

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
Meridian Municipal Building – Town Hall Meeting Room
January 6, 2016 - APPROVED**

WORK SESSION

PRESENT: Chair McConnell, Vice-Chair Schools and Commissioners Jackson, Sarver, Kielbaso, and Dickmann

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Gail Oranchak, Principal Planner; Harmony Gmazel, Associate Planner

OTHERS: John Scott- Craig, Susan Masten

1. CALL WORK SESSION TO ORDER

Chair McConnell called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE WORK SESSION AGENDA

Approved by consent without objection.

3. REVIEW DRAFT COMMISSION GOALS/DEVELOP STRATEGIC PLAN for 2016-17

The Commission and staff prioritized goals for the Commission in 2016-17 and created the following strategic plan:

Administrative Goal:

The Commission desires to fill its vacancies with persons and youth who are interested in environmental aspects of community planning. There are portions of the Commission By-Laws that need to be updated in order to better support this goal.

Administrative Objectives:

- 1) Fill adult vacancies and youth vacancies (short term)
- 2) Amend the Commission By-Laws to: (short term)
 - Preserve one youth seat and create a seat for a person currently pursuing college-level environmental studies.
 - Allow the youth and college commissioners to vote at regular Environmental Commission meetings.
 - Alter the meeting requirement language to allow for more flexibility if a meeting is not warranted each month.

Collaborative Goal:

The Commission desires to more actively collaborate with the Land Preservation Advisory Board, Park Commission and Planning Commission in promoting the wise management of natural resources in the township. This effort will be strengthened with increased mutual data-sharing, reporting and information gathering.

Collaborative Objectives:

- 1) Regularly engage the chairs of the Land Preservation Board, Park Board and Planning Commission to align data needs and other planning tools related to environmental protection, land acquisition and land improvement. (continual)

- 2) Engage residents, businesses, fellow appointed and elected officials in the discussion of environmental issues, and the sharing of ideas related to:
 - Zoning ordinance updates that address climate change, brownfield redevelopment, street tree replacement. (mid to long term)
 - Planning tools such as maps and data that aid environmental planning decision-making. (mid to long term)
 - Improved wayfinding throughout the Township for pathways, businesses parks etc. (long-term)

5. OTHER BUSINESS

None

6. PUBLIC REMARKS

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Work Session was adjourned by Chair McConnell without objections at approximately 9:15 p.m.