

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
WORK SESSION MINUTES**

**August 14, 2017**

**5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
Town Hall Room, 517-853-4560**

**PRESENT:** Chair Ianni, Vice-Chair Scott-Craig, Commissioners Premoe, Cordill, Tenagli (arrived at 6:13 p.m.)  
**ABSENT:** Commissioners Baruah, DeGroff  
**STAFF:** Director of Community Planning and Development Mark Kieselbach, Planning Intern Justin Quagliata, Interim Economic Development Director Chris Buck, Senior Planner Peter Menser

**1. Call meeting to order**

Chair Ianni called the work session to order at approximately 6:03 p.m.

**2. Approval of agenda**

Commissioner Cordill moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Richards. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Discussion**

**A. Shaping the Avenue presentation**

- Elizabeth Hude from the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) thanked the Planning Commission for the opportunity to speak before the group and introduced the members of the Shaping the Avenue team. Ms. Hude introduced Brad Funkhouser, the executive CEO of CATA who announced CATA's new mobile application called Transit.
- A team of consultants presented to the Planning Commission regarding the Shaping the Avenue initiative. Shaping the Avenue is an effort to draft and adopt form based code along Grand River Avenue and in downtown Okemos. The consultants provided an overview of the project, a brief introduction to the elements of form based code, and announced a public input session scheduled for a to-be-determined date in September, 2017.

**4. Public remarks**

- Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett voiced concerns over the cost of the Shaping the Avenue initiative and density proposed by the project and noted his opinion that the concept of staff-level project approvals proposed in the initiative would diminish the authority of the Planning Commission and Township Board. He also voiced concerns over a cost of living increase as a result of the project if adopted.

- Tim Potter, 4632 Van Atta Road, Okemos, noted his appreciation for CATA's new Transit application and the Shaping the Avenue focus on addressing pedestrian crossings on Grand River Avenue. He also shared an idea to address traffic congestion discussed in the past to install a bridge over the Red Cedar River that would connect Okemos Road with Marsh Road.

**5. Adjournment**

Chair Ianni adjourned the work session at approximately 6:51 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Menser