

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

DRAFT

October 7, 2013

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

PRESENT: Chair Jackson, Commissioners Deits, Norkin, Honicky, Ianni, Salehi, Scott-Craig
ABSENT: Commissioners Cordill, Hildebrandt
STAFF: Principal Planner Gail Oranchak
PUBLIC: None

1. Call meeting to order

Chair Jackson called the work session meeting to order at approximately 7:00 P.M.

2. Approval of agenda

Agenda approved by consensus

3. Discussion

A. Master Plan Update Discussion

- Suggestion to review the Township Board's proposed revisions to the 2005 Master Plan Goals and Objectives starting with the strike-out version dated September 5, 2013
- Suggestion to return the Goals and Objectives to the Township Board as sent to the Planning Commission requesting approval to distribute the document to surrounding communities and agencies. Planning Commission intent to make revisions after receiving comments from surrounding communities and agencies and hold a hearing for public input.
- A discussion of the process and merits of revising first or sending it back without revisions ensued
- Operating in a vacuum without public input
- Consider reviewing and incorporating the Economic Development Committee's proposal before sending to the Board
- Lack of communication between Township Board and Planning Commission
- More time consuming to review and make revisions now and then make additional changes after distribution and public input
- Defer until comment is received from the public at which time EDC comments will be incorporated
- Using the Urban Service Boundary revisions as an example, could potentially prolong the process by leaving revisions until the after distribution and public hearing
- Planning Commission continue to work on possible revisions during work sessions between now and the end of the 63-day comment period
- Majority of the Planning Commission members present agreed to send the Township Board's version back with the request to approve the document for distribution and 63-day comment period. The Planning Commission would continue to review the Board's document and EDC recommendations during work sessions

- The Planning Commission began review of the Economic Development Corporation's recommendations to the Goals and Objectives beginning with Goal 3, Objective A, Strategy 1 and ending with Goal 3, Objective B, Strategy 5
- Goal 3, Objective A, Strategy 1 to read: Participate in regional efforts to redevelop the Grand River corridor and incorporate results where appropriate.
- Goal 3, Objective A, Strategy 2 to read: Improve and enhance the Haslett Road commercial area while maintaining its traditional character.
- Goal 3, Objective A, Strategy 3 to read: Encourage redevelopment of the downtown Okemos area using the Downtown Development Authority (DD) Integrated Plan as a guide.
- Goal 3, Objective A, Strategy 4: Evaluate opportunities for walkable urban design in commercial areas.
- Goal 3, Objective A, Strategy 5: Encourage the use of the commercial planned unit development (C-PUD) ordinance
- Goal 3, Objective A, Strategy 6: Deleted, renumber remaining
- Goal 3, Objective A, Strategy 6 (old 7): Identify specific areas where the "form-based code" technique may be appropriately applied.
- Goal 3, Objective B, Strategy 1: Deleted, renumber remaining
- Goal 3, Objective B, Strategy 1 (old 2): Explore the viability of mixed use development in the commercial core.
- Goal 3, Objective B, Strategy 2 (old 3): Continue to engage Township boards, commissions, and the public in deciding the direction for development in the commercial core.
- Goal 3, Objective B, Strategy 3 (old 4): Explore options for public-private partnerships to revitalize the Township's commercial core.
- Goal 3, Objective B, Strategy 4 (old 5): Deleted

5. Public remarks

None

6. Adjournment

Chair Jackson adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Oranchak, AICP
Principal Planner