

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

June 6, 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:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Jerry Alkema | Allendale Township |
| Ken Bergwerff | Jamestown Township |
| Jim Buck | City of Grandville |
| Dan Carlton | Georgetown Township |
| Richard Clanton | City of Kentwood |
| Daryl Delabbio | Kent County |
| Mike DeVries | Grand Rapids Township |
| Brian Donovan | City of East Grand Rapids |
| Rebecca Fleury | Village of Middleville |
| George Heartwell | City of Grand Rapids |
| 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 |
| Jim Saalfeld | Kent County |
| Michael Selden | City of Wayland |
| Jay Spencer | Plainfield Township |
| Al Vanderberg | Ottawa County |
| Bill VerHulst | City of Wyoming |
| Michael Young | City of Rockford |

Members Absent:

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| Alex Arends | Alpine Township |
| Tom Butcher | Grand Valley State University |
| Jason Eppler | City of Ionia |
| Steve Grimm | Cannon Township |
| Brian Harrison | Caledonia Township |
| Doyle Hayes | At-Large Member |
| Carol Hennessey | Kent County |
| Mark Howe | City of Lowell |
| Elias Lumpkins, Jr. | City of Grand Rapids |
| Mick McGraw | At-large Member |
| Cy Moore | Treasurer |
| Audrey Nevins-Weiss | Byron Township |
| Steven Patrick | City of Coopersville |
| Jack Poll | City of Wyoming |
| Chuck Porter | Courtland Township |
| Milt Rohwer | City of Grand Rapids |
| Toby VanEss | Tallmadge Township |
| Patrick Waterman | City of Hudsonville |
| Roger Wills | City of Belding |

Others Present:

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Chris Brown | Grand Valley Metro Council |
| David Czurak | Grand Rapids Business Journal |
| Rod Ghearing | The Rapid |
| Abed Itani | Grand Valley Metro Council |
| Dharmesh Jain | GVMC / REGIS |
| Dennis Kent | MDOT |
| Gayle McCrath | Grand Valley Metro Council |
| Peter Varga | The Rapid |
| Steve Warren | Kent County Road Commission |
| John Weiss | Grand Valley Metro Council |

2. Minutes

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

3. Public Comment

None

4. July GVMC Board Meeting

MOTION – To Cancel the July GVMC Board Meeting Due to Scheduling Difficulties. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Janes. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Oath of Office

Kent County Clerk Mary Hollinrake administered the Oath of Office to At-Large Board Member – Rick Baker.

Rick stated he was happy to be a part of GVMC and looked forward to the ongoing partnership between the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and the Metro Council.

6. Transportation - TIP Approval and Approval of Unified Planning Work Program

Jim Buck opened the public hearing on the TIP and Unified Planning Work Program.

John Weiss reported GVMC is starting the budget cycle. The biggest portions of the budget, the transportation items, need to be approved by GVMC and to Federal Highway by July.

Abed Itani reported on the development of the 2014-17 TIP. Per requirements, all the steps necessary for the Council and Federal Highway to approve have taken place including two public comment meetings and environmental justice work.

Abed Itani reviewed the UPWP budget which has been through the required process and committees. In the future, the feds will require performance based planning in the TIP here forward to monitor improvements and measure progress. The staffing model in the proposed budget is now at seven positions rather than eight. It is anticipated dues will go down according to formula.

MOTION – To Approve the 2014-17 TIP. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Hoppough. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION – To Approve the 2013-14 Unified Planning Work Program. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Vanderberg. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Resolution to Support Increased Transportation Funding

John Weiss reviewed the resolution in support of increased transportation funding. It is essentially the same resolution already passed by several GVMC member communities. If your communities pass a resolution, please forward it on to John so he can forward it to legislators.

MOTION – To Approve the Resolution in Support of Increased Transportation Funding. MOVE – Lemoines. SUPPORT – Janes. MOTION CARRIED.

8. Report by Kent County Work Group on Community Collaboration

Jim Saalfeld reported on the findings of the Community Collaboration Work Group.

The group's charge was:

To determine:

- (i) the best means to achieve effective and efficient government, and
- (ii) whether collaborative and/or consolidation efforts will help accomplish those goals for the citizens of Kent County.

The subcommittee should consider what efforts have worked in the past, what opportunities are present today, and what consequences (good and bad) are likely to result.

The work group:

- Met 16 times.
- Presentations by approximately 25 subject matter experts.
- Received research by national experts.
- Reviewed and understanding the historical underpinnings of local government in Michigan and why government is organized the way it is.
- Reviewed major functions and services provided by cities, townships and counties.
- Considered what other models of governance exist in other areas of the country and evaluate their services.

Recommendations:

- Continue to focus on collaborative efforts that have verifiable data which support efficient and effective government and economic development.
- Utilize the Municipal Partnership Act as a tool to develop additional collaborations and/or consolidations.
- To support economic development, communities should work to standardize policies and procedures, including forms, applications, and establish common definitions for land-use planning and zoning.
- Continue to work towards collaboration in the property tax administration system (property assessment, inspections, tax tribunal cases)
- Focus on critical/impactful public services (police and fire).
- Establish a task-force of subject matter experts in the areas of law, justice, and court

operations to make recommendations to the legislature to support additional opportunities for collaboration

- Kent County communities have long been committed to local government collaboration.
- These efforts have yielded countless cost-savings and service improvements.
- Kent County Board of Commissioners should continue to support local units of government to promote further collaborations and/or consolidations.

Rick Baker said the Chamber is interested in making sure this report doesn't just sit on a shelf. We would love to have GVMC as a partner.

Mike DeVries echoed sentiments that the report should not just sit on a shelf and suggested GVMC take a lead.

Al Vanderberg suggested this group could have a future role. The Executive Committee should consider it and report back to this group.

John Weiss stated the report certainly address some common problems such as zoning definitions. If consolidating those would make a difference, that would be an issue which could be considered without too much difficulty.

9. Adjournment – 9:45 a.m.

MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Janes. MOTION CARRIED.