

**MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP  
COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 21, 2024  
ADMIN CONFERENCE ROOM**

PRESENT: Chair Styka, Vice-Chair Robinson, Commissioner Whiting-Dobson, Commissioner Webster, Commissioner Maingu

ABSENT: Commissioner Turimella, Commissioner Langhals

STAFF: Human Services Specialist Love

BOARD LIASON: Trustee Wilson

PUBLIC: Bella from MSU Journalism School

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

A: Chair Styka called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

Accepted as written.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Correct the name of the Rotary Club. Under Old Business change *the Okemos/Haslett Rotary* to *the Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club*.

**Commissioner Robinson moves to approve the January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, minutes with the above changes. Seconded by Commissioner Webster. Motion Carried 4-0.**

**4. Welcome/Introduction of Lisa Whiting-Dobson.**

Commissioner Whiting-Dobson teaches Television Production at Michigan State University. She is excited to join and interested in social justice.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

A: Fundraisers

- Baby Bottle Fundraiser is going on NOW.
- Baby bottles are currently at Playmakers, Tom's Food Centers & Court One.
- The Treasury Department is helping to collect and turn in all the coins.
- It has been a great way to not only get donations but to spread the word about Meridian Cares.
- The news has done spots on Fox47 and WILX.
- Haslett Community Church had a kids sermon using the baby bottles and collected donation in the congregation.

#### B: Operation Gratitude

- Commissioner Webster coordinated distribution with Cherie at the Meridian Senior Center.
- Meridian Cares gave out 26 bags. Commissioner Webster included cookies.
- Bags include card games, snacks, candy, hand sanitizer, scarf, decals, bracelets etc.

#### C: Facebook Page

- The *Meridian Cares* facebook page is back up and running.
- Specialist Love trained with the communication department to learn the correct tone, branding, and language for the page. Love was also taught the scheduling software.
- The Facebook page will be a landing spot for residents looking for assistance as well as community members looking to donate.
- Please share and like items from the *Meridian Cares* facebook page.

### 5. NEW BUSINESS

#### A: HOMTV

- Specialist Love met with HOMTV Intern Camille DuVernois.
- Camille would like to do a story about Meridian Cares, what we do and how we help the community.
- Camille will be at our next board meeting in March to learn more.
- Camille would like to interview board members. If you would like to share your experience or thoughts with HOMTV, please let Specialist Love know.

#### B: Lori Noyer: Executive Director, Ingham Health Plan Corp to speak in March

- Lori is going to speak at our next meeting in March to give us more information about the Ingham Health Plan relating to dental.
- This will give us information on how we can better support our residents.
- Commissioner Webster sent information about local clinics and what they offer. Specialist Love will resend this to the commission.

#### C: Community Resource Connection

- Specialist Love is planning to have a Community Resource Connection with local organizations, churches, non-profits etc. This will be held on an afternoon in April in the Town Hall room from 1-3 P.M.
- Each organization will have 5 minutes to share who they are, what they do, who they serve etc. Only 5 minutes will be allowed but they may bring information to hand out. This is not open to the public.
- A survey was sent to 57 local organizations to which 33 responded that they would be interested in attending.

D: Senior Center Schedule of Events: Specialist Love will hold these programs.

- Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>: 12:30 Senior Center SNAP benefit appointments
- Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>: 11:00 A.M.: Five Wishes Presentation at Senior Center
- Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>: 11:00 A.M.: Senior Center SNAP benefits information

E: Joint Board & Commissions Meeting

- March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M.
- All committees have a few minutes to share what is going on in their committee. All township committees are invited to attend.
- If you would be interested in attending, please let Specialist Love know, the CRC would want 2-3 people to attend.

## **6. HUMAN SERVICES REPORT**

A: Emergency Funds used in January 2024 were \$2,313.00

B: We received a \$2,500.00 grant from Consumers Energy Foundation. This grant cannot be used for utilities, it can only be used for rent.

- Specialist Love asked Trustee Wilson if this grant needed to be presented to the Meridian Township board for approval, to which she said no.
- When the Financial Director puts the grant in the fund it will need to be restricted to rent assistance only.

**Commissioner Robinson makes a motion to approve Specialist Love to purchase five \$50 food-only gift cards for distribute as appropriate. Seconded by Commissioner Styka. Motion Carries 5-0.**

C: PayPal balance is \$2,625.44

D: In January we purchased another 100 redi-ride passes.

## **7. BOARD LIASON REPORT**

A: Community Center/Incorporating a Senior Center

- Trustee Wilson gave an update on the task force created for the Community Center incorporating a senior center. They have engaged a professional services company that specializes in building municipal buildings like community/senior centers. They are currently identifying needs.
- There is currently a piece of land where a center could be built but they are trying to repurpose an existing building. The task force reached out to the mall to see if Younkers was available. Unfortunately, the building is too large with too issues of high expense.
- Numbers don't make any sense for using the Younkers space.
- If anyone knows of any space around 45,000 square feet, please let the task force know.

**B: American House**

- American House is a brand-new independent living senior complex.
- They tried to get temporary occupancy, which they were not approved for yet.

**C: Other large parcel of land: Haslett Village**

- Held up by the Ingham County Drain Office.

**D: Trader Joes will open in early June 2024.**

**8. OPEN FORUM:**

**9. ADJOURNEMENT**

Commissioner Robinson adjourned the meeting at 7:01 P.M. with no opposition.