



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Economic Development Corporation
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, February 1, 2018– Minutes

Members

Present: Shawn Dunham, Trustee Phil Deschaine, Mikhail Murshak, Joel Conn, Jade Sims, Kimberly Thompson, Tom Conway, David Ledebuhr, Adam Carlson and Township Manager Frank Walsh

Members None

Absent:

Others

Present: Treasurer Julie Brixie, Ex-Officio, Planning Commission Vice-Chair John Scott-Craig, Director of Community Planning and Development Mark Kieselbach, Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz, Economic Development Director Chris Buck

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Sims called the meeting to order at 7:35 am and Member Thompson 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 MEMBER CONN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 10-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Communications
- b. Development Projects Update
- c. Available Parcel Update
- d. Minutes-January 11, 2018

MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 10-0.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Brenda Chapman introduced herself to the board. She has expressed interest in joining the EDC and wanted to sit in on a meeting. She is retired from MDOT.

6. PRESENTATION

None.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Brixie distributed and reviewed the financial report dated 12/31/17. Report on file.

**MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT.
SUPPORTED BY TRUSTEE DESCHAIINE. MOTION PASSES 10-0.**

8. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

No invoices have been received. The EDC did issue and deliver the check to the Greater Lansing Chinese Association New Year's celebration sponsorship as agreed to be the EDC board at the last meeting.

9. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Planning Commission Vice-Chair John Scot-Craig provided a summary of recent Planning Commission activities.

10. MERIDIAN MALL REPORT

- Younkers stores are closing approximately 60 stores nationwide, but are not planning on closing the Meridian Mall location
- Construction for Launch Trampoline Park will soon be underway

11. FARMERS MARKET UPDATE

The mall is currently drafting the land lease for the Farmers' Market. In addition Director Buck & Maisner and EDC Member Ledebuhr have had and will continue to have meetings to garner funding for the project.

12. NEW BUSINESS/CHAIR REPORT

- a. Panera Concept Plan Discussion
The EDC reviewed the concept plan for the new Panera location. It includes a drive through and outdoor seating. The group discussed the three major challenges to the project which include parking, traffic and floodplain/wetlands.

13. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Redevelopment Fund Draft Review

No review took place. Our attorneys still need to review the draft document.

14. CHAIR REPORT

None.

15. STAFF REPORT

- Director Buck shared the Township Board voted 6-1 to move the density topic to the Planning Commission for their 2/26/18 meeting
- Director Buck stated that he will be touring DTN projects in Dewitt and Holt
- Okemos Auto Collection will be moving next door to Doctor's Approach. Audi and Volkswagen (from Frandor) will be moving into the existing Okemos Auto Collection site
- The vacant former Pizza Hut building on Grand River across from Graff will have another restaurant occupying that current vacant space
- Holiday Inn Express held their ribbon cutting
- Commercial Bank will be occupying the space of the former 5/3 Bank location on Jolly Road

16. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

- Haslett Marathon continues to be struggling with Shop Town
- Working on a contract with CATA for Redi-Ride services
- Walnut Hills will not be open for golf in 2018. Mediation regarding development will take place in the upcoming weeks
- Press conference today being held regarding the 2004 Nassar case from Meridian Township

17. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

- Trustee Deschaine said thanks to Manager Walsh for his strategy and caring heart around the Nassar case.
- The Board voted 6-1 on the MUPUD ordinance
- The new proposed Panera location will have some parking issues
- Newton Estates is an exciting new mixed use project
- The Board lowered the Outdoor Assembly Ordinance from 500 to 250

18. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

None.

19. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

20. NEXT MEETING DATE

- Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 7:30am

21. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Sims adjourned the meeting at 8:30 am.