



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
YOUTH COMMISSION  
MARCH 16, 2026 5:30 PM  
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP HALL ROOM  
5151 MARSH ROAD OKEMOS, MI

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1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Gebara calls the meeting to order:
2. ROLL CALL: CHAIR GEBARA CONDUCTS ROLL CALL.  
Members: Higgins, Gay, Gebara, Mahale, McCarthy, Regan, Sampathkumar, Shah, Stecovich
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
  - a. February 2, 2026 – Youth Commission Meeting Minutes
  - b. February 23, 2026 – Beautification Subcommittee Minutes
5. PUBLIC REMARKS
6. OLD BUSINESS
7. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Youth Commission Community Survey & Outreach
8. PUBLIC REMARKS
9. OPEN DISCUSSION

*Members are encouraged to ask staff and the Commission direct questions to help determine goals for the Youth Commission and identify actionable next steps.*
10. UPCOMING/NEXT MEETING DATES:
  - a. General Youth Commission: Monday, April 20 at 5:30 PM
11. ADJOURNMENT

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Board by contacting: Township Manager Timothy Dempsey, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4258 - Ten Day Notice is Required. Meeting Location: 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 Township Hall



Charter Township of Meridian  
Youth Commission

Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Monday, February 2, 2026– Minutes

**Members**

**Present:** Autumn Gebara, Reilly Higgins, Krishnaan Shah, Jacob Stecovich, Rishabh Mahale, and Neha Sampathkumar

**Members**

**Absent:** Addison McCarthy, Roman Gay, and Finn Regan

**Others**

**Present:** Economic Development Director Amber Clark and Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Gebara called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION BY CHAIR GEBARA TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER STECOVICH. MOTION PASSES 6-0.**

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. December 1, 2025 Beautification Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

**MOTION BY CHAIR GEBARA TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 1, 2025 BEAUTIFICATION SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER HIGGINS. MOTION PASSES 6-0.**

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Township Youth Commission Beautification Project: Village of Okemos Site

Director Clark reported that the initial plan to have a perimeter fence around the site at Okemos and Hamilton Roads has been proven to be too expensive. She suggested the Commission consider reaching out to two Okemos teachers that have done art community art projects with the Township in the past. Their experience as Art Directors will be helpful to guide the beautification project. Chair Gebara will reach out to the teachers tomorrow at school.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Youth Commission Community Survey/Outreach

Member Gay will send the draft survey to everyone for additional questions to add and feedback on the current ones.

b. Youth Commission Brainstorm Committee

Director Clark shared the Township Community Survey as an example. There was consensus to focus on events for the survey and discuss the survey as a full Commission without developing a committee.

7. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

8. OPEN DISCUSSION

None.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

- Monday, March 2, 2026 at 5:30pm at the Township Municipal Building-Town Hall Room.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm without objection.



Charter Township of Meridian  
Youth Commission  
Virtual Meeting – Zoom  
Monday, December 1, 2025 – Beautification Subcommittee Minutes

**Members Present:** Finn Regan, Rishabh Mahale, and Krishaan Shah

**Members Absent:** Autumn Gebara

**Staff Present:** Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark and SEA Intern Neha Jampana

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

- a. Meeting started at 5:30 pm

2. PUBLIC REMARKS

- a. None.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Township Youth Commission Beautification Project

The Youth Commission continued discussing the Hamilton and Okemos Beautification Project and explored a new idea for a community- building event. Director Amber Clark provided an update on her recent discussion with the DDA regarding the project's scope and budget. She explained that while the DDA is supportive of the concept, they cannot offer financial support without a concrete design and detailed budget plan. The DDA emphasized that the proposal must be specific and well- presented. Director Clark also noted that the Township manager and others in East Lansing considered the previously discussed chain link fence option cost- prohibitive, referencing that even the downtown fencing-less than one acre-had to be purchased to be cost- effective (not rented). Based on these concerns, Director Clark suggested replacing the fence with pallet wood and limiting the decorative focus to the Hamilton and Okemos sides of the two - acre property. She clarified that covering the entire perimeter would interfere with ongoing community use of the site, including parking and utility access. Members Finn Regan and Rishabh Mahale agreed with this adjustment, and Member Regan noted that the subcommittee has been maintaining a shared Google document containing budgets and planning tabs, which will be shared with Director Clark.



Director Clark encouraged the group to revise their public art concept to reflect the updated circumstances and to begin developing a detailed plan that outlines design elements, necessary materials, cost estimates, and how those materials will be obtained. She added that if the commission plans for the project to be completed before May, it will be up to the Youth Commission to present a

finalized proposal, although there is no strict deadline and projects may also be carried out by future Youth Commission members. She also mentioned that a DDA representative may attend the Youth Commission meeting on December 15th to hear updates and review the commission's plans. Member Regan proposed an additional idea involving a community holiday event centered on decorating and lighting the large tree near Hamilton Road. He explained that the site is accessible for public use. Member Mahale suggested incorporating a holiday book exchange or book drive into the event, and Member Regan recommended partnering with the Capital Area District Library because of its proximity. Director Clark offered to communicate with businesses regarding potential donations or participation, noting that she can effectively handle outreach as long as the subcommittee members provide clear and specific requests, such as defined material needs or small monetary donations. Member Regan explained that the goal would be to bring the community together while tying the gathering to the Beautification Project. All members were supportive of this concept.

The group then considered the timing of the event. An initial date of January 3, 2026, was proposed, with the plan for the tree to be decorated in advance. However, members agreed that this would not allow sufficient time for planning or community engagement, and Member Mahale noted he would be out of the country from December 12-29th. Director Clark reminded the group that the event did not need to occur immediately and could instead take place in the spring, allowing more time for development. Members discussed alternative dates, including a time before spring break, and considered pairing a spring launch event with a recycling drive along with the beautification project.

Director Clark concluded the meeting by emphasizing that the subcommittee's December 15th presentation to the Youth Commission must include a clear and detailed outline of their selected project ideas, a complete budget, and an explanation of how materials will be gathered and managed.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. None

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

- a. None

6. NEXT MEETING DATE

- a. Monday January 26, 2026 at 6:30 pm IN PERSON in the conference room upstairs

7. ADJOURNMENT



To: Youth Commission Members  
From: Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark  
Date: March 16, 2026  
Re: Youth Community Survey –Google Form

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At the last meeting of the Youth Commission, members voted in strong support of the creation and implementation of a community survey for the Meridian Township youth. The survey would be created by the current Youth Commission members with the intent to engage the youth of the Township. The engagement questions will provide the community's youth with the opportunity to provide key information to what activities, interests, hurdles, positions, and experiences the Youth of Meridian Township have. Members are interested in developing a survey that can be distributed to the schools while students are in session. Participation in the survey is completely voluntary.

A Google Form has been created with a draft of survey questions. Members are encouraged to review the first draft of questions and determine if additional questions should be asked. Members are encouraged to think about lifestyles that may not be like their own to zero in on what the intent of their question is. Questions should be clear and will be a mix of multiple choice and fill in the blank.

Youth Members will provide their feedback during the meeting.