

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
TOWNSHIP BOARD JOINT MEETING - **APPROVED** -  
PARK COMMISSION  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
853-4000, Town Hall Room  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2006, **6:00 P.M.**

**TOWNSHIP BOARD**

PRESENT: Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting, Trustees Brixie, Such,  
Veenstra (6:15 P.M.), Woiwode  
ABSENT: None

**PARK COMMISSION**

PRESENT: Chair Dersch, Commissioners Banas, Jaramillo  
ABSENT: Commissioners Lieber, Smith

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

PRESENT: Chair Ochberg, Commissioners Deits, Jackson (6:25 P.M.), Krupiarz (6:08 P.M.),  
LeGoff, Reddy, Savage (6:18 P.M.), Wilcox  
ABSENT: Commissioner Reicosky

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP**

PRESENT: Chair Richards, Members Hunting (ex-officio), A. Woiwode, White  
ABSENT: Members Burch, Keith, Rowlee, Thiel, Vine

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

PRESENT: Chair Hershiser, Members Shoup, Such, Wilcox  
ABSENT: Member Stier

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

PRESENT: Chair Gregory, Commissioners Lederle, Thomas  
ABSENT: Commissioners Boyd, Clos, Eberhardt, Kielbaso

**LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD**

PRESENT: Chair T. Woiwode, Members Dersch, Helmbrecht, Thomas  
ABSENT: Members Caszatt, Kindel, Rosenman, Webster

STAFF: Township Manager Gerald Richards, Director of Community Planning & Development  
Mark Kieselbach

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER  
Supervisor McGillicuddy called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
Supervisor McGillicuddy led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. ROLL CALL  
Supervisor McGillicuddy called the roll of the Board.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened Public Remarks.

Leonard Provenchur, 5824 Buena Parkway, Haslett, thanked the various Board and Commission members for their past and present service. He addressed comments from the Supervisor relative to one zip code for the Township as noted in the January 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Towne Courier.

John Anderson, 215 W. Newman Road, Okemos, spoke concerning the clock tower lawsuit settlement and Mixed Use Planned Unit Development #05054 (DTN Investment Co./Hamptons of Meridian).

Supervisor McGillicuddy closed Public Remarks.

5. REPORTS/BOARD COMMENT/NEW WORRIES

Supervisor McGillicuddy clarified an earlier public comment by stating that many years ago, a community could make a request regarding zip code consolidation.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA — OR CHANGES

**Trustee Such moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Brixie.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor McGillicuddy reviewed the consent agenda.

**Trustee Woiwode moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy, Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting

NAYS: None

Motion carried 6-0.

The adopted Consent Agenda items are as follow:

A. Communications

(1). Board Information (BI)

BI-1 Norm Allen, 2317 Knob Hill Drive, #8, Okemos; RE: Poor maintenance/condition of Okemos Road

BI-2 Lanny L. Johnson, M.D., 4528 Hagadorn Road, Okemos; RE: Support for MUPUD #05054 and SUP #05061 (DTN Investment Co./Hamptons of Meridian)

BI-3 Jessica Nemechek, 1655 Minoka, Okemos; RE: Language contained in Meridian Township's Noise Ordinance

(2). Staff Communication/Referral (SC)

SC-1 E-mail response from Ray Severy, Director of Public Works and Engineering, to Norm Allen; RE: Poor maintenance/condition of Okemos Road

SC-2 Michigan Townships Association Legislative E-Report December 16, 2005 Edition

SC-3 Michigan Townships Association Legislative E-Report December 28, 2005 Edition

(3) On File in the Clerk's Office (OF)

Materials received at the December 20, 2005 Board Meeting

Eleanor V. Luecke, President, LINC, PO Box 40, Okemos; RE: Mixed Use Planned Unit Development #05054 and Special Use Permit #05061 (DTN Investment Co./Hamptons of Meridian)

Lanny L. Johnson, MD, PO Box 975, Okemos; RE: Mixed Use Planned Unit Development #05054 and Special Use Permit #05061 (DTN Investment Co./Hamptons of Meridian)

**Trustee Woiwode moved that the communications be received and placed on file, and any communications not already assigned for disposition be referred to the Township Manager or Supervisor for follow-up. Seconded by Trustee Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

B. Bills

**Trustee Woiwode moved that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows:**

Common Cash	\$ 223,389.72
Public Works	\$ 106,908.73
Total Checks	\$ 330,298.45
Credit Card Transactions	\$ 10,898.86
Total Purchases	<u>\$ 341,197.31</u>
ACH Payments	<u>\$ 306,800.96</u>

**Seconded by Trustee Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

[Bill list in Official Minute Book]

- C. Fee Schedule for Planned Unit Developments and Mixed Use Planned Unit Developments  
**Trustee Woiwode moved [and read into the record] NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby adopts the attached Planned Unit Development and Mixed Use Development Fee Schedule effective January 3, 2006. Seconded by Trustee Brixie.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Trustees Brixie, Such, Woiwode, Supervisor McGillicuddy,  
Clerk Helmbrecht, Treasurer Hunting  
NAYS: None  
Motion carried 6-0.

[Fee Schedule in Official Minute Book]

8. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY(None)
9. HEARINGS (None)
10. ACTION ITEMS/ENDS (None)
11. DISCUSSION ITEMS/ENDS (None)
12. VISION SESSION/ENDS: Joint Meeting with Township Boards and Commissions  
Clerk Helmbrecht swore in newly appointed and reappointed members of the various boards and commissions.

Supervisor McGillicuddy explained the purpose of the joint meeting was to promote alignment within our community among the boards and commissions and to discuss future goals and accomplishments of each body. She requested discussion of current projects and goals of the respective bodies, as well as goals for the ensuing year.

Supervisor McGillicuddy summarized the following Board accomplishments:

- Acquisitions for future Township use as well as the Land Preservation Program
- Adoption of a mixed use development ordinance

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- Adoption of the 2005 Master Plan
- Current work on revision of the lighting ordinance

Meeting participants discussed the following:

Planning Commission:

- Appreciation for Board cooperation in passage of the mixed use planned unit development ordinance and the Master Plan
- Encouraged continued cooperation for ordinances sent to the Board which enable Township ordinances to conform with state law relative to land use planning
- Add conformity with state law to Goal 1.3, subsection 4 b. relative to our zoning ordinance
- Additional work sessions between the Planning Commission and the Board to enable more interaction
- Addition of neighboring cities and townships as subsection 4 c. to Goal 1.3
- Continue looking at the Master Plan through reexamination of the Wardcliff area, the Grand River Corridor Beautification and access issues
- Possible initiation of subcommittee on potential improvements to the Master Plan before the next five (5) year cycle
- Future use of the Environmental Commission's natural features assessment checklist in Planning Commission land use recommendations to the Township Board

Zoning Board of Appeals

- Twenty percent (20%) less cases in 2005 than in previous years
- Reduction in the number of cases around Lake Lansing
- Elimination of work sessions
- Cohesiveness of ZBA members
- Stand alone Board which has no ties or other agendas which go into the determinations made on variances
- Importance of determining the "spirit" of the Township's ordinance when hearing ZBA cases
- Body of laws which govern the Township and the Township's current dynamics don't always coincide

Land Preservation Advisory Board

- Unique relationship with Boards and Commissions as all of Land Preservation's work is scrutinized by virtually every Board and Commission through representation on the LPAB
- Importance of public understanding that the Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) is not an "arm" of the Parks Department
- Greenspace Plan itself is not the "priority list" for the LPAB
- Exploration of acquisitions which will benefit the Parks program and include greenspace plan
- Problematic difficulty in spending money as the process for acquisition is extremely lengthy
- Appropriately spending money at the rate it is received
- A number of generous individuals within the township have donated property in perpetuity which allowed existing funds to be redirected to other potential acquisitions
- Conservation projects are negotiated
- Appreciation to Clerk Helmbrecht for her tireless acquisition efforts

Economic Development Corporation

- Objective to keep the Township's economic potential alive
- Passage of a Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
- Continue facilitation of better interaction with business and Township government
- Continue exploration of neighborhood grants
- Continue exploration of economic improvements for businesses
- Possible creation of a Cultural Commission
- Best vehicle for economic growth is fewer taxes and fewer government regulations
- Recognition of Art Vine's 25 years of service

Environmental Commission

- Appreciation for interaction between various Commissions through representation on the

Environmental Commission

- Completion of a draft natural features assessment checklist
- Proposed draft environment and community impact statement to bring clarity and consistency in site visits
- Promotion of Energy Awareness Month in October
- Awarded three (3) Environmental Stewardship Awards which included one Lifetime Achievement Award
- Presentation by MSU students on options for an Okemos Road property
- Comments/recommendations on eight (8) wetland use permits, thirteen (13) projects which were a combination of special use projects, mixed use projects or PUD
- Participation in potential LPAB projects
- List of goals include: 1) continue to conduct site visits; 2) name Environmental Stewardship Award after Ted Black; 3) development of wetland mitigation standards; 4) promote use of draft natural resources assessment checklist for a trial period of one (1) year; 5) host a township wide forum on renewal energy; 6) promote increased citizen participation in recycling; 7) continue work on a woodlands ordinance, building on existing ordinances and fitting with the Greenspace Plan; and 8) support and promote efforts to improve water quality on the Red Cedar and Looking Glass Rivers

Park Commission

- Short term vision within the Five Year Parks Plan
- Results from the Township parks neighborhood survey
- Diminishment of new lands for park acquisition
- Maintenance of a system appropriate for this type of community
- Proposed Wonch Park renovation in harmony with the goals of the DDA
- Central Park improvements planned for 2009
- Possible Harris Nature Center expansion
- Hartrick Park Phase II proposed for 2008
- Proposed Hillbrook Park picnic shelter in three to four years
- Legg Park South improvements in 2008
- Meridian River Front Trails improvements in 2007
- Second pavilion in Nancy Moore Park
- Snell Recreation Center renovations in 2006-2007
- Subcommittee on development of framework of Harris Nature Center Foundation to support the facility
- Subcommittee on developer relations to work with developers early in the planning stages to incorporate neighborhood parks
- Properties adjacent to parks significantly increase in value
- Make parks more user friendly through better signage
- Friends of the Park program allows citizens to assist in maintenance, beautification, etc.
- Connection with the Land Preservation Advisory Board is mutually beneficial
- Information garnered from studies of the Master Plan indicate children need to be actively engaged through connection with nature
- Shortages based on national surveys of seven (7) basketball courts, three (3) soccer, football and lacrosse fields, sand and volleyball courts
- Need for athletic facilities within the Township
- Goal to encourage creation of a neighborhood community park within each new development
- Necessary to cooperate with developers to achieve the greatest
- Exorbitant cost for chess and checker tables

Supervisor McGillicuddy thanked the participants for their attendance. She noted that it is her plan to bring forward through the Board additional goals regarding recycling and culture in the community. She stated the directional signs in Central Park have been helpful to those making use the park. Supervisor McGillicuddy indicated she has previously asked the Parks Department to include checker and chess tables within the Township's parks for a multi generational activity. Trustee Brixie thanked the appointees for their service to the Township and voiced the importance of their role as a public servant.

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Supervisor McGillicuddy acknowledged the art work in the Town Hall Room which was painted and donated by Planning Commission Chair Ochberg.

Trustee Veenstra voiced appreciation to the Supervisor for her comments noted in the January 1, 2006 edition of the Towne Courier. He spoke to the possibility of a Meridian Township Arts Commission.

Treasurer Hunting noted his appreciation for the appointees who serve on various Board and Commissions. He noted the Supervisor ardently attempts to geographically appoint various Board and Commission members to provide balanced Township representation.

Trustee Woiwode was appreciative of hearing the various Board and Commission goals as it is a clear indication where the Township is moving as a whole.

13. PUBLIC REMARKS

Supervisor McGillicuddy opened and closed Public Remarks.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor McGillicuddy adjourned the meeting at 7:16 P.M.

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SUSAN MCGILLICUDDY  
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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MARY M. G. HELMBRECHT  
TOWNSHIP CLERK

Sandra K. Otto, Secretary