

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

June 7, 2007

8:30 a.m.

Kent County Building

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 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
Pat Capek	City of Cedar Springs
Sharon De Lange	Village of Sparta
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Dennis Hoemke	Algoma Township
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Mike Julien	Cascade Township
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Robert May	City of Hastings
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Lon Myers	Village of Middleville
Roger Morgan	Kent County
David Morren	Kent County
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Carol Sheets	City of Wyoming
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming

Members Absent:

Jim Beelen	Allendale Township
Bev Drake	City of Grand Rapids
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County

Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Others Present:

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dharmesh Jain	Grand Valley Metro Council
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Marsha Small	MDOT
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Peter Varga	ITP The RAPID

2. Swearing-in of New Board Members

Sonja Dean, Deputy Kent County Clerk, administered the oath of office to Sharon DeLange of the Village of Sparta.

Chairman Jim Buck welcomed Ms. DeLange to the Council.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the May 2007 GVMC Board Meeting Minutes with Corrections. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Finances

Don Stypula discussed the recommendation for the new auditing firm. RFPs were sent to 6 firms, 2 responded. Vredevelde Haefner is the recommended firm and has been approved by the Finance Committee. They are familiar with GVMC’s type of business and finances.

MOTION – To Approve the Contract with Vredeveld Haefner as the New Auditing Firm. MOVE – DeVries. SUPPORT – Sheets. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Transportation

a. Unified Planning Work Program Budget

Abed Itani explained the proposed 2008 Unified Planning Work Program and the process under which it was developed. The UPWP needs to be approved now so that it can go through the other required channels before October 1, 2007.

There is no proposed or foreseen changes in staffing.

MOTION – To Approve the GVMC 2008 Unified Planning Work Program. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – DeVries. MOTION CARRIED.

b. TIP Amendments

Abed Itani discussed the proposed TIP Amendments which affect ITS and 07 & 09 projects related to ITS. The amendments also affect ride share projects for Allegan County.

MOTION – To Approve the Proposed FY 2007 TIP Amendments. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Holland. MOTION CARRIED.

7. GVMC Business Planning Session

Al Vanderberg reviewed the GVMC planning session and discussed its results. It was a good first year exercise. The results are important for the Board to have a good understanding with staff of what the Council wants to be accomplished. It was needed to build consensus among Board members.

Don Stypula should take these results and create an action plan that will be presented to the Board. The progress on this should be reported quarterly.

Top Priorities:

- Land Use business plan
- Revitalizing quarterly regional cooperation meetings
- Green light issues legislative issues
- Ongoing education of GVMC purpose, activities, and services to members, boards, and potential new members.
- Develop a menu of for-fee services

Kurt Kimball and Daryl Delabbio both complemented Al Vanderberg and Michael Young on their undertaking and results of this difficult process.

Tom Fehsenfeld asked what Don Stypula's perspective was on how he and staff would proceed on these priorities.

Don Stypula stated it is very clear on what the focus needs to be. He won't let anything fall off the page. He wants to continue collaboration and cross training within departments and anticipates what other departments need.

Carol Sheets commented that this process will help members in their participation in the evaluation of the Executive Director.

George Meek questioned how often the priorities would be reviewed.

Al Vanderberg stated they would be reported on at least quarterly.

MOTION – To Accept the Results of the GVMC Business Planning Process and Refer them to the Executive Committee for Review and Recommendations. MOVE – Vanderberg. SUPPORT – DeVries. MOTION CARRIED.

8. Growing Communities Conference

Andy Bowman updated the committee on the progress of the Growing Communities Conference. It appears this year's event should be solvent. Sessions include:

- Sewer & Water Utilities in Metro GR – Jim Smalligan
- Trans, Trolleys & Development – ITP and Rick Gustafson
- Green Neighborhood Design LEED – ND – Laura Watchman
- Existing Neighborhoods and Infrastructure – Midtown and SWAN
- REGIS – Efficient Planning and Management of Infrastructure – Jain
- Region Wide Impacts and Management of Septic Systems
- All Forms of Alternative Energy – Panel Discussion
- Context Sensitive Street Design – Kirk Steudle and Panel Discussion

Blueprint Awards

Andy Bowman discussed the candidates for Blueprint Awards for 2007. There were 7 nominees, and the three recommended are:

- East Grand Rapids – Community Center
- Newberry Place – Cohousing
- Brikyaat

9. Legislative Issues

The Council reviewed and discussed the issue and letter to legislators regarding mandating consolidation of certain services from townships of certain sizes to counties.

Discussion ensued regarding the merits of such a proposal, which many maintained would not save money. There was large diversity of opinion; however it was ultimately decided to oppose this particular bill as it segregates only townships of a particular size, and doesn't include the remainder of townships, villages, or cities.

The point was made that local governments need to be engaged in the process and not just a victim of legislators who may have good intentions, but do not have all the information needed to develop a plan to accomplish such goals.

MOTION – To Approve the Letter to Legislators in Opposition of HB 4780. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Kimball. MOTION CARRIED.

10. Adjourn

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