGENDA**

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Kielbaso to approve the work session agenda. Supported by Commissioner Searl. Approved 6-0.

3. **REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2014 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING**

No changes.

4. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Street Trees: Staff summarized information that Commissioner Scherbarth learned from Discount Trees. Commissioner Kielbaso relayed details of his conversations with Van Atta's regarding street trees. Staff suggested we meet with the Director to discuss these further and iron out some issues prior to the next meeting.

5. **PUBLIC REMARKS**

None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Work Session was adjourned without objection by Chair Jackson at 7:02 p.m.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
Meridian Municipal Building
December 3, 2014 - DRAFT**

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Chair Jackson and Commissioners Searl, McConnell, Schools, Sarver, and Kielbaso

ABSENT: Commissioner Scherbarth

STAFF

PRESENT: Richard F. Brown, Jr., AICP, CBSP Associate Planner

OTHERS

PRESENT: Planning Commissioner John Scott-Craig

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

- **MOTION** by Commissioner McConnell to approve the agenda. Supported by Commissioner Kielbaso. Approved 6-0.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 5, 2014 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Kielbaso to approve the minutes as submitted. Supported by Commissioner Schools. Approved 6-0.

4. GREEN THEMES PRESENTATION ENTITLED "THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP GREENSPACE PLAN, A DECADE LATER" BY RICHARD F. BROWN, JR., AICP, CBSP

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

John Scott-Craig noted he will be passing along the report made by staff about the Greenspace Plan to the Planning Commission.

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Green-up Conference held on November 12th at the Kellogg Center went very well.

9. COMMUNICATIONS/STAFF REPORT

Associate Planner Brown summarized the following:

- Monthly Meridian Leadership Breakfast is Friday
- A memorandum about street trees from Julie Brixie is provided.
- A copy of the power point presentation is provided.
- Accepting Environmental Stewardship Award nominations until 3/1/15

10. **OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. Replacing/replanting street trees:

Commissioner McConnell noted useful references to street trees in Section 4.2 of the Greenspace Plan.

- b. Meeting with the Township Board on 1/6/15:

Commissioner Schools to prepare a handout for the Township Board and asked everyone to provide her with a summary of Environmental Commission activities in 2014.

- c. Suggested Green Theme speakers/topics for 2015:

Possible speakers include Harmony Gmazel from Tri-County on Sustainability and Wayne Beyea from MSU.

11. **STUDY GROUPS/LIAISON REPORTS**

- Commissioner Kielbaso noted Land Preservation is looking at a couple of properties.
- Commissioner Sarver summarized his talk with the Planning Commission and noted Consumers Energy will be talking with the Township Board on January 20th about Community Solar.
- Commissioner McConnell had not report and indicated he would not be able to attend Park Commission meetings due to an on-going scheduling conflict.

12. **PUBLIC REMARKS**

None

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Sarver to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Supported by Commissioner McConnell. Approved 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARDS
Nomination Form**

The purpose of the Environmental Stewardship Awards (ESA) is to recognize and honor those who have significantly contributed to the conservation of natural resources and the protection of the environment of Meridian Township.

CATEGORIES:

Education/Schools:

Nominee(s):

Reasons:

Business/Industry:

Nominee(s):

Reasons:

Public Officials/Agencies/Bodies:

Nominee(s):

Reasons:

Private Individuals/Groups/Homeowners Associations/Service Clubs:

Nominee(s):

Reasons:

CRITERIA:

Nominees should exhibit some or all of the following:

- Educational value
- Potential for stimulating other environmental efforts
- Innovation or unique character
- Actual improvement or benefit to the environment
- Environmental leadership or initiative
- Sustainability or permanence

Please return to: Meridian Township Environmental Commission: c/o Department of Community Planning & Development, Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 (517) 853-4568 or to brown@meridian.mi.us.

All nominations are due by March 1, 2015. Awards are scheduled to be presented in spring, 2015.

Nominators Name (optional) _____ Phone # _____

E-mail address: _____



Meridian Township
Environmental Commission
2014 Year-end Report

Accomplishments:

Efforts by the Environmental Commission resulted in the inclusion of the "Solar Ready Communities" on the Board's Goals and Objectives for 2015.

Commissioners Kielbaso and Scherbarth spearheaded a plan to assist residents to replace dead or damaged street trees at a discounted price.

Township Associate Planner, Rick Brown provided an excellent progress summary of the Greenspace Plan.

Review of documentation for a Wetland Use Permit at the Meridian Mall.

Participation with the following groups:

Land Preservation: Commissioner Kielbaso served as the liaison and chair

Meridian Energy Team: Commissioner Sarver served as liaison and member

Parks Commission: Commissioners McConnell. and Moran served as liaisons

Friends of Meridian Pathways: Commissioners McConnell and Jackson were active participants

Friends of Meridian Greenways: Commissioners McConnell and Jackson were active participants

Site Visits:

Commissioner Kielbaso visited several township sites regarding tree protection and/or heritage trees.

Commissioners Kielbaso and Jackson toured the proposed fire station site to identify ways to protect trees.

Information requests:

The Commission responded to Treasurer Brixie's request for ideas on protecting existing street trees.

Commissioner Sarver responded to solar energy questions from the Planning Commission

Commissioners Sarver, Jackson, and McConnell presented Master Plan suggestions to the Planning Commission

2014 Environmental Stewardship Award recipients:

David Caszatt for his land preservation volunteer work

Mike Unsworth, Bob Lovell, Tim Potter and Rick Brown for planning the 2013 Greater Lansing Ride of Silence

ITC Holdings for its tree planting grant

(Continued)

Green Themes presentations hosted by the Environmental Commission:

January 15, *ITC's Tree Grant Program*, Cynthia Stump, ITC, Inc.

March 5, *Our Common Interests*, Marcia Horan, East Lansing Commission on the Environment

May 7, *Kickstand & Deliver*, Yvonne LeFave, Go Green Trikes, LLC

September 17, *Becoming a Solar-Ready Community*, Heather Seyfarth, AICP, Clean Energy Coalition

October 1, *Green Chemistry*, Ned Jackson, Ph.D., Michigan State University

November 5, *Brownfield Redevelopment*, Jeff Hukill, Michigan DEQ

December 3, *Meridian Township Greenspace Plan: A Decade Later*, Rick Brown, AICP, CBSP, Meridian Township Associate Planner

Goals for 2015:

Implementation of Street Tree Initiative.

Design a more user-friendly web page for the Commission.

Increase the Commission's visibility in the community and among the Meridian Township boards and commissions.

Continued review of the Greenspace Plan in the context of the Master Plan update.

Continued review of Wetland Use Permit applications.

Continued organization of Green Theme presentations.

Continued presentation of township Environmental Stewardship Awards.

