



Charter Township of Meridian  
Meridian Economic Development Corporation  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Thursday, September 5, 2019– Minutes

**Members**

**Present:** Jade Sims, Joel Conn, Adam Carlson, Treasurer Phil Deschaine, Shawn Dunham, Brenda Chapman, Kimberly Thompson, Mikhail Murshak, David Ledebuhr, Township Manager Frank Walsh and Tom Conway

**Members**

**Absent:** Trustee Kathy Ann Sundland

**Others**

**Present:** Planning Commission Chair John Scott-Craig, Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz, Community Planning & Development Director Mark Kieselbach and Economic Development Director Chris Buck

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Sims called the meeting to order at 7:34 am and Planning Commission Chair John Scott-Craig read the mission. Chair Sims discussed item 6 on the agenda will be postponed until a later meeting.

2. **MISSION:** Set the standard in creating an entrepreneurial culture, be the example for revitalization of our business districts, and be the leaders in building sustainable public/private partnerships.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION BY MEMBER DUNHAM TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 11-0.**

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-July 11, 2019
- b. Financial Report
- c. Development Projects

**MOTION BY MEMBER CONWAY TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CONN. MOTION PASSES 11-0.**

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. PRESENTATION

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Committee Reports

i. Business Promotion

Getting together again to finalize the MABA awards.

ii. School District Engagement

Chair Sims and Director Buck met with both the Haslett and Okemos Superintendents. They discussed possible collaborations. Director Buck is also scheduled to give an economic development update to both school boards.

b. Haslett Study

There was a visioning session about 45 days ago and a second follow up meeting last night. The data will be released shortly, but it does show the number of housing units and amount of square feet needed of office, commercial, food service, etc. in downtown Haslett.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Meridian Redevelopment Fund Request

The request is on hold for now and is being reworked for submission at a later date.

9. TOWNSHIP REPORT

a. Township Board

- 2020 Township Budget

b. Township Manager

- Working on local road work
- Meeting with MSU President Stanley
- Recognition of Chief Plaga and Sargent Besonen
- Bennett Road rezoning
- Moving Communications budget from \$700,000 to \$320,000
- Hiring a full time Engineer for roads
- Hiring a Purchasing Coordinator

c. Planning Commission

Planning Commission Vice-Chair John Scot-Craig provided a summary of recent Planning Commission activities.

d. Chair

None.

e. Staff

Shared Village of Okemos video walk through. Lots of openings happening including: High Caliber Karting, Panera, Zoom Laundry, Crunch Fitness, Firestone, School of Rock and Title Boxing Club.

9. COMMUNITY REPORTS

a. Meridian Mall

New mall openings include: Knockerball, Black Barn & Co, City Man, Hawkins Photography, Habachi Creamery, and Spirit Halloween.

b. Marketplace on the Green

Contractor is scheduled to break ground within 30 days and opening is planned for spring 2020.

c. MABA

150 current members. Working on the MABA annual elections for the board, along with the annual awards, and charitable grants.

10. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

Good comments about increased mall traffic. Meeting with Mayfair bar owner to discuss possible redevelopment of his gravel parking/land area. A tour of the mall to be scheduled with Shawn.

11. PUBLIC REMARKS

None

12. NEXT MEETING DATE

- October 3, 2019 at 7:30am

13. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Sims adjourned the meeting at 9:08am.