

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

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

ABSENT:

STAFF: Human Services Specialist Love

BOARD LIASON: Trustee Wilson

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

A: Chair Styka called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Accepted as written.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice-Chair Robinson moves to approve the May 8, 2024, minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Langhals. Motion Carried 7-0

4. OLD BUSINESS

A: Recent Events

1. Protect the Pack: Thank you to Vice-Chair Robinson, Commissioner Webster, Commissioner Whiting-Dobson and Commissioner Turimella for attending and being at our booth.
 - Good turnout.
 - Mention to the organizers that it was very cramped under the tent, very little room to move around.
2. Celebrate Meridian: Thank you to Commissioner Turimella for helping at the event. Huge attendance of people. Not many came to our booth but was important to be there.
 - For next year, check to see if electricity is a possibility so we could show slides about Meridian Cares that people may view instead of coming up to the table.
3. #Sockoutsuicide: The extra help we were able to offer with advertising and promotion was very helpful for this event.

B: Intergeneration Art Project

- Specialist Love will talk to Jen Baker (art teacher at Bennett) and Jenny Cronin (art teacher at Kinawa) to start a conversation about how we can get an intergenerational art/note project planned for the winter months.

- We could get a list of names of those who would appreciate a card from Marsh Point, Grange Acres, Meridian Senior Center.
- Commissioner Webster will contact the teachers for further connection and planning.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A: Ambulance Waiver Request

- The application and income proof provided showed that the resident fell within the guidelines to receive a 50% deduction in her ambulance ride bill.

Chairperson Styka voiced and approved with a signature the request for 50% exemption for ambulance bills dated 01/4/23-03/07/24, for the resident listed on the application. Vice-Chair Robinson seconded and signed for approval.

B: Ride YourWay Cost for resident

- Ride YourWay is Michigan's top non-emergency medical transportation provider.
- Request for a resident who is wheelchair bound to get transportation to a wheelchair fitting at the Clinton Rehabilitation and Fitness Center in St. Johns on July 22nd at 10:30 a.m.
- The cost for the ride is \$75.00 Flat rate round trip and 143.79 Mileage Rate (\$3/mile) for a total of \$218.79.

Chairperson Styka moves to approve a one-time charge from the emergency needs fund to pay \$218.79 for a resident to use Ride YourWay to get to his medical appointment. Seconded by Vice-Chair Robinson.

C: Back to School Supplies with Rotary and Kiwanis donation.

- Rotary and Kiwanis have both committed \$2500.00 for a total of \$5000.00 to support a back-to-school needs program to be run through Meridian Cares.
- Specialist Love sent a survey to teachers in the Haslett and Okemos school district to find their priority needs. 45 responses were received.
- Specialist Love shared a spreadsheet which shows the breakdown of what each building requested.
- Items include backpacks full of school supplies, separate supplies including glue sticks, colored pencils, markers, pencils, pencil pouches, scissors, pocket folders, pencil top erasers, composition notebooks, spiral notebooks, lined paper, headphones and earbuds Items for hygiene kits including men's and women's deodorant, body wipes, hairbrushes, hygiene kit bags, toothbrushes/paste/floss (given in a grant by Delta Dental). Items also include socks, reusable water bottles, 3 ring binders, scientific calculators and snacks for the offices.
- Between 7/15-8/5 items will be purchased at the best available price.

- Items will be packed and prepared for delivery to the school buildings on August 13th from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Town Hall room.
- Specialist Love will investigate an Amazon wish list for future needs.

D: Public Service Application to join the Community Resource Commission.

- The Community Resource Commissions current articles state that we have 7-9 openings on the Community Resource Commission. We currently have 7 commissioners.
- Daiah Williams has applied.

Chairperson Styka moves to invite applicant Daiah Willaims to the September 11th meeting of the Community Resource Commission. Seconded by Vice-Chair Robinson. Motion carried 7-0.

E: Coat Drive: September/Fall Electronics Recycling Day September 21, 9-1 p.m.

Possible collaboration with Okemos Community Church

- This year Meridian Cares can collaborate with OCC to get coats, boots and snowpants directly into the hands of residents who need them.
- OCC will ask the residents who use their food bank what items and sizes they need.
- Meridian Cares and OCC will collect donations in August and September and then match those donations to the needs.
- Anything left over after the needs are met will be distributed to St. Lukes coat closet, the needs closets at the schools or Cristo Rey.
- It would take more work this year as we would have to sort the donations to fit the needs.
- We may need to wash items, however, last year things came in very clean.

F: November 13th Meeting Date

- Specialist Love will be out of town on the November 13th meeting date.
 - We can either keep the date as it stands, and Human Resources Director Tithof will come in Specialist Love's place.
 - We can move the date to the first Wednesday in November. November 6th.

Commissioner Langhals moves to change the November 13, 2024, meeting date to November 6, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. Seconded by Commissioner Webster.

Motion carried 7-0

- Specialist Love will make the changes with the Clerk's office.

G: Holiday Food Assistance/Santas First Responders.

- Meridian Cares has committed to donating items to be given with venison at Santa's First Responders. We can also create easy recipe cards.
 - Santas first responders will be most likely be December 14th

- Specialist Love has created a “Christmas in July” letter to be sent to businesses and churches to see if they will sponsor families.
- Commissioners brought the names of local businesses to include in the mailing
- Included on the letter is a QR code that can be used to fill out a form explaining how to participate.

6. HUMAN SERVICES REPORT

- May and June Needs fund reports were available in the meeting packet.
- As of June 2024, we have used 49% of the budget and 50% of the year has passed. \$19,640.34/\$40,000.00
- Utility needs will be increasing starting July-September as the State of Michigan has run out of funding until the fiscal year begins on October 1st.
- A \$20,000 pledge was made by former Manager Frank Walsh at the April 21, 2024, board meeting. To date, no money has been received. The board suggested we send a thank you letter to Mr. Walsh acknowledging the pledge and see when we might receive the monies.

7. BOARD LISASON REPORT

- A lot of progress has been made on the Community/Senior Center.
- Three Listening sessions have taken place.
- Information sessions will be held where attendees can view large illustrations of the Meridian Township Community and Senior Center concept, speak with the concept’s designers and discuss plans for the center with Township Board members and staff.
 - Tuesday, July 16th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall of the Municipal Building
 - Wednesday, July 24th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Central Park Pavilion

8. OPEN FORUM

Commissioner Webster has been in contact with the Sparrow Mobile Health Clinic.

- We would like to connect them with Grange Acres and other unserved areas of Meridian Township to offer a full clinic which could include flu shots, shingles vaccines and Covid vaccines.
- Specialist Love will speak with Victoria, the new events leader at Grange, to make the connection between Grange and Sparrow.

9. ADJOURNEMENT

Commissioner Maingu made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 P.M. with no opposition.