

Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Economic Development Corporation
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, July 6, 2017 – Minutes

Members

Present: Jade Sims, David Ledebuhr, Shawn Dunham, Lynda Rowlee, Chris Buck, Trustee Phil Deschaine, Mikhail Murshak, Township Manager Frank Walsh

Members

Absent: Malinda Barr, Adam Carlson, Josh Hundt, David Olson

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Buck called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. and asked Member Rowlee to 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 TRUSTEE DESCHAIINE TO APPROVE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR. MOTION PASSES 7-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Communications
- b. Minutes-June 1, 2017

MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 7-0.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

Marsha Madle, Meridian Area Business Association (MABA) President, was present and stated that in the past the EDC has had a MABA representative in the past and she would like to get re-engaged.

6. PRESENTATION

None.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Brixie distributed and reviewed the financial report dated 7/1/17. Report on file.

MOTION BY MEMBER LEDEBUHR TO APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORT. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER DUNHAM. MOTION PASSES 7-0.

8. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

None.

9. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

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

10. NEW BUSINESS/CHAIR REPORT

- Chris Buck stated he will be working 20-25 hours per week through August 31st doing Economic Development for the Township with a focus on Downtown Okemos and Haslett. He will be continuing as EDC Chair, serving on the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, attending DDA and CIA meetings, as well as attending ribbon cutting events.
- Chris Buck and Marsha Madle attended a meeting regarding helping to lease part of the Lake Trust building.
- Met twice with the Shaping the Avenue folks. They will be having some work sessions coming up August 14-16, 2017.
- Chris mentioned the following upcoming meetings he has on his schedule: MEDC, LEAP, Chamber, Meridian Mall, and Kris Elliott.

11. OLD BUSINESS

a. Matching Grant Façade Improvement Program Draft

Chris mentioned façade grants may be available through MEDC and he suggested to table the Township grant program until he can learn more from the MEDC about what they may have available. The group agreed with tabling the façade improvement program.

b. Business Retention & Expansion Program Draft

Discussion was had regarding scheduling visits in PICA zones first. The group discussed possible questions to discuss with businesses. Also, discussion took place to reach out to businesses that may be at their milestone anniversaries and discuss their vision, successes, concerns, hiring needs and various updates.

12. STAFF REPORT

a. Development Projects Update

- Mark shared that Ellison Brewery is adding outdoor seating.
- Dr. Portnoy's office submitted a new site plan for a 4,000 square foot office space.

13. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

- Ben Motil has departed. This summer we will re-evaluate what we are doing in Economic Development.
- Thank you to all the volunteers at Celebrate Meridian.
- We have been busy doing millage presentations.
- COSTCO is expected to open in November.
- Moving forward, the Manager would like to see a redevelopment fund for grants or loans for businesses within a certain geographical boundary.

14. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

- Phil reported the Board received a clean Township audit.
- The Board recently passed the distributed antennae systems (DAS) program which will help keep the poles out of neighborhoods and keep them attractive.
- The Board is working on the Master Plan and the Hannah Farms development.

15. MERIDIAN MALL REPORT

- Shawn reported that the mall tenants were busy on the day of Celebrate Meridian.
- They have a couple of new tenants coming soon.

16. FARMERS' MARKET RELOCATION UPDATE

Dave reported we are fine tuning the cost projections now and the project is in our hands now. They are looking at the Central Park design to see if any pieces might be able to be incorporated into the Farmers' Market design.

17. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

- Chris mentioned he is working on the Redevelopment Ready Community process.
- The CIA is working on sign ordinance revisions and Shaping the Avenue will be involved also.

18. PUBLIC REMARKS

Mikhail Murshak mentioned that Celebrate Meridian was a huge success.

19. NEXT MEETING DATE

- Thursday, August 3, 2017 at 7:30am

20. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chris Buck adjourned the meeting at 8:43am.