

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

APPROVED

December 6, 2017

**5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
517-853-4560, Town Hall Room, 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Chair Bill McConnell, Commissioners Ned Jackson, Susan Masten, John Sarver, Kirk Lapham, Marina Ionescu, Ben Holland
ABSENT: Commissioner Jim Kielbaso
STAFF: Principal Planner Peter Menser
OTHERS: Planning Commissioner David Premoe, Paul Dykema

1. Call meeting to order

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

2. Green Themes Presentation

Paul Dykema, The Visiting Arborists – Street Trees

Mr. Dykema, of The Visiting Arborists, introduced himself and provided a summary of his forestry experience. Currently Mr. Dykema is a consultant with municipalities with a focus on tree preservation. Mr. Dykema presented to the Environmental Commission on a variety of street tree related topics, including factors to consider when choosing types of street trees and showed examples of conflicts between tree type and installation locations. At the end of the presentation Mr. Dykema answered questions from the Commission regarding tree injections, the pros and cons of mulching around trees, methods for directing root growth, pruning techniques, and evidence of and impacts to trees as a result of climate change.

3. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Masten moved to approve the agenda as written.

Seconded by Commissioner Jackson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion approved unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. November 1, 2017 Work Session Minutes

B. November 1, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the minutes as drafted.

Seconded by Commissioner Sarver.

VOICE VOTE: Motion approved unanimously.

5. Public Remarks – NONE

6. New Business – NONE

7. Old Business

A. 2018 Strategic Plan

The Environmental Commission discussed items they want to include in the 2018 Strategic Plan, which included the following:

- Desire to initiate dialogue with the Park and Transportation Commissions regarding wayfinding in parks
- Collaboration with the Land Preservation Advisory Board
- Communication with the community
- Review of ordinances related to climate
- Review existing ordinances for wetland protection
- Transmit suggestions of ordinance revisions to the Township Board
- Wetland Use permit requirements
- Develop study group on wetland ordinance
- Membership composition and number of the Environmental Commission

8. Chair's Report – NONE

9. Staff Report – NONE

10. Commissioner/Liaison/Workgroup Reports

Planning: Chair McConnell spoke on the Planning Commission's current focus of writing and implementing form-based code. He stated the Township Board is reviewing the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development (MUPUD) ordinance, and spoke to greenspace as an amenity in a MUPUD. He also stated the 2017 Master Plan was approved, and one of the Planning Commission's 2018 goals is implementation of the Plan.

Land Preservation: NONE

Energy: Commissioner Sarver discussed looking at photovoltaic systems for the Meridian Municipal Building. He stated requests for proposals (RFPs) will be accepted in the near future.

Parks and Recreation: NONE

Transportation: NONE

Student Report: Student Commissioner Holland reported the Earth Club has been very active, and has been reviewing lighting fixtures to save money. He also stated the solar car team at Okemos High School has been successful with fundraising efforts.

Planning Commissioner Premoe stated the Planning Commission conducted Section 61 reviews for location, character, and extent of five properties being considered for purchase by the Land Preservation Advisory Board and one property offered as a donation to the park system.

11. Public Remarks – NONE

12. Adjournment

Chair McConnell adjourned the regular meeting at 8:25 p.m.