

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

May 2, 2013

8:30 a.m.

Kent County Commission Chambers
Grand Rapids

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair Jim Buck.

Members Present:

Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Rebecca Fleury	Village of Middleville
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Carol Hennessey	Kent County
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Barb Holt	City of Walker
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
John Hoppough	City of Greenville
Cindy Janes	Cascade Township
Mark Lemoine	At-Large Member
Brenda McNabb-Stange	City of Hastings
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Michael Selden	City of Wayland
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming

Members Absent:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Ken Bergwerff	Jamestown Township
Tom Butcher	Grand Valley State University
Richard Clanton	City of Kentwood
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia

Steve Grimm	Cannon Township
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
Mark Howe	City of Lowell
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Audrey Nevins-Weiss	Byron Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Jim Saalfeld	Kent County
Jay Spencer	Plainfield Township
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Patrick Waterman	City of Hudsonville
Roger Wills	City of Belding
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Others Present:

Chris Brown	Grand Valley Metro Council
Scott Connors	City of Walker
David Czurak	Grand Rapids Business Journal
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dharmesh Jain	GVMC / REGIS
Andy Johnston	Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Josh Lunger	Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Matt VandeBunte	M-Live
Peter Varga	The Rapid
Rep. Rob VerHeulen	Michigan Legislature
Steve Warren	Kent County Road Commission
John Weiss	Grand Valley Metro Council

2. Minutes

MOTION: To Approve the Minutes of the March 2013 GVMC Board Meeting. MOVE - Heartwell. SUPPORT - Janes. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Street Summit

State Rep. Rob VerHeulen – The Street Summit was an incredible success with great participation by legislators. There have been numerous positive comments across the state about the event. A survey has been taken of the general public which showed most people say they would be willing to pay more for better roads. Some communities have approved resolutions in support of road improvements and forwarded them to the legislature. Resolutions are very beneficial and he encourages all communities to follow suit.

Scott Conners, City of Walker – Scott lead the Route Subcommittee. The route taken on the tour told a great story about road conditions the how they pertain to business. The route went from the Kent County Road Commission to Walker, Grand Rapids, Wyoming, Kent County Airport and back to the Road Commission. Participants were given maps as well as information on the condition ratings of all area roads.

Steve Warren, Kent County Road Commission - Steve reported the weather created disruptions to the proposed tour; however it still was a very successful event. They talked about where area roads are at and how we can move forward collectively and support economic development through improved conditions.

Eric DeLong, City of Grand Rapids – The theme focused on Rebuild Our Region and Sustainable Streets. We have a legacy of transformation and economic development which was brought home to the legislators. Current and projected needs and conditions were reviewed. It was an excellent effort and conversation with lots of learning.

Andy Johnston and Josh Lunger, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce – Andy and Josh stated for the past 16 months that John Weiss has been with GVMC, they have developed a good public/private partnership with the Metro Council. The Chamber is honored to participate and partner in a long term solution on improving roadways. The position is consistent with promoting economic development. Michigan needs to invest now for economic vitality by putting funding to work in an efficient and effective manner with strong asset management. It is the next step in rebuilding Michigan. They thanked business speakers who participated and reported there was a noticeable increase in the understanding of the issue by legislators. In a meeting shortly thereafter, Bill Rustum mentioned the Summit at least eight times and encouraged all other communities to organize their own.

John Weiss thanked everyone for their participation.

5. REGIS Resolution

John Weiss explained the REGIS resolution which dissolves the MOU previously agreed upon by GVMC and REGIS. John introduces Brian Donovan, Rich Houtteman and Steve Warren, members of REGIS' Executive committee.

Brian Donovan stated signing the resolution and dissolving the MOU made sense at this time as REGIS is ultimately under the jurisdiction of GVMC, just as LGROW is. They each have their

Boards which make recommendations, however they are sub-organizations of GVMC and there is no reason for a document of separation.

Rich Houtteman stated the REGIS Board feels this is a positive step which will reenergize the organization and is looking forward to new dynamics and products.

MOTION – To Approve the Resolution Between GVMC and REGIS to Eliminate the Previously Signed MOU. MOVE – Donovan. SUPPORT – Janes. MOTION CARRIED.

6. GVMC At Large Member

Daryl Delabbio reported several high quality people had expressed interested in the GVMC At-Large Member position. After reviewing all the resumes, it was determined Rick Baker of the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce was the best candidate at this time.

MOTION – To Appoint Rick Baker to a 3-Year Term as an At-large GVMC Member. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Heartwell. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Other

John Hoppough reported how impressed he was with Metro Council's direction and accomplishments. It has made great strides in the past year and a half.

Jack Poll stated the GVMC Board meetings and activities are much more relevant than in the past and he gets much more out of attending the events than previously.

Carol Hennessey commented on the cooperation and collaboration of area communities and the Council throughout the recent flooding emergency.

8. Adjournment – 9:45 a.m.

MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – VerHulst. SUPPORT – Holt. MOTION CARRIED.