

**MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMISSION
JANUARY 11, 2022
CONFERENCE ROOM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

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

ABSENT: Suzanne Brouse

STAFF: Mary McGinnis

BOARD LIASON: Marna Wilson

PUBLIC: Stephen Keskes

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson Styka called meeting to order at 6:04pm.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Kathy Langhals moved to approve agenda as written, seconded by Kim Maingu.

III. PUBLIC REMARKS

Introductions and welcome for two new commission members, Naren Turimella and Karen Webster.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Yvette Robinson moved to approve December minutes, seconded by Karen Webster. Minutes were approved as written.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Ambulance Waiver Program Application

- i. Staff shared more information on resident's income and situation. It is the opinion of staff that this application should be approved.
- ii. Kathy Langhals moved to approve application, seconded by Yvette Robinson.
- iii. Waiver application was approved, staff will take the next steps and alert resident.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Knob Hill Response

- i. Staff and Board Liaison shared information regarding the Township response to the Knob Hill Apartment fire that took place on December 21st, 2022.
- ii. Arrowtree and Club Meridian apartments offered to waive security deposits and first month's rent for residents affected by the fire.
- iii. Monetary donations were being sent to the Meridian Cares PayPal, and then transferred to a Knob Hill Relief restricted fund.
- iv. Donations of items and food are being held at Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos. The donations room is acting as a "free store", first for Knob Hill residents only, but now open to all members of the community.
- v. Kathy Langhals expressed that she feels it would have been appropriate for the CRC to be kept in the loop regarding the fire response. This sentiment was echoed by Karen Webster. Board Liaison, Marna Wilson, responded that she completely understands and emphasized how fast everything was moving, and how necessary a swift response was. She also shared that the choice to utilize the Meridian Cares fund was made by Township management. Staff liaison, Mary McGinnis, apologized for not thinking to email the CRC regarding the response. In the future, if anything similar were to occur, staff will be certain to notify commission members.
- vi. Commission emphasized how amazing the community response was to the tragedy, and commended those directly involved in the response.

VII. HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM REPORT

- A. Staff shared December 2022 financial report.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Due to damage to a main water line at ELMWSA, Meridian Township is under a "conserve water notice" until the line is repaired and the water can be treated properly.

IX. PUBLIC REMARKS

- A. Stephen Keskes, Okemos Public Schools(OPS) assistant superintendent and homeless liaison, joined the meeting. He wants to learn more about the CRC and ways that we can work together to provide a greater quality of care to Okemos students.
 - i. Okemos teachers raised \$24,000 for those affected by the Knob Hill fires, which was distributed among families.
 - ii. All Knob Hill residents who were in OPS before the fires have returned to school, with the exception of 2 who are returning in February.

- iii. Keskes' role as homeless liaison is to become aware when an OPS student becomes homeless, and work with them to make sure they can stay in school. He also connects students and families with resources to avoid homelessness and get back on track.
- iv. Keskes has access to funds from an entitlement grant, which can be used to purchase things like school supplies, sports uniforms, Wi-Fi, and transportation expenses for students in need.
- v. The commission thanked Stephen for attending and sharing interesting information about his position. Staff will set up a meeting with Keskes to discuss further.

X. ADJOURNEMENT

Commissioner Robinson moved to adjourn meeting, seconded by Kim Maingu.
Meeting adjourned without objection at 7:14pm.