

**MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMISSION
APRIL 10, 2024
ADMIN CONFERENCE ROOM**

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

ABSENT: Trustee Wilson

STAFF: Human Services Specialist Love

BOARD LIASON: Trustee Wilson, absent.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Accepted as written.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minute's passes unanimously.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A: Fundraisers

- March Madness
 - o \$5 donation to Meridian Cares for each bracket to participate.
 - o \$100.00 was donated.
 - o We had a women's and men's bracket challenge.

B: Community Resource Connection: April 23, 1-3 p.m.

- 35 organizations have RSVPed yes.
- 60+ people will be coming.
- Commissioners will help collate the information for organizations to take with them at the end.
- Commissioners will bring water bottles, cookies, and napkins.
- The agenda of the day will be sent to the CRC so commissioners know how the day will run.
- Organizations will only have 1-3 minutes to speak.
- Commissioners that can attend please arrive at 12:30 p.m.

C: Joint Board & Commissioners Meeting: March 26th 6 P.M.

- Chairperson Styka, Commissioner Turimella and Vice-Chair Robinson represented the CRC. Commissioner Whiting-Dobson was also in attendance representing the Communications Commission.
- The commissioners spoke of spreading the word.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

A: Biggby Coffee Celebration: April 11th

- Options for rounding up your order to support Meridian Cares.
- Specialist Love will inquire about how they decided to choose Meridian Cares.
- Specialist Love will share a photo via email with the Commissioners to spread the word to their network.

B: Protect the Pack: June 12th 5-7 p.m.

- Hosted by Okemos Public Schools
- Supervisor Love attended last year's event.
- They provide the table and chairs and last year we were under a tent.
- Last year we handed out suckers and flyers.
- This year perhaps we will add a kid friendly idea to hand out.
- Specialist Love will check prices of possible handouts.
- Currently this is a CRC meeting night, however we could cancel the meeting and attend the event.

C: Santa's Helpers

- Santa's First Responders (started by Gayelord Mankowski) have asked Meridian Cares to be part of their holiday party in December 2024.
- This event happens at Murphy Elementary School
- Meridian Cares would provide recipe cards, boxed one pot meals (hamburger helper style), and other food items to be given to the families along with their venison. Doing this helps families know how to prepare and use venison.
- The possibility to use leftover money from the Holiday food needs fund to provide these items or grants or possibly reaching out to Meijer for donations.
- The commissioners are interested in pursuing helping with this event.
- Gaylord said to plan for around 100 families.

D: Farmers Market Communication and Outreach

- Tom Cary with the Farmers market said that we are always welcome at any farmers market. Just let him know and he will reserve us a spot.
- He is looking at ways to educate the public about how your food stamps can go further at the market.
- At the May meeting, the commissioners will look at the farmers market dates for the summer to plan some possible dates.

E: Calendar

- Per the policy and procedure, the Community Resources Commission is only required to meet 10 times a year.
- In 2023 the commission choose to remove the June and August meeting dates.

Chairperson Styka proposes to cancel the scheduled meetings of the Community Resource Commission on June 12, 2024, and August 14, 2024. Seconded by Vice-Chair Robinson. Motion Carried 7-0.

7. HUMAN SERVICES REPORT

A: Emergency Funds used in March 2024 were \$2,976.80

B: Water bill round ups still is not showing. These should appear in April.

C: Upon reflection there is an error in one of the numbers either for “starting cash balance” or “ending cash balance”. Specialist Love will resend a needs fund report with the correct numbers.

D: We have used \$250.00 of our \$2,500.00 consumers grant.

E: We have used \$9,529.63 out of our budgeted \$40,000 for the year.

F: We thank HOMTV for doing a documentary on Meridian Cares. Thank you, Commissioner Turimella, for sharing in the documentary.

G: Specialist Love has applied for another TC Energy grant to help with holiday food assistance for 2024.

8. BOARD LIASON REPORT: Not present.

Could Liaison Wilson offer a short paragraph with any updates she may want to share?

9. OPEN FORUM:

Affordable Housing:

- Commissioner Webster gave each commissioner a packet of articles related to affordable housing. (These will be scanned and kept on in the “packets” section of the Meridian Township website.)
- Discussion around these topics.
- Encouragement to commissioners to keep this need on the mind of the Township board. Perhaps attending meetings and speaking during public comment.

Packets for new residents:

- Commissioner Whiting-Dobson suggested a bag of handouts for families with new babies.
- Discussion continued about how we may be able to provide bags of welcome and literature (given to us by organizations coming to our resource connection) to give to landlords of low-income apartments in the area to pass along to new residents. Perhaps we could use HOMTV and communications to help us reach residents.

10. ADJOURNEMENT

Vice-Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 7:27 P.M. with no opposition.