

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

July 9, 2007

10:00 a.m.

Fifth Third Ballpark
4500 West River Drive
Comstock Park, MI

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Chairman Jim Buck.

Members Present:

Marta Brechting	Alpine Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Sharon De Lange	Village of Sparta
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Mike Julien	Cascade Township
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Robert May	City of Hastings
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Lon Myers	Village of Middleville
Carol Sheets	City of Wyoming
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming

Members Absent:

Jim Beelen	Allendale Township
Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Bonnie Blackledge	Cannon Township
Pat Capek	City of Cedar Springs
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Bev Drake	City of Grand Rapids
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
Dennis Hoemke	Algoma Township
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville

Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Roger Morgan	Kent County
David Morren	Kent County
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Others Present:

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

2. Public Comment

Don Stypula asked members to stand for a moment of silence in tribute to the Grand Rapids police officer killed in the line of duty.

3. Approval of minutes dated June, 2007

Motion to Approve the Minutes of June 2007 with change. MOTION – Julien. SUPPORT – May. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Transportation Department

a. Project Amendments to the GVMC FY 2007 TIP

Abed Itani described the requested project amendments to the GVMC FY 2007 TIP for the Local Jobs Today program; ITP adjustment on work program funding; enhancement projects and safety projects.

MOTION to Approve the Proposed GVMC FY 2007 TIP Amendments. MOVE – Sheets. SUPPORT – MEEK. MOTION CARRIED.

b. FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Abed Itani explained the proposed FY 2008 – 2011 TIP.

MOTION – To Approve the FY 2008-2011 TIP. MOVE – Holtrop. SUPPORT – MEEK. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Wrap-up Report on the 2007 Growing Communities Conference

Andy Bowman reviewed the 2007 GVMC Growing Communities Conference. Financially we did well. Costs were down. The speakers were good. Infrastructure was the theme.

Winners of the Blueprint Awards were Newberry Place – Cohousing; Brikyaat; and the East Grand Rapids Community Center.

George Meek added that he had heard very good reports from Plainfield Township officials who attended the conference.

6. Legislative Issues

Don Stypula reported the legislature has passed a business tax, however the Governor hasn't signed it yet. There will be a trailer bill following soon to clean up some of the additional items which need addressing.

There has been no progress on the 2008 State Budget. Lansing takes steps forward and then steps back. The latest is that the Governor wanted to keep the legislature in session last week and this week. They will be in session this week. There will be several key votes coming up and with vacations, it will make the situation difficult.

There is no way of predicting what the budget will entail, probably a combination of cuts; elements of government reform; and tax increases.

The 6% proposed tax on sports tickets is unlikely. It is more likely Michigan will incorporate an increase on personal income tax to 4.6%.

Jim Holtrop questioned the phone tax?

Don Stypula stated there is a proposal for that for both landline and cell phones, but he doesn't think it has the votes.

Elias Lumpkins stated that he has heard the phone tax was floated to pay for enhanced emergency response.

Al Vanderberg stated he was opposed to it as it will shift millions to the State policed who do not receive as many calls as the locals do.

7. Other Items of Business and Comments from GVMC Members

Mike Julien stated Cascade Township is still taking applications for a township manager.

8. Adjourn – 11:00 a.m.