

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

February 1, 2007

8:30 a.m.
Kent County Building

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Chairman Jim Buck. Buck recognized Elias Lumpkins, Jr., City of Grand Rapids and Robert Hulan – Associated Director Sports Commission.

Members Present:

Jim Beelen	Allendale Township
Marta Brechting	Alpine Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Dennis Hoemke	Algoma Township
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Jim Holt	Ottawa County
Mike Julien	Cascade Township
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Roger Morgan	Kent County
Lon Myers	Village of Middleville
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Carol Sheets	City of Wyoming
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming

Members Absent:

Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Bonnie Blackledge	Cannon Township
Pat Capek	City of Cedar Springs
Brian Chodkowski	Village of Sparta
Bev Drake	ACSET Council
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Robert May	City of Hastings
Mick McGraw	At-large Member

Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Others Present:

Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Jim Fetzer	ITP
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Janet Fotsch	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dharmesh Jain	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Paul E. LaVigne	Digital Video Services
Deb Havens	Chair, West Michigan Film Video Alliance
Sara Stelwagen	Chair, West Michigan Film Commission Task Force
Allen Ruhlandt	Board Member, West Michigan Film Video Alliance

2. Swearing in of New Board Members

- a. Michael Julien, Supervisor, Cascade Charter Township by Mary Holinrake
- b. Jim Holt, Commissioner, Ottawa County by Mary Holinrake

3. Public Comment

- a. Special Presentation by the West Michigan Film Commission. Deb Havens, Chair of the West Michigan Film Commission reported that the Commission was started two years ago with the goal of creating a thriving film and video market in West Michigan. A film clip was shown. Active filmmakers are already in West Michigan but the goal is to increase awareness of the area with a Motion Picture Tax Incentive. Havens requested any community that is interested in partnering with the Commission to sign a sign up sheet.
- b. Sara Stelwagen, Project Coordinator for Leadership Grand Rapids with the West Michigan Film Commission Task Force passed out a draft business plan and informed the Board of the 16-page business plan document that is available for review. She is looking for input from community directors and she encouraged the Board to contact her with questions.
- c. Paul LaVigne, is a founding member of the West Michigan Film Video Alliance and owner of Digital Video Services. The website which the Alliance has created is www.wmfva.com

4. Approval of December 7, 2006 Minutes.

Don Stypula noted the following changes. Under Others Present Cindy Durenberger is with FHWA. In section 4.C. Cindy Durenberger of the Federal Highway Administration presented the FHWA's review of the GVMC MPO not the FHA's.

MOTION – To Approve December 7, 2006 GVMC Board Meeting Minutes with changes. MOVE –Beelen. SUPPORT – Moore. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Transportation Department GVMC FY 2007 TIP Amendment for 2009 Local Jobs Today Program

MOTION – To Approve the Amendment to the 2007 TIP for 2009 Local Jobs Today Program. MOVE – Sheets. SUPPORT Holland. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Appointment of GVMC Finance Committee

Chair: Cy Moore, Treasurer, GVMC

Vice Chair: Mike DeVries, Supervisor, Grand Rapids Township

William VerHulst, Council Member, City of Wyoming

William Holland, Supervisor, Georgetown Township

Robert VerHeulen, Mayor, City of Walker

Scott Buhner, Finance Director, City of Grand Rapids

Robert White, Fiscal Services Director, Kent County

Jeff Dood, Finance Director, City of Rockford

Erika Rosebrook, Assistant Administrator, Ottawa County

MOTION – To Approve the Appointment of GVMC Finance Committee. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT Vanderberg. MOTION CARRIED.

Jim Buck is pleased with the number of volunteers. Chair, Cy Moore, will be gone for a month but will communicate with the committee through E-Mail and FedEx regarding the audit review. The Facility Committee is looking for volunteers. Please contact Jim Buck or Don Stypula.

7. Legislative Issues

a. Revised GVMC Legislative Priorities for 94th Legislature

Don Stypula reported the telecom issue had dropped off of the short list of legislative priorities and the Legislative Committee moved to add a new issue in its place.

Economic Development

County/Local Inducements for Business and Tourism Development: The Grand Valley Metropolitan Council supports the creation of new, and reauthorization of existing, statutory funding mechanisms that enable county and local governments to assist in retaining existing businesses, attracting new business ventures, and promoting convention and tourism, provided that tax receipts and other state funds are distributed based on an equitable formula that provides funding to all regions of the state.

MOTION – To Add the Above Issue and Policy Statement to the GVMC Legislative Priorities. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – Vanderberg. MOTION CARRIED.

b. February 14, 2007 GVMC State Tax Policy Forum

Rick Root explained that the Legislative Committee was holding a forum at the Cascade Township Community Center on February 14, to discuss State Tax Policy.

Don Stypula reported Tom Clay has been asked to give a key note discussion regarding historical perspective and possible scenarios. Mr. Clay will have handouts, and Don will make sure all members have these before the meeting. This meeting will be used to develop overarching principles that GVMC members agree to and can promote as the discussion on tax policy heats up.

Mike Julien added that he will be unable to attend the February 14 meeting or welcome everyone personally to Cascade Township but wished everyone a good meeting.

c. State Revenue Estimating Conference

Don Stypula reported the State Revenue Estimating Conference was underway and information from all sources show revenue is down for the whole year from \$850 - \$880 million in the current fiscal year. Revenue sharing is in the mix to be hit to cover the gap in revenues. Next fiscal year looks equally as bad. Don will transmit the final report from the conference to all members as soon as it is done. Don stated he has no doubt the Governor will propose a tax increase.

The Michigan State of the State address will be held on Tuesday February 6, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

On Thursday February 8, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. will be the 2008 Budget presentation to the House and Senate.

Tuesday February 6, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. local officials will gather to discuss the impact on the budget deficit.

d. Pop Ups

Proposal A – Provide an 18 month moratorium. The taxable value would stay the same on home sales. The impacts of good and bad outcomes will be discussed. Stypula will provide updates.

e. Stypula also provided a hand-out regarding cities, townships and counties consolidating services. He noted that GVMC has done a good job of sharing and partnering already. Service sharing is alive and well and is not always connected to costs.

8. Report of the Chair, GVMC Personnel Committee, Regarding Executive Director's Annual Reviews

Postponed until March since Michael Young was unable to make the meeting due to the inclement weather.

9. Other

Tom Fehsenfeld commented regarding Stypula's article that consolidation doesn't result in savings. The economics of lowering cost by increasing scale is skewed and therefore

is not a strong remedy for cost of government. On a second topic Fehsenfeld reported that the Census Bureau reported that more people below the poverty line live in suburban areas than urban areas. Public services have not been dispersed to the suburban areas yet. It will be a future issue for the state to deal with.

- 10. Adjournment – 9:27 a.m. MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.