

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 14, 2013**

APPROVED

**5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
853-4000, Town Hall Room, 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Commissioners Cordill, Deits, Honicky, Ianni, Jackson, Norkin, Scott-Craig
ABSENT: Commissioner Hildebrandt
STAFF: Principal Planner Gail Oranchak

1. Call meeting to order

Chair Deits called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. Approval of agenda

Commissioner Cordill moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Scott-Craig.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Honicky moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2012. Seconded by Commissioner Jackson.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0.

4. Election of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary for 2013

Chair Deits opened the nominations for 2013 Chair of the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Scott-Craig nominated Patricia Jackson as 2013 Chair of the Planning Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Honicky.

Chair Deits closed the nominations for 2013 Chair of the Planning Commission.

By unanimous consent, Patricia Jackson was elected as 2013 Chair of the Planning Commission.

Chair Jackson opened the nominations for 2013 Vice-Chair of the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Scott-Craig nominated Tom Deits as 2013 Vice-Chair of the Planning Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Norkin.

Chair Jackson closed the nominations for 2013 Vice-Chair of the Planning Commission.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0.

Chair Jackson opened the nominations for 2013 Secretary of the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Norkin nominated Holly Cordill as 2013 Secretary of the Planning Commission. Seconded by Commission Scott-Craig.

Chair Jackson closed the nominations for 2013 Secretary of the Planning Commission.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 7-0.

Chair Jackson welcomed new Planning Commissioner Dante Ianni.

5. Public Remarks

Chair Jackson opened the floor for public remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, addressed transparency in government, requesting Planning Commission agendas and packets be made available online for the public on Friday prior to Planning Commission meetings.

Chair Jackson closed public remarks.

6. Communications (None)

7. Public hearings (None)

8. Unfinished Business

- A. Special Use Permit #12071 (Ingham County Transportation and Roads), work in the floodplain to replace the Van Atta Road bridge and
- B. Wetland Use Permit #12-06 (Ingham County Transportation and Roads), impacts to wetlands to replace the Van Atta Road bridge

Principal Planner Oranchak summarized the special use permit and wetland use permit requests as outlined in staff memorandums dated January 10, 2013.

Planning Commission, staff and applicant's representatives discussed the following:

- Proposed bridge structure is the same as brought forth in August except that it was lowered two feet in elevation
- Canoe launch will be rebuilt on the other side of the road adjacent to the Harris Nature Center
- Concern with the slope of the approaches relative to the transition between the pedestrian lane on the bridge and the unimproved areas to the north and south on the west side
- Slope of the approaches and the transition are the responsibility of the Township
- ICDTR work limits have decreased from the original design and it will not alter the sight vertical curve south of the bridge
- ICDTR statement that, by looking at the sight distance, a motorist can see over the crest vertical curve so the length of the curve allows for the 45 mph design speed
- Traveling southbound on Van Atta Road "down" that side of the bridge is relatively flat and does not have a calculated vertical curve speed in the redesign
- ICDTR consideration of protecting the tree in the southeast quadrant of the bridge
- New bridge will be wider and longer than the existing bridge and will have a direct impact on the tree in the southeast quadrant
- Current bridge is 25 feet wide, while the new bridge will be nearly 42 feet wide, plus lean walls
- Place a condition in the special use permit which strongly encourages the ICDTR to work closely with the Township Engineer to develop a feasible transitional pathway joining the new bridge to the current road shoulders to provide safety for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Place a condition in the special use permit that the speed limit signs which are currently in place on Van Atta Road at 35 miles per hour will remain in place until such time as a traffic/speed limit study is completed subsequent to the construction of the bridge

- Environmental consultant recommended the following conditions:
 - No work should be approved within the wetlands beyond the proposed 133' x 2.5' x 4.3' fill within the northwest quadrant of construction of a 92 foot concrete box
 - Erosion control measures shall be installed to ensure additional soil resulting from the construction activities do not enter the existing wetland
 - Spoils shall be hauled and disposed of at an acceptable offsite location
- Belief the Township will not do anything until it is ready to build the pathway connections
- Timetable for completion of the project has been changed to Fall, 2014 so the Board can take this pathway into consideration when it approves the 2014 budget
- Staff to provide a resolution at the next Planning Commission meeting

9. Other Business (None)

10. Township Board, Planning Commission officer, committee chair, and staff comment or reports

Commissioner Scott-Craig reported his attendance, along with Commissioner Hildebrandt, at the January 3, 2013 Joint Boards and Commissions meeting where he offered a brief overview of Planning Commission activities in 2012. He addressed continuing comments regarding placing the Planning Commission agendas and packets on-line prior to Planning Commission meetings.

Principal Planner Oranchak added that a process is being worked on for online availability of Planning Commission agendas and packets.

Commissioner Deits expressed appreciation for the Planning Commission's collegial demeanor while he was chair. He reported the Board has the Master Plan on its agenda for tomorrow evening and, at a previous meeting, the Planning Commission recommended that he attend the Board meeting to represent the Planning Commission. Commissioner Deits inquired if that was the wish of his fellow Commissioners since he is no longer the chair. He spoke to an article in this month's edition of the *Michigan Planner* titled "Health Impact Assessments, its Use in Community Sustainability Planning." Commissioner Deits noted the example given for study was Meridian Township's Health Impact Assessment Form.

Commissioner Deits announced the Okemos Library Fundraiser is underway to raise \$100,000 in private funds to partially match the Township's appropriation of \$200,000 for the Okemos Library renovation.

11. New applications

- A. Special Use Permit #13011 (Baldino), request to operate a 24-hour health and physical fitness establishment, Anytime Fitness, at 2111 Haslett Road, Haslett.

12. Site plans received (None)

13. Site plans approved

- A. Site Plan Review #12-94-09 (Redi-Care), remodel 1881 Grand River Avenue (Former Boston Market) for Redi-Care relocation.

14. Public remarks

Chair Jackson opened public remarks.

Leonard Provencher, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, reiterated earlier public comment about the need for the Planning Commission to adhere to the established standard that the agenda and packet be available online to the public on Friday prior to a Planning Commission meeting.

Chair Jackson closed public remarks.

14. Adjournment

Chair Jackson adjourned the regular meeting at 7:36 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra K. Otto
Recording Secretary