



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
YOUTH COMMISSION
OCTOBER 20, 2025 5:30 PM
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP HALL 5151 MARSH ROAD

1. YOUTH COMMISSION PHOTO RETAKE
2. CHAIR GEBARA CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER
3. PRESENTATION: Park Department Overview and Communications Department Overview
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
5. PUBLIC REMARKS
6. OLD BUSINESS
7. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Township Youth Commission Goals
 - b. Township Beautification/Community Service Project
8. PUBLIC REMARKS
9. OPEN DISCUSSION
 - * Members are encouraged to ask staff and the commission direct questions to determine goals of the Youth Commission and actionable steps to achieve them.
 - * Township Youth Commission Community Survey
10. Next Meeting Date: Monday November 17th at 5:30 pm
11. ADJOURNMENT



To: Youth Commission Members

From: Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark

Date: September 15, 2025

Re: Meridian Township Youth Commission Goals

2024 Suchir Nagisetty of Okemos High School approached the Township Board to request that a Youth Commission be created in Meridian Township. The Township Board authorized the creation of a youth commission by a resolution. This resolution created the initial opportunities for interested youth to obtain a leadership role in Meridian Township. The goals of the Youth Commission were not established by the Township Board, and staff recommends to the Youth Commission members to establish your own set of goals to set a benchmark for the youth commission to gauge success.

- Great goals are created with strategic benchmarks included to track how close to goal implementation a group may be. Staff recommends that each goal designed by the Youth Commission be a goal that can statistically be measured in an increasing or decreasing scale.
- Goals should be foundational to the organization and help to expand the mission of the organization. SMART Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Timely.
- Long term goals are ok to establish even if the Youth Commission may not be able to complete that goal within one term year. The goals of the body are evolving and fluid.
- Be flexible.

The following are ideas for Youth Commission members to consider when deciding on possible goals:

Community Service Project- many times we think of this as a cleanup project, maintenance, or other physically appealing project. What does community service mean to the Youth Commission? What services is the Township lacking in that youth could support? What services does the Township already provide?

- Senior check-ins
- Fitness programs and social connectivity
- Conservation programs in land preservation areas
- Fire alarm & Fire Safety

Beautification Project- The Village of Okemos site is the demolished western parcels at Hamilton and Okemos. The buildings were demolished in 2021 in anticipation for a redevelopment project.



The project has stalled and several members in the community have asked that the Township look into doing something to beautify the site. The site is contaminated so digging into the ground should be avoided. The Youth Commission would design the idea for the beautification and work with Township staff to get the beautification installed.

The Village of Okemos site is not the only opportunity for beautification. The Haslett Beautification Association has reached out about possible improvements to the intersection at Haslett and Marsh Roads. This would allow the Youth Commission to work with another organization within the Township and beautify the community.

Youth Event Engagement- Youth members are eager to plan events that will engage the general youth community. Director Wisinski provided an overview the Parks department events. The Youth Commission could establish a goal to engage in a particular number of events or plan a new event.

Next steps:

- 1. Set goals for the Youth Commission**
- 2. Adopt goals through the following motion:**

MOVE TO ADOPT THE 2025-2026 YOUTH COMMISSION GOALS AS DISCUSSED



To: Youth Commission Members

From: Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark

Date: October 20, 2025

Re: Youth Commission Beautification Project

Beautification Project- The Village of Okemos site is the demolished western parcels at Hamilton and Okemos. The buildings were demolished in 2021 in anticipation for a redevelopment project. The project has stalled and several members in the community have asked that the Township look into doing something to beautify the site. The site is contaminated so digging into the ground should be avoided. The Youth Commission could design the idea for the beautification and work with Township staff to get the beautification installed.

Potential Ideas:

Chain link fence art – faux grass chain temporary chain link fence

Can be decorated seasonally or with “awareness causes”

Thoughts to consider:

- A temporary art piece can create a “following” who will want the piece to stay when development occurs. How do we set expectations with the public that this is temporary?
- Whom will be authorized to manage the installation? (Vandalism, coordination of art display events, etc.)

Greenery, Planting, or Eco Friendly Project:

The Haslett Beautification Association has reached out about possible improvements to the intersection at Haslett and Marsh Roads. This would allow the Youth Commission to work with another organization within the Township and beautify the community.

Thoughts to consider:

Gaining ownership permission will be key to getting a project completed. Staying out of the road right-of-way are also conditions to this project.

Opportunities for Enhancement:

Haslett – Potential Ideas

- Interactive science exhibits (like Impression 5)
- Large-scale public art installations or murals



- Dog parks
- Additional community gardens or enhance walking trails

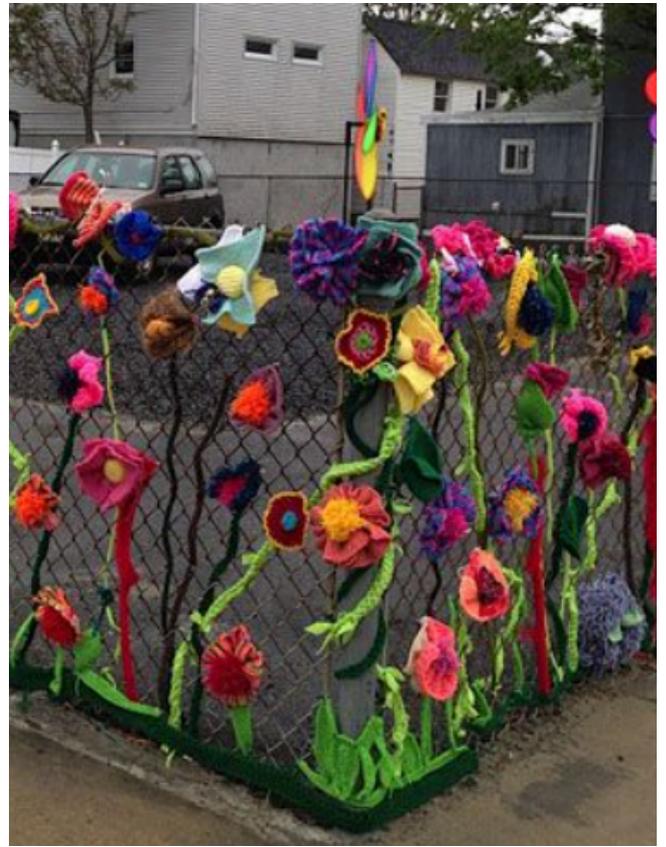
Okemos - Potential Ideas

- Community gardens
- Tree farm or native plant projects
- Art murals
- Outdoor courtyards and gathering space

Discussion of the next steps:

- 1. Determine if a beautification project is something the Youth Commission would like to be a part of.**
- 2. If so determine where the beautification will occur**
- 3. What type of project will it be and who will authorize the "Ok"?**
- 4. What is the overall cost of the beautification improvements and who will pay for the improvements?**





YOUTH COMMISSION

Community Beautification Ideas: Haslett and Okemos

The goal of community beautification is to enhance the appearance, sustainability, and livability of the community, creating a more welcoming environment for both residents and visitors. By improving public spaces and promoting cultural engagement, these initiatives can make Haslett and Okemos more vibrant and attractive destinations.

General Community Beautification Ideas

1. Natural Beautification

- Community clean-ups
- Planting projects (flowers, shrubs, trees)
- Community gardens
- Green corridors and walking/biking trails

2. Art & Culture

- Public art installations and murals
- Sculpture or interactive art
- Street furniture (benches, planters, lighting)

3. Infrastructure & Maintenance

- Power washing sidewalks, fences, and public buildings
- Painting public spaces
- Playground and park improvements

4. Community Engagement & Recreation

- Dog parks
- Community events and festivals
- Courtyards and gathering spaces

Features of Haslett

Parks & Nature

- Lake Lansing Park & Lake Lansing North Trail
- Hillbrook Park, Orlando Park

Cultural & Historical

- Haslett Historical Village
- Bhartiya Temple

Recreation

- Meridian Sun Golf Course, Lake O' the Hills Golf Course
- MSU Campus nearby
- Community Church

Other

- Haslett Road Tree Farm

Features of Okemos

Parks & Nature

- Harris Nature Center
- Central Park, Wonch Park, Ferguson Park

Cultural & Historical

- Meridian Historical Village
- Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum
- Impression 5 Science Center

Recreation

- East Lansing Family Aquatic Center
- Meridian Mall
- Potter Park Zoo

Opportunities for Enhancement

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Okemos – Potential Ideas

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Summary of Ideas

Category	Haslett	Opportunities	Okemos	Opportunities
Parks & Nature 	Lake Lansing Park, North Trail, Hillbrook Park	Walking/biking trails, tree planting, community gardens	Harris Nature Center, Central Park, Wonch Park	Tree farm, native plant projects, green space expansion
Cultural & Historical 	Historical Village, Bhartiya Temple	Small museums, cultural exhibits, historical walking tours	Historical Village, Broad Art Museum, Impression 5	Additional exhibits, outdoor art installations
Recreation & Art 	Golf Courses, MSU Campus, Community Church	Dog parks, playground upgrades, courtyards	Aquatic Center, Meridian Mall, Potter Park Zoo	Dog parks, interactive play areas, community gardens
Maintenance & Infrastructure 	Clean-ups, minor landscaping	Power washing, painting, sustainable improvements	Clean-ups, park maintenance	Improved signage, seating, sustainable upgrades