

**MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMISSION
MARCH 8TH, 2023
CONFERENCE ROOM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

PRESENT: Kimberly Maingu, Georgia Styka, Yvette Robinson, Karen Webster, Kathy Langhals, Naren Turimella

ABSENT:

STAFF: Mary McGinnis

BOARD LIASON: Marna Wilson, Wilson had to leave meeting at 6:50pm due to prior engagement.

PUBLIC:

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson Styka called meeting to order at 6:02pm.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Agenda was approved as written.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Yvette Robinson moved to approve February minutes, seconded by Kathy Langhals. Minutes were approved as written.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Kim Maingu provided fundraiser flyers and documents that the CRC has used in the past.
- B. Mary McGinnis shared that the Dusty's Cellar Meridian Cares fundraiser amount totaled \$3,000. Marna Wilson advocated for more painless giving events similar to this in the future.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. CRC Subcommittee Update

- i. The subcommittee discussed ideas on how to expand Meridian Care's services outside of rent, utilities, and transportation.
- ii. Kathy Langhals brought forward the idea of assisting with co-pays and prescriptions.

- iii. Kim Maingu suggested laundry assistance and the possibility of providing YMCA passes to community members in need.
- iv. Yvette Robinson emphasized the \$50,000 budgeted amount. Robinson reached out to numerous businesses and organizations in the area to assess need and come up with ways the CRC could assist.
- v. Marna Wilson emphasized that Meridian Cares uses taxpayer dollars and that any expansion of our programs would need to be approved by administration.
- vi. Discussion was held about whether or not taxpayer dollars can be used for medical costs. Marna Wilson, board liaison, believes that it is outside of the CRC's scope.
- vii. Yvette Robinson shares that the CRC is "more than Meridian Cares" and that according to the CRC Code of Ordinances, it is the commission's job to assess needs in the community and recommend programs to address that need. The ordinance also highlights that proposals from the CRC need to be voted on by the CRC, then approved by the appropriate Township commissions or Township Boards.
- viii. Laundry assistance is something that is currently being done in other communities that we could look into. Staff would purchase vouchers from laundromat and make them available for residents in need. It was proposed that residents can receive a laundry voucher once a month.
- ix. Karen Webster provided a packet of information regarding expansion opportunities in the area. Webster suggested looking into the Sparrow mobile clinic service. The clinic could possibly set up in a low income housing area, such as Grange Acres.
- x. The idea of providing assistance for dental services was also brought up. Yvette Robinson suggested "Dental Lifeline Network" in Okemos as a starting point.
- xi. Georgia Styka emphasized the importance of writing and presenting a proposal at the CRC meeting, so that it can be brought to administration.
- xii. Kim Maingu requested that Mary McGinnis inquire with CATA about increasing Redi-Ride discount from 40% to 50%.

B. Foster Care Suitcase Program

- i. Idea was proposed to assist children and teens in Michigan foster care.
- ii. Possibly purchase suitcases and living supplies to provide to this population. Similar to the Backpack program.
- iii. Information needed for this proposal would be how much to be spent, and how to generate a list of Meridian Township only Foster Care population.

- C. Mary McGinnis shared a Community Resource Commission brochure that was used in the past and has been updated for the current year.
 - i. Karen Webster requested that transportation be added to the flyer.
 - ii. Georgia Styka moved to print 100 copies of this brochure. This was seconded by Naren Turimella and unanimously approved by commission.

- D. Yvette Robinson shared the CRC informational flyer and DEI statement for approval.
 - i. Kathy Langhals moved to approve DEI statement, seconded by Kim Maingu. DEI statement was unanimously approved by commission.
 - ii. Kim Maingu moved to approve CRC informational flyer, seconded by Karen Webster. Flyer was unanimously approved by commission.
 - iii. She will email these to Mary McGinnis so that they can be approved by communications.

- E. Farmers Market Table
 - i. Open invitation for the CRC to have a booth at the farmers market on Saturday, March 18th.
 - ii. Mary McGinnis will send sign-up email to commission.

VI. HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM REPORT

- A. Staff presented February 2023 financial report.

VII. OPEN FORUM

None.

VIII. ADJOURNEMENT

Commissioner Robinson moved to adjourn meeting, seconded by Kathy Langhals. Meeting adjourned without objection at 7:43pm.