

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

April 1, 2009

8:30 a.m.

Kent County Building
Commissioners Chambers

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chairman Jim Buck.

Members Present:

Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Dick Bulkowski	Kent County
Randy DeBruine	City of Belding
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Eric DeLong	City of Grand Rapids
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
John Helmholdt	City of Grand Rapids
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Robert May	City of Hastings
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Lon Myers	Village of Middleville
David Pasquale	City of Lowell
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Carol Sheets	City of Wyoming
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming

Members Absent:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Pat Capek	City of Cedar Springs
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Jim LaPeer	Cannon Township
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Roger Morgan	Kent County
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Others Present:

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
David Czurak	Grand Rapids Business Journal
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Bob Hoeman	Plainfield Township
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Marsha Small	MDOT
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Tubbs	City of Hastings
Peter Varga	The Rapid

2. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the March 2009, GVMC Board Meeting.
MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – Miedema. MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Public Comment

None

4. Lease

Don Stypula reported on the latest version of the proposed lease of the Riverview office space. The lease has been reviewed by Jim Brown of Mika Myers and modified as suggested. Over a 10 year period, the lease should save \$463,000 over the current location. He reported GVMC will be getting no new furniture and although the amount of square footage will increase, we won't be paying for it.

Terms of the lease were discussed in detail.

It was reported that although the lease allows for 2 five-year extensions, it doesn't mention any leasehold improvements the landlord would offer at that time.

MOTION – To Approve the Authorization of the Executive Director to Sign the Proposed Lease or a Future Version that Would Allow for Improved Terms. MOVE – Sheets. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Transportation Department

a. Amendments to the GVMC 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan and FY 2008-2011 TIP.

Staff is requesting Metro Council to approve an amendment to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan to move the MDOT I-196 project from the outer years of the LRTP (2019-2025) to fiscal year 2009 as a result of the ARRA.

Staff is requesting Metro Council approve an amendment of the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program to add the MDOT project on I-196 from the Grand River/US-131 to Fuller to the TIP. In addition, MDOT is requesting GVMC MPO TIP action to include a detour project in FY2009, associated with the FY2010 bridge replacement project on M-21 in Lowell.

MOTION – To Approve the Requested Amendments to the GVMC 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. MOVE – DeLong. SUPPORT – Fox. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION – To Approve the FY 2008-2011 TIP. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Sheets. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Resolution for the West Michigan Public Transit Linkage Study

Don Stypula reviewed the proposed resolution in support of the West Michigan Public Transit Linkage Study.

MOTION – To Support the Resolution for West Michigan Public Transit Linkage Study. MOVE – Rohwer. SUPPORT – Eppler. MOTION CARRIED.

7. GVMC / REGIS Memo of Understanding

Jim Buck reviewed the issue of the GVMC / REGIS Memo of Understanding. He reported the Executive Committee has been working on this for some time and anticipate no final action at today's meeting. It is being brought to the full Council for review at this time and will be on the agenda again in 30 days.

Don Stypula reviewed REGIS' history.

Bob Hoeman reviewed REGIS' request for more autonomy. The proposed Memo of Understanding spells out the terms and conditions of what would be the new relationship between GVMC and REGIS. He stated the REGIS Executive Board is asking the GVMC Board for approval of what is contained in the document.

Don Stypula stated the Memo Of Understanding (MOU) would be brought to Jim Brown of Mika Myers for review. Since many of the items listed in the MOU are contrary to the GVMC Bylaws and/or REGIS Bylaws, legal opinion is needed.

Rob VerHeulen stated he is concerned about many items in the MOU including whether all employees of REGIS, including the Executive Director, are employees of GVMC or REGIS. They are all employees of GVMC, you can't have some issues handled by REGIS and others by GVMC, nor can some employees be employed by REGIS and others by GVMC. More than one person cannot be in charge. The relationships and personalities might be an issue; however a different Executive Director might interact differently with REGIS.

Rick Root stated the MOU is not perfect, but it would allow modification and he feels it is an interim step.

Rob VerHeulen also stated there are issues with the REGIS Board being able to adjust the REGIS Director's pay and benefits. He is an employee of the Metro Council. Would there be no limit to what they could allow him? How does the REGIS Budget roll into the GVMC budget?

Don Stypula stated GVMC will engage a third party to look at standardizing the cost sharing allocations which the REGIS Board will have authority to approve.

Rob VerHeulen asked if the REGIS budget would still be approved by the GVMC Board.

Don Stypula stated ultimately it would be approved by both GVMC and REGIS.

Cy Moore stated the Metro Council would review and approve the REGIS budget.

Rob VerHeulen questioned the MOU giving the REGIS Board the ability to approve their dues and budget. How does this affect GVMC's budget?

Mike DeVries asked who adopts the REGIS budget.

Cy Moore stated in the future, GVMC will be more involved in the process of approving the REGIS budget.

George Meek asked what friction caused this request. It's good this is not being voted on today. There appears to be a cold war going on. I have a real problem with this request.

Don Stypula stated he has had a personality conflict with one REGIS Board member; however this proposed MOA would address this concern.

Bob Hoeman stated he would talk to George Meek at their office regarding the friction that precipitated this request.

Tom Fehsenfeld stated this was an interesting discussion. Many organizations have gotten into trouble because of liability issues which they did not have control of. This appears to put GVMC in the same position. We need to get an attorney's opinion on the financial and liability issues. Maybe a legal split would be cleaner than dealing with the issues of joint control.

Jim Buck stated that many of these issues have been discussed in the past months at the Executive Committee meetings.

Rick Root stated their clearly seemed to be an end game which would result in an independent REGIS. He doesn't think at this time this is correct, but maybe in the future. He is not comfortable with that option right now.

Bob Hoeman stated Rick Root makes an excellent point. In the future there may be an independent REGIS, but that is not what we want now with signing a new 10 year lease.

Jim Buck stated he would pursue answers to these questions with Jim Brown.

8. Legislative

Don Stypula stated there would be a legislative luncheon on May 5th. Attendees would have an opportunity to go to various House and Senate committee meetings. Don will put together a list and directions of things to be done. Lunch will be with legislators and their staff. We can actually get you on the floors of the sessions. Don will give written instructions on how to do things and will ask the MML, MTA and MAC to help out also.

9. Other

Jim Buck reported Steven Patrick and Cindy Fox have joined the Nominating Committee and Al Vanderberg will be taking over the Chair of the committee. They will address filling the spot of Audrey Nevins on the Executive Committee.

10. Adjourn – 9:45

MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Eppler. SUPPORT – Rohwer. MOTION CARRIED.