

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

August 7, 2008

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.

Members Present:

Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Bonnie Blackledge	Cannon 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
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Robert May	City of Hastings
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
David Pasquale	City of Lowell
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Rick Root	City of Kentwood

Members Absent:

Jim Beelen	Allendale Township
Pat Capek	City of Cedar Springs
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Randy DeBruine	City of Belding
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township

Lon Myers	Village of Middleville
Roger Morgan	Kent County
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Carol Sheets	City of Wyoming
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
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 July GVMC Board Meeting. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.

4. GVMC FY 2008-2009 Budget

Don Stypula reviewed the proposed GVMC FY 2008-2009 budget. Bottom line, expenses are over revenue due to the move from the Trust Building to the Riverview Center. The move has been pushed back to May or June. GVMC will stay in its current offices until that time at the current lease rate (no increase).

There are substantial grants accounted for in the budget, mostly from the DEQ. There is a new line item for the Lower Grand Organization of Watersheds. GVMC will be partnering with the MML on the Community Design Center which will be announced in October. This is not reflected in the proposed budget. GVMC will request a budget amendment in October.

Overall, GVMC is on very, very solid ground. This budget reflects the transportation budget approved previously.

Cy Moore stated the benefit in dollars GVMC will see will be reflected in the budget over a number of years, however general accepted accounting practices dictate the expenses must be realized in the year.

George Meek asked if there had been any lag in dues payment due to the economy.

Leon Branderhorst stated there had not.

Tom Fehsenfeld stated he liked the idea of the Design Center. Many of these ideas GVMC has been promoting for years. He also questioned the 3% increase in salary and stated some thought should be given to a salary survey rather than an automatic increase due to the current economic situation.

Don Stypula stated a review of the GVMC Personal Policies was in the budget and this would be reviewed also.

Cindy Fox questioned options that had been reviewed for benefits.

Don Stypula stated that an extensive review of options was ongoing.

Don Hilton stated that Gaines Township previously used Priority Health and found Blue Cross significantly cheaper as it is working to retake the market in this area.

Jim Buck remarked this was the preliminary review of the budget and it would be back next month for formal approval.

5. GVMC FY 2008 Strategic Plan Update

Don Stypula stated he intended on presenting the update to the 2008 Strategic Plan today, however he first wanted to meet with Al Vanderberg and Michael Young. He has tried several times to schedule a meeting with them, but it has been very difficult trying to get the two of them together. After the update is presented to them, it will be presented to the full Board at the next Board meeting. It will include a survey done by the Land Planning Department on traditional planning services that could be done by GVMC for individual members.

Mick McGraw asked if the survey could include an inventory on developable parcels from all members. It would be a good asset for the development community to have access to.

Don Hilton remarked that Gaines Township has spent significant time with the Land Planning staff on similar issues and this might be accessible through them already.

Don Stypula stated this could also be incorporated into REGIS information.

Eli Lumpkins encouraged Mick and the development community to tap into resources already available through Suzanne Shultz.

Rick Root asked if Mick was looking for zoned but not platted parcels also.

Mick McGraw stated he was more concerned about those available for development. The marketplace needs a way to find these. If the building community had access to these, it could more accurately plan for the future.

Bonnie Blackledge suggested including residential and commercial.

6. Transportation Amendment

The Michigan Department of Transportation is seeking an amendment to the GVMC FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add FY 2009 General Program Accounts for various projects within the GVMC MPO area. (See attachments in agenda packet).

MOVE – To Approve the Requested Transportation Amendment. MOVE – Fox. SUPPORT – Holtrop. MOTIONCARRIED.

7. Legislative

Rick Root stated there would be many new State Representatives after the November elections which will all need to be educated.

Don Stypula reported a legislative breakfast will be discussed at the next Legislative Committee meeting. The breakfast would be in September and would include all candidates from the major parties.

Don Stypula reviewed the Reform Michigan Now ballot proposal. He will send out a report by the MTA to all members later today.

8. Adjournment – 9:30 a.m.

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