

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
Meridian Municipal Building – Town Hall Room
April 5, 2017 - DRAFT**

REGULAR MEETING

- PRESENT:** Vice-Chair Ned Jackson, Commissioners John Sarver, Jim Kielbaso, Kirk Lapham, and Marina Ionescu
- ABSENT:** Chair Bill McConnell, Ben Holland, and Susan Masten
- STAFF:** Assistant Planner Jennifer Quinlivan
- OTHERS:** NONE

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Vice -Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. GREEN THEMES PRESENTATION:

Jeff Andresen presented on Historical and Projected Future Climate Trends in the Great Lakes Region. Over 150 years of climate data has been recorded and indications show the overall temperature in the Great Lakes region has generally increased. In addition, the studies show an increase in precipitation rates and more extreme events. The speaker noted that due to the climate changes the Great Lakes region had experienced fewer droughts, a change in plant hardiness zones, and more weather related disasters. The future projections indicate the annual mean temperature will continue to increase, a shift from heating demands to increased cooling demands, and an increase in the Great Lakes region's growing season.

3. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KIELBASO TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER SARVER. MOTION APPROVED 5-0.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 1, 2017 MEETING

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SARVER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER IONESCU. MOTION APPROVED 5-0.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

NONE

6. NEW BUSINESS

NONE

7. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

8. CHAIR'S REPORT

Vice-Chair Jackson reported on a number of items at the meeting.

- a. Improvements to the Township website regarding storm water management and flooding issues.
- b. The Township's newly formed Transportation Commission was addressing non-motorized uses within the Township to include wayfinding improvements.
- c. On April 22, 2017 in celebration of Earth Day, the Township is hosting a recycling event. The Energy Team is looking for volunteers.

Vice- Chair Jackson asked staff to report on the plan for a Township pathway along Lake Drive.

9. STAFF REPORT

Staff reported on the need for speakers for the upcoming Green Theme presentations and requested speaker suggestions.

10. COMMISSIONER SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning: NONE

Land Preservation: Commissioner Kielbaso reported that a controlled burn at Davis Foster was cancelled due to wind concerns. The Land Preservation Committee had a site visit to a potential location in the northeast part of the Township. Commissioner Kielbaso also reported on the identification of the endangered species of fairy shrimp found in multiple vernal pools within the Township

Energy Team: Commissioner Sarver reported on the upcoming ribbon cutting for the Haslett Community Church solar park on April 23, 2017. Consumers Energy performed an energy audit to identify additional projects and incentives at the Township's Municipal Building. Impression 5 was hosting a wind exhibit. Commissioner Sarver also commented on the installation of smart meters throughout the Township by Consumers Energy.

Student Engagement: NONE

Parks: Commissioner Jackson commented on the improvement the Parks and Recreation Department had made in the Township parks.

Transportation: Commissioner Jackson reported on the tasks the Transportation Commission would be addressing in regards to the Grand River Avenue Corridor.

11. PUBLIC REMARKS

NONE

12. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m. without objection.