

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
Meridian Municipal Building – Town Hall Meeting Room
December 7, 2015**

WORK SESSION

PRESENT: Chair McConnell, Vice-Chair Jackson and Commissioners Schools, Sarver, and Kielbaso

ABSENT: Commissioner Searl

STAFF: Gail Oranchak, Principal Planner; Harmony Gmazel, Associate Planner

OTHERS: None

1. CALL WORK SESSION TO ORDER

Chair McConnell called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE WORK SESSION AGENDA

Approved by consent without objection.

3. INTRODUCTION OF HARMONY GMAZEL Gail Oranchak introduced Harmony Gmazel as Meridian Township's newest Associate Planner, and new staff person to the Environmental Commission.

4. DISCUSSION OF 2016 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION GOALS

The Commission and staff discussed next steps and goals for the Commission in 2016. The following is a summary of initiatives that the Commission would like to consider undertaking in the coming year, in no particular order.

Administrative Goals

- Fill 3 vacancies (1 adult & 2 youth)
- Review Commission by-laws pertaining to operating procedures with respect to monthly meeting requirements and the non-voting status of youth members. Investigate a university student seat.

Cooperative Goals

- Promote Commission activities with Land Preservation, Parks, Planning Commission and Township Board members.
- Work with various Boards/Commissions to identify areas for targeted planning/acquisition.

Community Planning Goals

- Provide support and input on the Township Master Plan (MP) in 2016

- Aid the implementation of the MP with new ordinance language that incentivizes environmental protection and enhancement.
- Assess the Commission's past activities and implementation of the Greenspace Plan (GSP) (through review of maps and related information)
- Promote increased wayfinding and pathway connections throughout the Township

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Sarver reported on the solar array project in East Lansing.

6. **PUBLIC REMARKS**

None

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Work Session was adjourned by Chair McConnell without objections at 8:25 p.m.