

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

April 1, 2010

8:30 a.m.

Kent County Commission 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
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Sandi Frost Parrish	Kent County
John Helmholdt	At-Large
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Jim LaPeer	Cannon Township
Robert May	City of Hastings
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming

Members Absent:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Randy DeBruin	City of Belding
Chris Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids

Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
David Pasquale	City of Lowell
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Phil Van Noord	Village of Middleville
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Chris Yonker	City of Wayland
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
TaiWo Jaiyeoba	ITP
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 March 2010, GVMC Board Meeting with Correction. MOVE – DeVries. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Appointment of Grand Valley State University to the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council as a Higher Education Participant

Don Stypula reviewed the resolution to invite Grand Valley State University to participate in the Metro Council. Dues would be \$5,000 annually.

Don Hilton asked if it allows the university to just be a part of the GVMC Board, or would they also be eligible to be a part of the Executive Committee?

Don Stypula explained that the Nominating Committee determines the members of the Executive Committee. However, GVSU would be invited to sit in on other activities.

Jim La Peer asked if there were any plans to reach out to other universities.

Don Stypula indicated these weren't at this time. In one or two years, he could bring in a recommendation to include others.

MOTION – To Approve the Resolution Inviting GVSU to Become a Member of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council. MOVE – Poll. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.

5. May 11 GVMC Visioning / Goal-Setting Meeting

Don Stypula reported a visioning session will be held on the morning of May 11 at the Gaines Township Hall. It will be the most important meeting of the Metro Council. The purpose of the meeting is to figure out what GVMC should be in the future. What can it do to create value for its members? It will be lead by Dr. Lew Bender. Every member should make an effort to attend the meeting or send a representative. The session will start off with a continental breakfast. Don Stypula will send out information to everyone before hand on the history, mission, etc. of GVMC. The outcome of the meeting will be an action plan and deliverables created by Don and staff (after the meeting).

Al Vanderberg stated we need to figure out the unique value added identity of GVMC in these difficult economic times. Successful organizations don't make strategic plans just an annual exercise, but incorporate them into their activities to be an intentional organization. We need to define who we are and what we are about.

Daryl Delabbio added that one morning might not be sufficient to cover everything. He said he can't overemphasize enough the importance of everyone being there and actively participating. We must ensure GVMC gives value to each and every member.

6. Legislative Advocacy

Don Stypula reported the Legislative committee discussed engaging candidates for office. GVMC would give them information about the organization as well as its legislative priorities. The cover letter will include the names of all the members along with the communities they represent. Candidates would be asked to indicate their positions on the issues, sign and return. This would then be used to track their record. The information will also be sent out to all members who can share it with their governing bodies and constituents. GVMC will develop a tracking system. The Mackinaw Center has a good system. We will put a greater emphasis on talking to the candidates.

Mike DeVries stated there is a wealth of talent on the Legislative committee. GVMC needs to be relevant in its legislative advocacy. We need to track the legislative issues and make our representatives accountable. REGIS maps with population shown should be used to emphasize our opinion matters. We should also be sure to include GVSU and the private

sector board members. A timeline needs to be set to work with candidates and make sure they know our issues.

Don Stypula reported the next meeting of the Legislative committee will be on April 28 at the GVMC offices.

Mike DeVries stated by the 14th we should send out the list of legislative priorities.

7. **Other**

8. **Adjourn – 9:30 a.m.**

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