

**GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL
Board Meeting**

January 6, 2005
8:30 a.m.
Kent County Building

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Jim Buck.

Members Present

Jim Beelen	Allendale Township
Marta Brechting	Alpine Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Bev Drake	ACSET Council
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Mick McGraw	At-Large Member
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
David Morren	Kent County
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Sandy Frost Parrish	Cascade Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Bob Rinck	Ottawa County
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Ted Vonk	Kent County
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Members Absent

Cindy Bartman	City of East Grand Rapids
Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
George Bosanic	City of Greenville
Bryan Chodkowski	Village of Sparta
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Bryan Harrison	Caledonia Township
Dennis Hoemke	Algoma Township

Jerry Homminga
Ron Howell
Pauline Luben
Robert May
James McIntyre
Deborah Nier
Bonnie Shupe
Tom Wiczorek

Cedar Springs
Village of Middleville
City of Hudsonville
City of Hastings
Courtland Township
City of Wayland
Cannon Township
City of Ionia

Others Present:

Jim Fetzer
Dennis Kent
Birgit Klohs
Gayle McCrath
Marsha Small
Lisa Ives
Don Stypula
Peter Varga

ITP
MDOT
Right Place
Grand Valley Metro Council
MDOT
DMJM/Harris
Grand Valley Metro Council
ITP

2. Approval of Minutes dated December, 2004

**MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the December, 2004 GVMC Board Meeting.
MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Vanderberg. MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Swearing in and Welcome of New GVMC Board Members

Sonja Dean, Deputy Kent County Clerk, administered the oath of office to Audrey Nevins of Byron Township and Bill Holland of Georgetown Township.

Both Ms. Nevins and Mr. Holland stated they were happy to be a part of the Metro Council and looked forward to working with its members in the future.

4. Presentation on West Michigan Economic Development Efforts by Birgit Klohs, President, The Right Place, Inc.

Birgit Klohs gave a presentation on West Michigan economic development efforts and the Right Places' strategic plan.

Ms. Klohs also stated she would be more than happy to work with Mr. Stypula on a bus tour to view development opportunities in the area.

Kurt Kimball and Cy Moore both said they applauded Ms. Klohs and the Right Place for their work over the past 20 years.

5. Amendment to GVMC Articles of Incorporation to Include Membership for the City of Wyoming

Chairman Buck thanked all who helped bring in Wyoming as a new Board member.

MOTION – to approve amendment 32 to the GVMC Articles of Incorporation, adding Wyoming as a member of the Metro Council. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Morren. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Swearing in and Welcome of New GVMC Board Member

Sonja Dean, Deputy Kent County Clerk, administered the oath of office to Marta Brechting of Alpine Township.

Ms. Brechting stated that she was honored to be Alpine Township’s representative and was eager to participate in the Metro Council.

7. REGIS Update

Don Stypula reported he would distribute a comprehensive written report regarding REGIS later this month through the regular channels.

8. Presentation on Transit Corridor Study by Peter Varga, Director and CEO of ITP/The Rapid

Peter Varga and Lisa Ives updated the Board on the Transit Corridor Study. The study has identified two corridors and three possible modes.

ITP is looking for GVMC’s statement of continued support of the study and its placement on the illustrative list.

Mick McGraw stated he understood the area did not have the density required for a new transit system.

Mr. Varga explained that there are parts of the area which do.

David Morren wanted clarification on what an endorsement by the Metro Council would mean.

Mr. Varga explained that it would be an endorsement to continue study, not an endorsement of any particular mode or route.

MOTION to Concur with the Policy Committee’s recommendation to place the Transit Corridor Study on the Illustrative List. MOVE – Hayes. SUPPORT – Drake. MOTION CARRIED.

9. Legislative Update

Don Stypula reported the first day of the new session will begin next Wednesday at noon and he will keep everyone updated. Next Wednesday the Legislative Committee will finalize its list of priorities.

Chairman Buck noted that it is important to have the participation of all members if possible on the committee.

10. Update on Cost Sharing by Taxing Authorities

Don Stypula stated they had a good meeting and discussed general ideas and concepts which would be integrated into a draft idea. There are legal questions. Can GVMC set up a pool? Does the Community College have the authority to enter a pool? Scott Schragger of the Treasury Department said there would need to be specific legislation enacted for the Treasury Department to participate.

11. GVMC 2005 Goals / Executive Director's Compensation Recommendation from Personnel Committee

Michael Young reported the annual review of the Executive Director had been completed by the Personnel Committee. Twenty-three of the Forty-three surveys were returned. The committee recommends a 3% increase in the Executive Director's salary retroactive to 10/1/04.

MOTION to increase by 3% the Executive Director's salary retroactive to 10/1/04. MOVE – Young. SUPPORT – Root. MOTION CARRIED.

12. Public Comment

Marsha Small reported MDOT was scheduling two listening sessions to describe what it intends to accomplish for the next five years. Mr. Kent will supply everyone with a brochure on the 2005 5-year program at their request.

Ms. Small also reported that the Director of MDOT would like to offer us the opportunity to talk with her, and arrangements could be made through Mr. Kent.

13. Adjournment

MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Root. MOTION CARRIED