

APPROVED

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
MERIDIAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (MTC)
MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 27, 2017

PRESENT: Commissioners: Chair Hackbarth, Vice-Chair Potter, Hudson, Kolbasa
and Vagnozzi

ABSENT: Commissioner Deschaine

STAFF: David Hall, Chief of Police
Mark Kieselbach, Director of Community Planning and Development

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Hackbarth called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Hudson asked to amend the agenda to make an announcement.

Vice-Chair Potter also asked to amend the agenda so he could read a proposed recommendation.

Commissioner Vagnozzi moved to approve the amended agenda and allow Commissioner Hudson and Vice-Chair Potter to speak at Public Remarks.

Seconded by Commissioner Hudson

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

3. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Vagnozzi asked that the minutes be amended for the last bullet point item on Page 2 to read as follows:

“A signal pedestrian crossing on Okemos Road at the west exit ramp from I-96 would be difficult”.

Vice-Chair Potter moved to approve the amended minutes of March 23, 2017

Seconded by Commissioner Kolbasa

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

4. Public Remarks

- Vice-Chair Potter read a proposed recommendation regarding improving safety on M-43 (Grand River Avenue). The recommendation was placed on file.
- Leonard Provencher expressed concern with the sidewalk on the south side of East End Drive not connecting to Park Lake Road.

- Peter Holz stated the need for the Township to establish a “Quiet Zone” that would prohibit the use of train horns when approaching and entering crossings. Commissioner Vagnozzi asked Mr. Holz to provide the Commission with the information he had on the topic.
- Ned Jackson spoke in support of the bicycle trails and public awareness of the trails. He thought the Township should address safety issues and signage related to the bicycle trails.
- Lisa Schools stated she was available as a resource on trail signage.
- Donna Rose spoke in support of audible signals being installed when road improvements are done or existing signals are replaced. She also stated people should be allowed to use Redi-Ride to go to the Meijer store in Bath Township.
- Commissioner Hudson announced CATA was having a Casual Commute Day on May 5, 2017. She encouraged Commission members to attend a CATA board meeting held on the third Wednesday of the month.

5. Communications

Chair Hackbarth indicated the Commission had received a resignation from Phyllis Vaughn. The Commission accepted the communications that had been received and placed on file.

5. Presentation/Discussion

Chair Hackbarth welcomed Derek Perry, Assistant Township Manager/Public Works and Engineering Director and LuAnn Maisner, Parks and Recreation Director.

Derek Perry

- Master Plan for Pedestrian Bicycle Pathway was updated in 2016
- Pathway development started in 1970
- 70 miles of existing pathways
- 21 miles of proposed pathways
- 33 miles of existing paved shoulders
- 37 miles of proposed paved shoulders
- Pathways are 7 feet in width, 8 feet next to curb
- MDOT requires a width of 10 feet
- Sidewalks 5 foot in width (neighborhoods/subdivisions) are not part of the pathway system
- Update on 2016 projects
 - Towner Road pathway (Marsh to Saginaw)
 - Towner Park to Newton Road trail
 - Phase 1 MSU to Lake Lansing trail
 - Tacoma Hills/Sander Farm trail
 - Jolly Road (Ambassador to Van Atta) paved shoulder
- Dedicated millage (.33 mil) for pathways approximately \$547,000 per year
- Developer pays to install pathway at time of development

- Money from Ingham County Trails and Park Millage for trail, pathway and bridge repairs
- A total of \$878,793 was received from the millage for 7 bridges (\$791,121) and trails/pathways (\$87,672)
- Working with MDOT on repair to the pathway on Grand River Avenue
- One-third of Township Pathway Millage used for maintenance and snow removal
- Two-thirds of Township Pathway Millage used for construction
- A portion of the Pathway Millage could be used for safety issues
- 2017 Projects
 - Mount Hope Road (Okemos to Maumee) pathway
 - Jolly Road (east of Summergate) pathway
 - Crosswalk at Okemos Road/Inter-Urban Trail
 - Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) yield for pedestrian in the crosswalk
 - Feasibility study of the MSU to Lake Lansing trail for MDOT
 - Bridge repairs
- 2018 and Future Projects
 - Trail/Pathway repairs
 - Phase 1 MSU to Lake Lansing trail
 - Towner Road paved shoulder
 - Jolly Road paved shoulder
 - Phase 2 MSU to Lake Lansing (\$1.2 million EST)
 - Phase 3 MSU to Lake Lansing (3.3 million EST)
 - Gap closures in pathway system
 - Way finding/Informational signs

LuAnn Maisner

- Overview of Central Park Master Plan (279 acres)
- Broadwalk connections across wetlands to connect to paved trails
- Trailhead near existing pond on Central Park Drive
- From trailhead 3-12 feet wide promenades
- Promenades connect to Service Center, Municipal Building and new Farmer's Market at the Meridian Mall
- New Farmer's Market will be an open-air pavilion
- Restrooms, performance platform, play/picnic area will be adjacent to the pavillion
- Public/Private partnership with owner of Meridian Mall
- 20 miles of nature trails in the Parks

7. Commission Discussion/Review

A. Pedestrian Safety Improvements

- Vice-Chair Potter gave an overview of the proposed recommendation related to improving the safety along M-43 (Grand River Avenue)
- Request the Township Board begin formal discussion with MDOT
- Commissioner Deschaine as a Trustee could help facilitate the recommendation

- The Road Department would support a full signal at Woodlake Drive and Jolly Road to aide pedestrian and bicyclists safely crossing

Vice Chair Potter moved to approve the recommendation

Seconded by Commissioner Hudson

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

B. Audible Signals

- The Ingham County Road Department did not plan on installing audible signals as part of the improvements to the Okemos/Jolly intersection
- With a high school, businesses, residential homes and CATA bus service in this area there is a need for audible signals
- It is less expensive to install the audible signals now rather than later.

Commissioner Vagnozzi moved the Transportation Commission recommend to the Township Board that the Board support keeping the north/south pedestrian crossing on the east side of the Okemos/Jolly intersection and audible signals at all four corners of the Okemos/Jolly intersection.

Seconded by Commissioner Hudson

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

8. Commission Comments

- Possible joint meeting with the City of East Lansing Transportation Commission
- Redi-Ride as a future agenda topic may need several meetings
- Request for information on the Delhi Township Redi-Ride
- Number of riders when school is in session and when school is out of session

9. Future Meeting Dates

- Consensus of the Commission was to meet the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Town Hall Room for the rest of this year, except for December when the meeting will be held on December 14th at 6:00 pm in the Town Hall Room.
- The next meeting date is May 25, 2017

10. Adjournment

Chair Hackbarth called for a motion to adjourn the meeting

Vice-Chair Potter moved to adjourn the meeting

Seconded by Commissioner Vagnozzi

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.