

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

December 6, 2007

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
Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Bonnie Blackledge	Cannon Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Pat Capek	City of Cedar Springs
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Dennis Hoemke	Algoma Township
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Mike Julien	Cascade Township
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Members Absent:

Marta Brechting	Alpine Township
Sharon De Lange	Village of Sparta
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Bev Drake	City of Grand Rapids
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville

Robert May	City of Hastings
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Roger Morgan	Kent County
David Morren	Kent County
Lon Myers	Village of Middleville
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township

Others Present:

David Bulkowski	Disability Advocates of Kent County
Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
David Czurak	Grand Rapids Business Journal
Casey Dutmer	Concerned Citizen for Transportation
Jim Fetzer	ITP/The Rapid
Janet Fotsch	Grand Valley Metro Council
Andy Guy	Citizen Activist
Jay Hoekstra	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dennis Kent	MDOT
David Pasquale	City of Lowell
Rev. Mark Przybysz	Faith in Motion
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Peter Varga	ITP/The Rapid
Donald E. Zerial	Citizen Activist / Cascade Township

2. Public Comment

Casey Dutmer, a concerned citizen for transportation, spoke of his encouragement for GVMC to participate and support the study for county wide transportation.

Rev. Mark Przybysz, Faith in Motion, supports public transportation. He would appreciate support from GVMC for public transportation and following through on the need if the study indeed finds a community wide need.

Donald Zerial, a citizen activist, presented articles regarding ethanol and alternative fuels. Mr. Zerial supports nuclear fuel energy.

David Bukowski, Disability Advocates of Kent County, encouraged support for the needs analysis. He addressed the transportation concerns for those who live or travel outside of the six cities that the RAPID serves. He also encouraged Ottawa County to participate in the study.

Andy Guy, a young professional, was seeking support for the transportation study. He spoke that as a growing urban metro area we have to keep up with the 21st century. The investments of mass transit will be returned through the elderly and students usage.

Peter Varga, The Rapid, reported support for the transportation study. While speaking with Grand Valley State University's President Thomas Haas, GVSU competes with larger schools in Michigan and the transportation offered in the area is why parents are choosing to send their children to GVSU. 17,000 trips by students are made between campuses daily.

Dennis Kent, Michigan Department of Transportation, reported a meeting will be held on Monday, December 10 regarding the 2008-2012 program at their office at Leonard / I-96.

Don Stypula reported a meeting summary regarding the transportation study and that discussion will continue with MDOT and Lansing. They are trying to find funding for the project.

3. Approval of minutes dated August, 2007

Correction: Dale Bergman was in attendance at the November meeting.

**Motion to Approve the GVMC Board Meeting Minutes of November 2007.
MOTION – Vanderberg. SUPPORT – Holtrop. MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Amendment to the GVMC FY 2008 budget to account for \$5,000 contribution to The Civics Institute middle school curriculum project

MOTION – To Approve the FY 2008 GVMC Budget Amendment. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Holtrop. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Transportation Department: Amendments to the FY 2008 Transportation Improvement Program for CMAQ Projects

MOTION – To Approve the FY 2008 TIP for CMAQ Projects. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT. Beelen. MOTION CARRIED.

Abed Itani added that this is not adding on to the FY 2008 projects, only amending the projects.

6. Update on development of Articles of Organization and Bylaws for the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds

The meetings are creating good progress on the articles and bylaws. A steering group chaired by Brian Donovan of East Grand Rapids is meeting on Friday, December 7. The results of the meeting will be discussed at the December 20 GVMC Executive Board meeting and will be addressed in the January GVMC board meeting.

On the revised agenda is a bill to pay Mika Myers \$3,795.50. Invoices over \$3000 need to be approved by the GVMC Board of Directors. One additional invoice is expected.

**MOTION – To Approve the invoice is the amount of \$3795.50 to Mika Myers.
MOVE – Vanderberg. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.**

7. Legislative Issues

a. Telecommunications

AT&T has a more rapid deployment of the Right of Way areas of homeowners.

Comcast has moved several channels to the #900 slots anticipating digital cable. Comcast is offering digital boxes free for the 1st year and \$4.50/month after that. GVMC strongly opposes this action.

d. Great Lakes Compact – Protect Great Lakes waters from additional diversions such as the southern United States.

e. The Legislative Committee will hold a December 12 meeting at 8:30 AM at the GVMC Board Room. The establishment of a format and agenda for the legislative breakfast will be discussed. There will be only one legislative breakfast meeting for 2008 due to the election year. 2 or 3 key topics will be discussed such as legislative reform and telecommunications.

8. Other Items of Business and Comments from GVMC Members

The January GVMC Board Meeting date has been changed to January 14 at 10:00 AM. The quarterly luncheon will follow the meeting at the Prince Center. GVSU President Thomas Haas will be the guest speaker.

George Meek said that the transportation meetings are good and productive. He encourages everyone to attend.

Mike Julien commented that the busses are not full when traveling through Cascade Township. He welcomes comments about suburban mass transit.

Michael Young has two openings on the Personnel Committee. See him if you are interested in joining the committee.

Dennis Hoemke offered a question regarding transportation, what type of services is needed most.

David Pasquate is waiting to be sworn in as a GVMC member.

Chairman Buck wishes everyone “Happy Holidays”.

9. Adjournment – 9:20