

**MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP  
COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 8, 2023  
ADMIN CONFERENCE ROOM**

PRESENT: Chair Styka, Vice-Chair Robinson, Commissioner Langhals, Commissioner Turimella, Commissioner Maingu, Commissioner Webster

ABSENT:

STAFF: Human Services Specialist Love

BOARD LIASON: Trustee Wilson

PUBLIC:

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

A: Chair Styka called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

A: Add Zoom meetings to new business 6D

B: Add Year End Report/Annual Appeal Letter 6E

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Commissioner Robinson moves to approve the October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, minutes as written.**

**Seconded by Commissioner Langhals**

**Motion Carried 6-0.**

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

A: Thanksgiving/Holiday Food Baskets

- Going well. Sponsors for Thanksgiving baskets are St. Lukes Church, Federau group, Okemos Presbyterian, Red Cedar Church, St. Marthas woman's group, Commons Church, Schafer Dental and Okemos Community Church.
- Our DPW will handle the rotary delivery for Grange Acres in December. The date of delivery will be **Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00**. Any CRC member is welcome to participate. Meet at the Community Center at 10:00 A.M.
- St. Lukes will be delivering Thanksgiving baskets door to door on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> between 9-12 to Grange Acres and Carriage Lane.

- Edgewood village deliveries of food only Meijer gift cards will be Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 p.m. (meet at the Okemos HS parking lot at 1:00 P.M.) Any CRC members are welcome to attend.
- Marsh point deliveries of food baskets and Meijer food only gift cards will be November Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 P.M. (meet Katie at the Marsh Point parking lot at 1:00 P.M.) I will be shopping with OHS high school students at 10:00 a.m. to purchase food. Any CRC members are welcome to attend. The OHS ACTION team is making 50 cards for the residents at Marsh Point.

**B: Halloween Extravaganza**

- Commissioner Webster had a nice time at the event. It ran from 4-6 P.M. Typically 150 people are there. 7 cars were trunks for treats. Inside were activities done by ACTION students.
- For the future it would be nice to have a brochure of information with a coloring/activity sheet for kid's events.

**C: 2024 Commission appointments**

- We have an interested candidate to join the CRC, Lisa Whiting-Dobson.
- Feedback from email that was sent with her bio was good.
- Discussion that she would be a great fit for our commission.
- She is already an appointee on the communication commission, so make sure that is pointed out to Supervisor Jackson.

**Commissioner Styka moves to bring forth Lisa Whiting-Dobson's name to Supervisor Jackson for inclusion on our commission effective in January 2024.**

**Motion Carried 6-0.**

**D: Marketing**

- Meridian Cares will be reserved a spot in the full color Prime magazine that will be published once in 2024.

**E: Fundraisers**

- Dusty's Celler Fundraiser: Liaison Wilson spoke with Matt Rhodes from Dusty's Celler. They are not in the position this year to do a 1-1 match of donations. Wilson will contact Matt next week to follow up after their weekend meeting. We would do all the advertising. They would just collect the money.
- Baby Bottle Boomerang: Target denied our gift card request. A Commissioner who chooses to remain anonymous would like to make a \$300 donation for the purchase of Baby Bottles for this fundraiser. A huge THANK YOU! We plan to carry out this fundraiser in early 2024.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### A: Grant Approval

- We received a community grant from Walmart for \$1000.00. The check has already been received for our Emergency Needs fund.

B: This was doubled up on the agenda. Already talked about 4C.

C: Okemos Food Pantry - Love had a meeting with Beth Baldwin and Mary Garder from the Okemos Food Pantry located at Okemos Community Church. (see packet material)

- They are struggling to get monetary and food donations.
- They are running out of room, find it hard to get donations could be because people assume it is run by the church. They are not connected to the church. They are a pantry that falls under the Lansing Food Bank. There are 17 in the Greater Lansing Area.
- They are involved in the Simply Give program, they do receive food from the GLFB once a month, no meat, you have no idea what you will get.
- They are to feed all in 48864 zip code with need that comes to them.
- Areas of concern: Branding, Awareness, Space, Financing, location.
- Their question was... why is Meridian Township not more involved in the Okemos and Haslett food bank?
- They are looking to the future and will this trajectory they are not going to make it.
- What would prevent Meridian Cares from getting involved in helping the food pantry?
- Possible fridge/freezer space at other pantries.
- Liaison Willson shared concern about straying in the lane of satellite food pantries that are under the control of a non-profit organization.
- Meridian Cares could use our entity to help spread the word with branding.
- We can offer support but helping with administration would be out of scope.
- Need to raise awareness that when doing food drives to the food pantries, keep it local instead of to the Greater Lansing food bank. Instead donate directly to Okemos/Haslett Food Pantry

### D: Zoom Meetings

- Any time Okemos Public schools are closed on the day of our meeting we move our meeting to zoom.
- Liaison Wilson has a zoom license, and we can use her meeting room for these meetings.
- No cameras are needed. You can call in on your phone if you would like.

### E: Year End Report

- In addition to our successes have we done a donor letter?

- We have helped \_\_\_ people.
- Send a letter to all the donors.
- Love will send last year's yearend report for review.
- There is a lot of competition for donations.
- A possible timeline would be the end of January.

## **6. HUMAN SERVICES REPORT**

A: Love created a new layout for the Community Needs Fund report.

B: Emergency Funds used so far in 2023 is \$33,523.63

C: We have \$35,701.91 in cash to use for emergency needs.

D: We also have around \$40,000 in a money market.

E: We have \$5236.00 in the knob hill fire fund. We may have a resident who would be eligible to use this money.

F: Liaison Wilson recommended changing the word "committed" to "restricted" when talking about reserved funds for certain needs on the Needs Report.

## **7. BOARD LIASON REPORT- Board Liaison Wilson**

The Senior/Community center continues to progress. There are talks with the mall about purchasing and repurposing a spot. The current senior center will be torn down in the next 5-6 years. The township will be approving a company to help with preplanning and messaging.

## **8. OPEN FORUM**

## **9. ADJOURNEMENT**

Chair Styka adjourned the meeting at 7:02 P.M. with no opposition.