

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING PLANNING COMMISSION
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
MONDAY, March 11, 2024, 6:30 pm

PRESENT: Chair Shrewsbury, Commissioners Blumer, Brooks, McCurtis, McConnell, and Scales

ABSENT: Vice-Chair Snyder

STAFF: Senior Planner Brian Shorkey

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
Chair Shrewsbury called the March 11, 2024 regular meeting for the Meridian Township Planning Commission to order at 6:30pm.
2. ROLL CALL
Chair Shrewsbury called the roll of the Board. All board members present except Vice-Chair Snyder.
3. PUBLIC REMARKS
None.
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Commissioner Blumer moved to approve the March 11, 2024 regular Planning Commission meeting agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Scales. Motion passed unanimously.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Commissioner Brooks moved to approve the Minutes of the February 12, 2024 Planning Commission Regular Meeting as amended. Seconded by Commissioner McConnell. Motion passed unanimously as amended.
6. COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. None
7. PUBLIC HEARINGS
 - A. None
8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A. None
9. OTHER BUSINESS
 - A. 2024 Workplan Discussion

Senior Planner Shorkey reviewed the issues brought up in the February 12 meeting. The Planning Department is working on off-street parking standards and maximum/minimum numbers. The landscape ordinance overlaps with the Environmental Commission and their input will be sought. The Planning Department will bring to the Planning Commission the

information they need regarding the items on the list brought up in the February 12th meeting. Asked Commissioners to prioritize or select a few items to start. Commissioner McConnell asked for clarity about parking. Senior Planner Shorkey responded that the department is researching what other communities are doing and what is emerging as best practices, and that there is some overlap with the landscape ordinance. Commissioner Scales asked for more information about ADA access, Senior Planner Shorkey responded that the department is currently not looking at ADA generally and addresses it per site plan. Commissioner Brooks commented that ADA would make sense to include into the parking and landscaping goals, and that together they meet the strategic objectives of the Commission. Chair Shrewsbury asked the Commissioners for thoughts about prioritization, indicated that ADA should be a consideration in all topics instead of a standalone. Senior Planner Shorkey recommended ordering them 2. Off-street parking, 3 ADA Access, 4 Landscape Ordinance, 5 Mall PICA study, 1 Missing middle housing. Chair Shrewsbury indicated her support for Shorkey's suggestion. Shorkey indicated that PICA study would be a 5-6 page report to kick off deeper conversation.

Commissioner Scales made a motion that we prioritize our five issues for our 2024 work plan beginning with off-street parking ordinance, ADA access is number two, landscape ordinance update is number three, mall PICA study is number four, and missing middle housing regulations as our fifth priority. Supported by Commissioner Brooks.

VOICE VOTE YEAS: Chair Shrewsbury, Commissioners Blumer, Brooks, McCurtis, McConnell, and Scales

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 6-0

B. RN – Village of Nemoka District Discussion

Senior Planner Shorkey explained that the district language needs correction. The Planning Department analyzed the area and has presented 4 options to correct the district. Senior Planner Shorkey clarified current designations and clarified the processes that would need to occur to make the changes, including public hearings as necessary. Commissioner Scales suggested addressing it at this time based on the 1st option, then look at the 4th option in the future. Concurrence from other Commissioners. Senior Planner Shorkey will bring the text change back to the Commission to schedule a public hearing.

10. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Township Board Update

Senior Planner Shorkey said that the Board rezoned 5681 Shaw from Professional Office to RN-Village of Nemoka. Board denied the SUP for the storage facility 1614 Grand River objecting to size and proximity to the residential development to the north.

B. Liaison Reports

Commissioner Brooks reported that the CIA meeting approved a work plan for the year. Commissioner McConnell reminded the Commission of the March 26, 6pm Board and Commissions meeting. Commissioner Blumer reports that the DDA is frustrated with developers who are moving slowly because funding depends on project timelines.

11. PROJECT UPDATES

A. Project Report

Senior Planner Shorkey directed the Commission to the report included in the packet. Commissioner Scales asked for detail regarding a report in the paper from a Congressional politician regarding funding for the development at Hamilton and Okemos Roads. Senior Planner Shorkey indicated that he was not aware of the article and asked that he receive a copy.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

None

13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner McCurtis asked if there were details about the vandalism at the Nokomis Center and stated that he denounces the actions and that we are a welcoming township and should not stand for such hateful acts.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Shrewsbury called for a motion to close the meeting at 7:17 pm.

Commissioner Scales moved to close the March 11, 2024 regular meeting of the Planning Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Blumer. Motion passed unanimously.