



Charter Township of Meridian
Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Monday, December 4, 2017 – Minutes

Members

Present: Bill Cawood, Susan Fulk, Renee Korrey, Scott Weaver, Jim Spanos, Sherry Fisher and Supervisor Ron Styka

Members Jim Raynak

Absent:

Staff

Present: Township Manager Frank L. Walsh, Economic Development Director Chris Buck, Director of Community Planning and Development Mark Kieselbach, Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz, and Principal Planner Peter Menser

Others

Present: None

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Fisher called the meeting to order at 7:32 am.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION BY MEMBER FULK TO APPROVE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CAWOOD. MOTION APPROVED 7-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017

MOTION BY MEMBER FULK TO APPROVE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CAWOOD. MOTION APPROVED 7-0.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Implementation of the Master Plan in the Okemos PICA

Director Buck reviewed the Master Plan visioning document with the DDA. Discussion involved mixed use core and the obstacles involved with the mixed use plan unit development density requirements. As a result of conversations Director Buck has had with interested developers in the Okemos PICA, he is suggesting the DDA consider lifting the density restrictions to allow projects to come forth from developers. This change will allow more flexibility for developers and make a project financially attractive.

MOTION BY MEMBER WEAVER TO LIFT THE DENSITY CEILING ON THE ATTACHED MAP TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION OF THE DOWNTOWN HASLETT AND OKEMOS PICAS. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER FISHER. MOTION APPROVED 7-0.

Suggestions were made to consider the DDA sponsoring a community gathering to discuss the development of the Downtown Okemos area. Also, the DDA will craft a letter to share with the EDC, Planning Commission and Township Board regarding their support of lifting the density in the PICA areas.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim Potter mentioned that his focus is transportation and he is concerned with the traffic and parking as development occurs in the area.

James Hart from the Okemos Masonic Temple mentioned his concern of a “broad brush” of commercial zoning in the area and what that might mean for places like the Masonic Temple.

OTHER DISCUSSION

Will Randle’s application for public service was received.

MOTION BY MEMBER KORREY TO RECOMMEND WILL RANDLE TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE DDA WITH TERM ENDING 12/31/2021. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER WEAVER. MOTION APPROVED 7-0.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE

- a. January 8, 2018, 7:30am

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned without objection at 8:32am.