



Charter Township of Meridian
Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, MI 48864
Monday, December 7, 2020 – Minutes

Members

Present: Susan Fulk, Renee Korrey, Scott Weaver, Peter Campbell, Will Randle, Supervisor Ron Styka and Tom Stanko

Members

Absent: Jim Spanos, Bill Cawood, and Jim Raynak

Staff

Present: Community Planning & Development Director Mark Kieselbach, Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark, and Township Manager Frank L. Walsh

Others

Present: None.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Fulk called the meeting to order at 7:30am.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION BY MEMBER STANKO TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER RANDLE.
MOTION APPROVED 7-0.**

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2, 2020

**MOTION BY MEMBER KORREY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER RANDLE.
MOTION APPROVED 7-0.**

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Staff provided a summary update on the November 2020 Financial Report. Report on file.

6. AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS

Chair Fulk stated the November Consumers Energy bill is \$126.65. It was the first bill paid via the DDA debit card.

MOTION BY MEMBER RANDLE TO AUTHORIZE THE NOVEMBER PAYMENT TO CONSUMERS ENERGY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$126.65. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER STANKO. MOTION APPROVED 7-0.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Village of Okemos Progress Report

i. Project Update

Director Clark reported that they hosted a community update on the project on November 24th. On the zoom meeting, the public was updated on the demolition, project changes, and Ingham County/DOT 2022 road work projects including the Okemos Road Bridge along with raising the road at Grand River and Okemos.

Member Korrey shared some communications she has received from the neighborhood regarding concerns around the project including the above ground parking, additional housing, and the left turn lane at Hamilton. She thinks these folks did not have a chance to join the community update meeting. Member Randle volunteered to arrange a face to face meeting, before the end of December, with these concerned residents to get all their questions answered.

ii. Okemos Road Beautification

Discussion surrounded the possibility of the DDA owning a project in the area. There might be an opportunity to beautify a new median in the DDA.

b. Business Survey Results

Director Clark reported that 25 local businesses participated in the survey. 80% of the businesses said they were in need of financial assistance to help with rent, utilities, or payroll. They were also interested in e-commerce assistance. Director Clark suggested there is an opportunity to assist these businesses by helping to promote them via Prime Meridian Magazine advertising. The Township Board will be discussing opportunities to assist our local businesses financially over the coming weeks.

Director Clark stated that a \$10 million Small Business Relief Grant from the State of Michigan was recently announced to assist small businesses (less than 50 employees) with urgent capital needs, including payroll expenses, rent or mortgage payments and utility payments. The application will open on December 15th, with awards up to \$15,000 per eligible business on a first come first serve basis.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2021 Calendar and Resolution

MOTION BY MEMBER KORREY TO ADOPT THE 2021 DDA MEETING CALENDAR AND RESOLUTION, AS PRESENTED. MOTION APPROVED 7-0.

b. 2021 DDA Goals

Director Clark shared a couple of suggested 2021 DDA goals. These included the following:

- Vertical construction of the Village of Okemos Development Project
- Continue communication, collaboration with Ingham County, State of Michigan and other funding resources for corridor improvements on Okemos Road
- Consideration of landscaping/entrance beautification project
- Support for small business owners in the DDA due to the impact of COVID-19

Member Korrey suggested a DDA celebration event would be a great idea to add to the goals. The DDA will finalize the 2021 Goals at the January meeting.

9. REPORTS

A. Township Board

Supervisor Styka reported the following:

- The Board is adopting its 2021 Goals.
- The Board conducted the evaluation of the Township Manager. It was a very positive review.

B. Township Manager

Manager Walsh reported the following:

- The Board's 2021 Goals include: expanding solar, local road plan, expanding broadband, diversity, equity & inclusion, maintain 73 fire and police team members, and vertical construction in Downtown Haslett & Okemos.
- The former Walnut Hills property has been sold to a local Township family.
- The Board will be working on a plan for local business relief.

C. Planning Commission

Director Kieselbach provided a summary of recent Planning Commission activities.

D. Chair Report

Chair Fulk discussed how pleased she is with the forgiveness results she has seen coming from the PPP grants.

E. Staff Report

Director Clark reported that she will be working to communicate to all Township businesses the grant opportunities that exist. Also, there may be an opportunity to consider a new DDA brand logo and signage to correspond with the new Township wayfinding signs that will be produced later in 2021.

10. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

Discussion regarding the latest development updates along with the financial status of the Meridian Mall.

11. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

12. NEXT MEETING DATE

a. January 4, 2020, 7:30am

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned without objection.