



Charter Township of Meridian
Meridian Economic Development Corporation
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Thursday, February 2, 2023– Minutes

Members

Present: Treasurer Phil Deschaine, Trisha Bird, Chair Kim Thompson, Brenda Chapman, Adam Carlson and Trustee Kathy Sundland

Members

Absent: Dave Ledebuhr, Manager Frank L. Walsh, and Shawn Dunham

Others

Present: Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark, Executive Assistant Michelle Prinz, and Planning Commissioner Peter Trezise

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:35 am.

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 CARLSON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CHAPMAN. MOTION PASSES 5-0.

MOTION BY MEMBER CHAPMAN TO AMEND THE SECOND, THIRD AND FORTH SENTENCES ON THE MEMO FOR ITEM 7.A-2023 EDC OFFICER ELECTION. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER SUNDLAND. MOTION PASSES 5-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes-Meeting January 6, 2023
- b. Financial Report December
- c. Financial Report January
- d. Development Projects

MOTION BY MEMBER CHAPMAN TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CHAPMAN. MOTION PASSES 5-0.

5. PRESENTATION-Director Schmitt Sign Ordinance Update

The presentation has been postponed until the March meeting.

6. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. 2023 EDC Officer Election

After discussion the following slate of officers were presented:

Kimberly Thompson, Chair

Adam Carlson, Vice Chair

Frank L. Walsh, Secretary/Treasurer

Brenda Chapman, EDC representative on the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

MOTION BY MEMBER THOMPSON TO APPROVE THE 2023 SLATE OF OFFICERS, AS PRESENTED. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER BIRD. MOTION PASSES 5-0.

b. Corridor Improvement Authority-TIF Update

Director Clark shared the map of the CIA boundaries and discussed how she is working with the Township Board to amend their resolution establishing a CIA to include the ability to add a TIF giving the CIA the financial ability to carry out their mission for projects/improvements to enhance the Corridor.

c. RRC Recertification Economic Development Strategy Update

Director Clark reported that we are in the second year of the RRC recertification process. A part of the certification effort includes building the economic development strategy. A draft strategy was included in the packet for discussion. She suggested to hold a stakeholder meeting to discuss the strategy. This would include a member of the DDA, CIA, EDC and Meridian Mall. Chair Thompson agreed to be the EDC representative.

MOTION BY MEMBER THOMPSON TO SERVE AS THE EDC REPRESENTATIVE ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY COMMITTEE. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER CARLSON. MOTION PASSES 5-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. March is Women in Business Support-March 10, 2023

Director Clark announced that Tinkrlab will be hosting a “Women Em-Powerment Do it Yourself Drywall Series” on Friday, March 10th. She suggested that the EDC consider sponsoring no more than 10 female business owners for the two hour class for \$500. There was not support to sponsor the event. There was discussion about conducting a survey to women owned businesses to see what type of an event they would like to participate in or host to possibly share business skills.

b. Small Business Recognition and Promotion Program

Discussion was had about additional awards for small businesses. There was little interest in additional awards, but agreement in continuing to support the end of the year MABA awards. An opportunity to promote local businesses quarterly through social media was discussed.

9. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

a. Township Board

Trustee Sundland and Treasurer Deschaine reported the following:

- Board approved the Brownfield for the Haslett Village Project
- Developing a Senior/Community Center Task Force
- Discussing a TIF for the CIA
- Holding a Study Session to discuss updates to the sign ordinance and redevelopment ready communities recertification
- Holding a community forum on March 7th to discuss the status of the Village of Okemos Project with the developers
- Discussing recreational marihuana ordinances

b. Township Manager

None.

c. Planning Commission

Commissioner Trezise reported the Planning Commission has three new members and moving forward Milton Scales will serve as liaison to the EDC. The Planning Commission is planning a work session on the Master Plan.

d. Chair

None.

e. Staff

None.

10. COMMUNITY REPORTS

a. Meridian Mall

None.

b. MABA

None.

11. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

Discussion around an urban community garden. Director Clark will discuss further with the Environmental Commission.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

- March 2, 2023 at 7:30am

14. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 9:05am.