



Charter Township of Meridian  
Meridian Economic Development Corporation  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Thursday, June 3, 2021– Minutes -DRAFT

### Members

**Present:** Joel Conn, Treasurer Phil Deschaine, Tom Conway, Township Manager Frank Walsh, Kimberly Thompson, Henry Kwok, Trustee Kathy Ann Sundland, Adam Carlson (arrived 8:06am), David Ledebuhr (arrived 8:06am), and Brenda Chapman (departed 8:15am)

### Members

**Absent:** Shawn Dunham

### Others

**Present:** Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark, Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner, Director of Community Planning & Development Tim Schmitt, and Trustee Patricia Herring Jackson

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:30 am and 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

Chair Thompson requested to add the item of reusable bags to the agenda under new business.

**MOTION BY MANAGER WALSH TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CONWAY. MOTION PASSES 7-0.**

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-May 6, 2021
- b. Financial Report
- c. Development Projects

Member Chapman suggested the following amendment to the minutes on page 2. Amend the bulleted following statement below:

- US Census results show Michigan ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation to read the following
- US Census results show Michigan ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation for population growth over the last ten years.

**MOTION BY MEMBER CONWAY TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE AMENDED MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CHAPMAN. MOTION PASSES 7-0.**

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

6. PRESENTATION

a. Launch Trampoline Park

Matt Dalson, owner of Launch Trampoline Park reported the franchise at the Meridian Mall opened in February 2019 and closed for 10 months due to the pandemic. Currently, they are open Friday thru Sunday and doing private rentals during the weekdays. Beginning June 7<sup>th</sup>, the Park will be opening back up full time. They have done fairly well during the pandemic with collecting 80-90% of the revenue they did in 2019.

Mr. Dalson did mention that Director Clark has helped to overcome some signage challenges. In the coming months, Launch will be placed on the main Mall sign. In addition, they would like MDOT attraction signage on I-96; however, current ordinances prohibit the directional signage that would be required on Central Park and Okemos Roads. Mr. Dalson hopes to discuss this matter further with the Township in the future with the hopes of a resolution.

Lack of high speed internet at the Mall has been a business obstacle. The Mall's line is fit for DSL. Launch runs their whole outfit from a Verizon LTE program. It is difficult when the Park gets busy and causes slowdowns for transactions. If Launch were to run their own line, the cost was approximately \$12,000.

b. Marketplace on the Green Director LuAnn Maisner

Director Maisner stated that the Marketplace on the Green opened last year and has been successful with the crowds throughout the pandemic and over a 1 million dollars of commerce. 57 vendors and over 1,000 visitors attend the Market each Saturday. Masks were required throughout the entire year. For the first time, the Market took place outdoors in the colder months. Now, offering identified times for mask wearing. Starting in July the Wednesday markets will begin from 3-7pm. Music will be playing from 5-8pm on Wednesdays. There will be a children's area with games, as well. An artificial ice rink will be ordered for delivery in October and a November install is planned. Portable basketball hoops will be purchased, along with floor hockey equipment. The Market is still in need of a sound system. Six wind screens have been ordered to help with the wind in the Market. The Market received an art grant for \$10,000 from LEAP. The dollar amount may not be enough to cover the creation of the art piece and installation.

Discussion with Matt from Launch regarding partnering on Wednesdays with the Launch mascot Joey, free passes and possibly outdoor laser tag at the Market.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Approval of payment for Meridian EDC Business Awards  
Director Clark mentioned that the cost of the trophies that were presented to High Caliber Karting and Cheezy D's Deli and Dogs was \$362.00.

**MOTION BY MEMBER CONWAY TO MAKE A PAYMENT OF \$362.00 FOR THE TROPHIES. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 9-0.**

**MOTION BY MEMBER CONN TO MAKE A PAYMENT OF \$20.00 FOR THE WINDOW CLINGS. SUPPORTED BY MANAGER WALSH. MOTION PASSES 9-0.**

Director Clark said she has worked to design a business window decal in recognition of the two businesses' achievement. There was discussion that the window clings are worthwhile and will continue annually with the awards.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. MABA Golf Outing Sponsorship  
Director Clark discussed the annual MABA golf outing. The proceeds from the golf outing supports MABA's philanthropic mission. Last year, Impression 5 was supported. MABA is selling \$50 hole sponsorships. The EDC has sponsored a hole in previous years. Suggestions that the EDC consider a \$50 hole sponsorship. Member Conway will put together a team for next Friday at 9:30am for golf.

**MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR FOR THE EDC TO PROVIDE A \$50 HOLE SPONSORSHIP FOR THE MABA GOLF OUTING. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CONWAY. MOTION APPROVED 9-0.**

- b. LEAP Art Grant Proposal  
Director Clark reviewed the success of Marketplace on the Green and the LEAP art proposal. Discussion was had that the \$10,000 LEAP grant may not be enough money to attract the right artist and cover the cost of the installation of the piece. Director Clark mentioned the art piece has to be a sculpture and the Township would like it to be interactive. Director Maisner suggested to add an EDC Member to the art selection committee.

**MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR FOR THE EDC TO PROVIDE \$5,000 TOWARDS THE COST OF THE ART SCULPTURE AT MARKETPLACE ON THE GREEN. SUPPORTED BY CONN. MOTION APPROVED 8-0.**

- c. Canvas Shopping Bag  
Chair Thompson mentioned the idea of purchasing 250 reusable canvas bags for the Marketplace on the Green. The cost of the bags is \$1,200. They would have the EDC logo on them. It was discussed to review this item at the next EDC meeting.

9. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

- a. Township Board  
Treasurer Sundland reported the following:
- Approved the 2020 Audit. No significant deficiencies in the audit.
  - Appointed a new Assessor.

- Approved drain work to assist in the Grand River/Okemos Road flooding.
- Extended the legal counsel agreement for an additional three years.
- Rezoning on Jolly Road and Kansas Road. Revised conditions from the applicant have allowed the future Sparrow project to move forward.

b. Township Manager

Manager Walsh reported the following:

- Based on the 2020 audit, the fund balance has grown to over 10 million.
- Speed monitoring will be taking place on Mt. Hope.
- 4 new Police Officers were sworn in.
- Tree trimming in the Briarwood neighborhood by Consumers Energy.
- In July, the meetings will go back to in person.

c. Planning Commission

Director Schmitt introduced himself and gave a report on the current Planning Commission activities.

d. Chair

None.

e. Staff

Director Clark reported the following:

- Community Scavenger Hunt on June 19<sup>th</sup>-Juneteenth Day. Gift cards from local businesses will be hidden in other businesses through clues. Up to 30 business participating.
- Participated in the local neighborhood meeting with the Police Department.

10. COMMUNITY REPORTS

a. Meridian Mall

Director Clark mentioned that Mall businesses are participating in the scavenger hunt.

b. MABA

Director Clark reported that MABA Golf Outing is next Friday. MABA spotlight for business promotion.

11. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

Member Ledebuhr commented on whether the Celebrate Meridian event would occur this summer. The Township Board decided to not have the fireworks for the July 4th this year and possibly have an event for later this summer/fall.

Manager Walsh reported on the Township Board promises to the community including fixing roads, reducing pension costs, constructing Farmer's Market, increasing diversity, increased police and paramedics, and purchasing a new ladder truck. They have kept their commitments.

10. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

- July 8, 2021 at 7:30am

12. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting.