

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

July 14, 2008

10:30 a.m.
Prince Center

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m. by Chairman Jim Buck.

Members Present:

Jim Beelen	Allendale Township
Marta Brechting	Alpine Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Randy DeBruine	City of Belding
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Robert May	City of Hastings
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
David Pasquale	City of Lowell
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Carol Sheets	City of Wyoming
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming

Members Absent:

Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Bonnie Blackledge	Cannon Township
Pat Capek	City of Cedar Springs
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville

Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Lon Myers	Village of Middleville
Roger Morgan	Kent County
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Others Present:

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dharmesh Jain	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dennis Kent	MDOT – Grand Region
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the June GVMC Board Meeting. MOVE – Sheets. SUPPORT – Holtrop. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Transportation Amendment to the FY 2008-2009 Transportation Unified Planning Work Program.

Abed Itani explained the request for amendment for additional State Planning and Research (SPR) funds to update the regional travel demand model. An additional \$1,000 will be reflected for FY 2008 and \$14,000 for 2009.

MOTION – To Approve the Requested Amendment to the FY 2008 – 2009 Unified Work Program for SPR Funds. MOVE – Holtrop. SUPPORT – Beelen. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Update on Regional Cooperation Committee Meeting on Economic Development

Don Stypula reviewed the June 9th Regional Cooperation Committee meeting on economic development. The meeting featured Birgit Klohs, Randy Thelen and Ken Rizzio. Don will work with the three over the next few months to create a common paper on economic development to entice business to move here and/or stay here. They will determine if there are common principles they can put together to say what the region as a whole can do.

Discussion ensued regarding the meeting and its success.

Kurt Kimball stated it was important to bring in Kent County into any discussions that take place as often they bump heads with local municipalities regarding incentives.

Jim Beelen stated it was important to include in these discussions how to change the perception of Michigan that is held by many of automotive manufacturing, union, and violence.

Steve Patrick reported in working with the MEDC it has become evident they don't have a full toolbox to work with. It is important that GVMC puts forth a regional front and also works to create more tools on a statewide basis.

Mike DeVries stated all municipalities and schools depend on property taxes. When you abate taxes you hurt the schools. Entities are also struggling with declining property values in a lot of places. This is a difficult proposition which needs good direction.

6. Update on Move to New Office

Don Stypula reported GVMC is still planning to move its offices to the Riverview building, although the move will probably take place in the spring or summer now. Jim Brown is still reviewing the lease.

7. Report on 2008 Growing Communities Conference

Don Stypula reported the 2008 Growing Communities Conference was a great success and they have received a lot of good feedback.

Andy Bowman stated the topics of the conference were timely and this helps to spread awareness to planners and others.

The Blueprint Award was given to the City of Grand Rapids for their new zoning ordinance.

8. Legislative

Don Stypula reviewed the GVMC legislative priorities.

MOTION – To Accept the 2009-2010 GVMC Legislative Priorities. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Sheets. MOTION CARRIED.

9. Adjournment – 11:30 a.m.

MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Patrick. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED.