



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Administrative Conference Room
Wednesday, October 3, 2018 6:00 pm

PRESENT: Chair, Walter Benenson; Vice Chair, Tunga Kiyak; Commissioner, Leslie Charles; Alternate Commissioner, Eric Langdon
ABSENT: Commissioner, Kevin Thatcher; Commissioner Andrew Lathrop; Alternate Commissioner, Patrick Crowley
STAFF: Deborah Guthrie, Director of Communications/PIO
TOWNSHIP: Trustee, Kathy Sundland
LEGAL COUNSEL: Mike Watz, Principal - Kitch Law Firm
COMCAST: John Gardner, Regional Director of External Affairs

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Benenson called the meeting to order at **6:00 pm**.

2. PUBLIC REMARKS

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Kiyak moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED**. Seconded by Chair Benenson

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Kiyak moved **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2018 REGULAR MEETING**. A request was made by Comcast representative to change the wording in section 10B of the minutes in regards to the comment made that "one of the stipulations of a PEG channel is to not be commercialized". Commissioner Charles moved **TO APPROVE CHANGING THE WORDING TO ACCURATELY REFLECT THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT. MOVED TO APPROVE AGAIN** by Chair Benenson. Seconded by Commissioner Charles.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

After reviewing the original recording of the minutes for August 15, 2018, the minutes accurately reflect the original request made at the meeting.

6. COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR REPORT

Provided recap of HOMTV Studio Open House, discussed some opportunities to find other revenue sources including following up with potential sponsors, launching Alumni Giving program, HOM Is Where The Start Is, and building awareness of HOMTV through Alumni Testimonials. Discussed Election programming scheduled, and it was asked if HOMTV will be interviewing the MSU Board of Trustees candidates.

7B. TOWNSHIP BOARD LIAISON'S REPORT

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Budget was approved, discussed the Redevelopment Ready Communities project being worked on, including a social media policy and other documents from Communications, which will open up the opportunity for grants once certified in November. Also discussed relocation plans for the Farmers' Market to the area near Studio C!, which will allow for additional parking and vendors, as well as the Township Citizen's Survey, which is being discussed and is in progress and the issue of Medical Marijuana being treated as recreational.

8A/B. SENATE BILL 637 & FCC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

Mike Watzka, Kitch Law Firm, presented an overview about some legislative issues impacting the municipalities Rights of Way and PEG channels funding. See attached document presented at meeting for additional information

House Energy Committee will look at SB 637 and may vote; the Commission is encouraged to go to the Capitol to oppose the bill. Trustee Sundland agreed to go with Director Guthrie. It is also recommended that municipalities set aside a portion of the Rights of Way money.

11A. VIDEO SERVICE PROVIDER – Updates were provided about the X1 and an invitation was extended to the Commission to come to the Comcast Store Open House on Oct 15.

11B. PROGRAMMING - HOMTV NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

11D. MERIDIAN CARES FUNDRAISER – OLD CHICAGO

Question about donating to Meridian Cares independently of the Old Chicago Fundraiser; individuals can donate on the Meridian Cares page on the website. All commissioners were invited to attend. Information will be provided and reminders sent from the social platforms.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Kiyak moved **TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**. Seconded by Commissioner Charles.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously
Chair Benenson adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm.