

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
AGENDA
Wednesday, February 4, 2015**

**Town Hall Room
Meridian Municipal Building
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864**

Work Session

1. Call the work session to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Approval of the work session agenda
3. Review of the minutes of the January 7, 2015 work session/regular meeting
4. Other business
 - a. Update on propose mall outlot project
5. Public remarks
6. Adjournment

Regular Meeting

1. Call the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Approval of the regular meeting agenda
3. Approval of the minutes of the January 7, 2015, work session/regular meeting
4. Public remarks
5. Green Themes Presentation by Julie Powers, Director of the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition entitled: *Housing and the Environment*
6. Chair's Report
7. Communications/staff report
8. Other Business
 - a. Preparation for Meridian Leadership Group presentation
9. Study groups/liaison reports
 - a. Land Preservation: Jim Kielbaso
 - b. Energy Team: John Sarver
 - c. Street Tree Replacement: John Scherbarth
10. Public remarks
11. Adjournment

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
Meridian Municipal Building
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
January 7, 2015 - draft

WORK SESSION

PRESENT: Chair Jackson and Commissioners Kielbaso, McConnell, Sarver, Scherbarth, Schools, and Searl

ABSENT: None

STAFF

PRESENT: Richard F. Brown, Jr., AICP, Associate Planner

OTHERS

PRESENT: Planning Commissioner John Scott-Craig

1. **CALL WORK SESSION TO ORDER**

Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE WORK SESSION AGENDA**

Agenda approved without objection.

3. **REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2014 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING**

Minor corrections.

4. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Street Trees: Staff updated the entire commission regarding the discussion with the Planning Director from earlier today. Those who attended (Members Jackson, Scherbarth, and Kielbaso) added their thoughts as well.

Staff briefly summarized what heritage trees are and how they are catalogued at the township through a voluntary program. There are no formal protections for heritage trees.

5. **PUBLIC REMARKS**

None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Kielbaso to adjourn the Work Session at 7:07 p.m. Supported by Commissioner Searl. Approved 7-0.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
Meridian Municipal Building
January 7, 2015 - Draft**

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Chair Jackson and Commissioners Searl, McConnell, Schools, Scherbarth, Sarver, and Kielbaso

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Richard F. Brown, Jr., AICP, CBSP Associate Planner

OTHERS: Planning Commissioner John Scott-Craig

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

- **MOTION** by Commissioner McConnell to approve the agenda with the addition of items 9.b. on tree projects and 9.c. on improved publicity of Green Theme presentations. Supported by Commissioner Kielbaso. Approved 7-0.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 3, 2014 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Kielbaso to approve the minutes as corrected during the Work Session. Supported by Commissioner McConnell. Approved 7-0.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

None

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chari Jackson summarized the joint meeting with the Township Board and other commissions; indicated he would like to see the Commission do a better job of staying in touch with the Energy Team/LeRoy Harvey; and expressed a need for better signage and wayfinding options for the Township's pathways and trail network.

6. COMMUNICATIONS/STAFF REPORT

Associate Planner Brown summarized the following:

- Accepting Environmental Stewardship Award nominations until 3/1/15
- Listed the Green Theme speakers lined up for February, March, and May.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR) FOR 2015

Commissioner Scherbarth nominated Chair Jackson for re-election, which was supported

by Commissioner Sarver.

Chair Jackson appreciated the nomination, but indicated his workload had drastically increased in recent years.

Chair Jackson nominated Commissioner McConnell to be Chair in 2015. Commissioner Sarver supported the nomination and nominated Chair Jackson as Vice-Chair in 2015. Commissioner McConnell supported the nomination of Chair Jackson as Vice-Chair. Approved 7-0.

8. **SELECTION OF LAND PRESERVATION REPRESENTATIVE BY THE 2015 CHAIR**

Following a brief discussion, Chair McConnell selected Commissioner Kielbaso to be the Land Preservation representative for 2015.

9. **OTHER BUSINESS**

a. **Street Trees:** staff summarized the discussion from the Work Session and this morning's meeting with the Director.

b. **Tree Projects:** staff summarized the two projects impacting trees along Grand River Avenue – the proposed building on the former Northwest Tire site and the proposed retail building on the outlot site at 2002 Grand River in front of the mall.

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Kielbaso to send the following comments to the Township Board regarding the appeal case at the old Northwest Tire site (SUP #14111). Supported by Commissioner Scherbarth. Approved 7-0.

While the Environmental Commission supports the reuse of brownfield sites, it encourages all efforts be used to preserve as many of the six (6) significant trees on the site as possible by utilizing creative design."

c. **Green Themes promotion:** general discussion on ways to improve knowledge of the presentations. Commissioner Sarver noted Green Meridian as a useful resource.

d. **Township Priorities:** discussion on the priorities being set by the Township Manager for 2015.

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Sarver to send comments to the Township Manager on 2015 priorities the Commission would like to highlight (items 1.c., 1.e., and 1.o., plus item 4.z.) Supported by Commissioner Scherbarth. Approved 7-0.

10. **STUDY GROUPS/LIAISON REPORTS**

Commissioner Kielbaso summarized the on-going activities of the Land Preservation

Advisory Board, while Commission Sarver noted the latest news from the Energy Team.

Chair McConnell requested staff to list the study groups and commission liaisons on future agendas. He also formalized the street tree study group consisting of Commissioners Kielbaso and Scherbarth, as well as staff.

11. **PUBLIC REMARKS**

John Scott-Craig noted he was pleased to know about the upcoming Green Theme presentations.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Scherbarth to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Supported by Commissioner Jackson. Approved 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

