



Charter Township of Meridian  
Corridor Improvement Authority  
5000 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Wednesday, May 20, 2020– Minutes

**Members**

**Present:** Jeff Ross, Kellie Johnson, Bruce Peffers, , Supervisor Ron Styka, and Barry Goetz

**Members**

**Absent:** Chris Rigterink, Brian Jones, Chris Nugent, and Eric Foster

**Others**

**Present:** Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz, Community Planning & Development Director Mark Kieselbach, Economic Development Director Ken Lane, Planning Commissioner Holly Cordill

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Ross called the meeting to order at 6:07pm and read the mission statement.

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 SUPERVISOR STYKA TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER PEFFERS. MOTION PASSES 5-0.**

4. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Minutes-December 18, 2019

**MOTION BY MEMBER GOETZ TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY CHAIR ROSS. MOTION PASSES 5-0.**

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Members discussed that Chair Ross and Vice-Chair Foster are interested in continuing in their current roles.

7. DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REVIEW

a. Staff Summary

Director Lane introduced himself to the group and discussed the development projects under construction and under consideration in the corridor.

b. Clarion Pointe Zoning Board of Appeals Update

Director Lane discussed that they have hit a small snag with the drain commissioner and had to scale back their design slightly to accommodate some water run-off. They will be back in front of the Zoning Board of Appeals soon.

c. COVID-19 Conversation

Director Lane announced effective this morning, the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) developed a small business grant program for the Township. The program will fund a total of \$180,000 in grants that will consist of 45 grants of \$4,000 each. Applications will be accepted through Saturday. A six person review and deliberation committee consisting of the Chair of the MTEDC, two members of the Meridian Township Board of Trustees, the Chair of the Meridian Township Downtown Development Authority, the Township Manager, and the Township Economic Development Director, will be responsible for the review and scoring of applications. The 45 finalists will be brought to the EDC for final approval on May 29, 2020 and checks will be mailed to the finalists on June 2, 2020.

Supervisor Styka reported that the Township has developed a COVID hotline for residents. Also, the Township will be setting up an outdoor center at the Municipal Building parking lot pavilion where payments will be able to be collected and questions answered for residents.

8. CORRIDOR DESIGN & RESEARCH

a. Form Based Code

Planning Commissioner Holly Cordill was appointed to be the Corridor Improvement Authority representative. She discussed the Planning Commission has been working on the draft of the form based code ordinance for Grand River west of Park Lake Road. The draft ordinance will be delivered to the Township Board when complete.

b. Dawn Ave-Hannah Connection

There was nothing new to report. Director Lane will reengage with the interested parties and report back next month.

c. West Grand River Amenity & Vibrancy Opportunities

MDOT is considering moving the milling and resurfacing for Grand River up to 2021. That would include fixing the sidewalk across from Playmakers and crosswalks. There will be more to report following an upcoming meeting.

The welcome signs are currently on hold due to budget concerns developed from the COVID-19 pandemic.

9. MALL DEVELOPMENT

Director Lane reported the mall has been closed and our key local contact Shawn Dunham has been furloughed. However, High Caliber Karting is still planning an expansion into the Old Navy space. The mall wants to develop the corner of Grand River and Marsh and they are working on filling the Younkers vacant

space. With the recent announcement of the bankruptcy for JC Penney, Director Lane has reached out to the mall and is waiting to hear back from them regarding the status of the Meridian store.

10. REPORTS

a. Township Board

Supervisor Styka reported the following:

- The 2020 local road program is underway
- The Police Department has a new canine
- The Township is sponsoring a police candidate through the academy
- Construction of the Farmers' Market is continuing
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Township will be losing state revenue funds

b. Planning Commission

Commissioner Cordill reported the following:

- A public hearing will be held in June for the Andev senior housing community at the east end of Hannah Blvd.
- A public hearing will be held in July for the Menards development on Newton Road.

c. Chair

Chair Ross shared that the pheasant hunting initiative was a huge success. Rose Lake had 2,680 visitors.

d. Staff

Director Lane reported the regional SmartZone is interested in including Dawn Avenue. The Township has agreed and there will be more information to come.

11. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

There was discussion regarding the sidewalk around the new development at Okemos and Grand River. Director Kieselbach will follow up on their plans.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

- June 24, 2020 at 6:00pm

14. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Ross adjourned the meeting at 7:17pm.