

**GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL
Board Meeting**

November 3, 2005
8:30 a.m.
Kent County Building

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chairman Jim Buck.

Members Present:

Jim Beelen	Allendale Township
Marta Brechting	Alpine Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Pat Capek	City of Cedar Springs
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Dennis Homeke	Algoma Township
Ron Howell	Village of Middleville
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Robert May	City of Hastings
James McIntyre	Courtland Township
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
David Morren	Kent County
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Bonnie Shupe	Cannon Township
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Ted Vonk	Kent County
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township

Members Absent:

Cindy Bartman	City of East Grand Rapids
Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Brian Chodowski	Village of Sparta
Bev Drake	ACSET Council

Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Sandy Frost Parrish	Cascade Township
Bob Rinck	Ottawa County
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Others Present:

Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Jim Snell	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Peter Varga	ITP
George Yang	Grand Valley Metro Council

2. Notice Regarding Committees

Jim Buck asked members to review committee assignments and contact either himself or Gayle McCrath about changes. He stated he would like to have every member community represented on the Legislative Committee; and the Personnel and Nominating Committees also needed additional members.

3. Introduction of New Employee

Don Stypula introduced Dr. George Yang who joined the Transportation Department in October. He reported on Dr. Yang's experience and education; and asked members to welcome him to the organization.

4. Special Ceremony

Jim Snell, Sr. Transportation Planner and Chairman of the WESTRAIN coalition described WESTRAIN's activities and progress. Amtrak is making great progress with ridership up 10% and revenue up 12%. Mr. Snell thanked the Council and Board for their support of WESTRAIN's activities. Amtrak has solid funding at least until July. Mr. Snell encouraged Board members to talk to their legislators and encourage them to support Amtrak.

Chairman Jim Buck, with the assistance of Pat Capek, drew the name of the winner of the Amtrak trip give away. The winner was Joe Videtich.

5. Public Comment

Peter Varga of the RAPID stated they have been talking about relocating the Amtrak station to the RAPID's central station. This would require federal funding and local match. He requested GVMC's support on the issue.

6. Special Presentation

Jack Steward and Sue Bartels gave a presentation on safety and coordination of local public service personnel in emergency situations.

7. Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the October 2005, GVMC Board Meeting. MOVE – Beelen. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.

8. Transportation Department

Don Stypula reported on the TIP amendment requested by MDOT. It affects several bridge projects within the I-96 and I-196 corridors. The amendment has been approved by both the Policy and Tech committees.

MOTION – To Approve the Proposed TIP Amendment. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.

9. REGIS Update

Don Stypula reported REGIS is continuing to work with its partners and staff to keep the system running at peak performance. Contractors have been brought in to augment current staff.

Monday interviews are set for four REGIS Director candidates. One person interviewed previously will be scheduled a 2nd interview next week also.

10. Legislative Update

Don Stypula gave the legislative update.

The telecom bill will be accepted by the Senate and passed. The MTA, MML and MAC were successful in getting mitigating language inserted that would be friendlier to local governments.

Mr. Stypula stated he believes next week the legislation will be introduced to eliminate franchises.

Kurt Kimball reported that the City of Grand Rapid's lobbyist said the legislation to eliminate franchises won't be taken on in the short term.

Don Stypula stated that the legislature is talking about what to do with securitization money to stimulate the economy.

Business tax proposals are also on the agenda.

There will be a Legislative Committee meeting on November 9.

Don Stypula stated the issue of commerce centers will be taken up by the legislature.

Mick McGraw stated that the idea of commerce centers was not well received by the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.

Don Stypula stated he wanted GVMC to discuss term limits, as he believes the State of Michigan Chamber of Commerce may champion the issue.

Mick McGraw stated that was also a lively discussion with a fair amount of debate at the GRACC.

11. Other

Jack Poll stated he appreciated the opportunity to represent Wyoming at the Metro Council and believed Wyoming should have always been there.

12. Adjournment

MOTION – To Adjourn the Grand Valley Metro Council Board Meeting at 10:30 a.m. MOVE – Vonk. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.