

# GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

## Board Meeting

August 6, 2009

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
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Chris Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Eric DeLong	City of Grand Rapids
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
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
Jim LaPeer	Cannon Township
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Chris Yonker	City of Wayland
Michael Young	City of Rockford

#### Members Absent:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Dick Bulkowski	Kent County
Randy DeBruine	City of Belding
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member

Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Robert May	City of Hastings
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Roger Morgan	Kent County
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Lon Myers	Village of Middleville
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
David Pasquale	City of Lowell
Carol Sheets	City of Wyoming

**Others Present:**

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

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the July, 2009, GVMC Board Meeting, with correction. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED.**

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. GVMC FY 2009-2010 Budget**

Don Stypula reviewed the FY 2009-2010 GVMC Budget. The Transportation budget was approved at the previous Board meeting and the numbers have been carried forward.

Total overall GVMC revenues for FY 2009-2010 are proposed to be \$2,088,282 with expenditures of \$2,106,283 for (\$18,001) net revenues over expenditures. The REGIS budget is \$1,112,391 and was approved by the REGIS Board on July 22. The (\$18,001) is accounted for by three additional programs including consultants to work on GVMC strategic planning; determine the GVMC/REGIS cost sharing formula; and executive coaching.

Jim Buck stated this was the first look at the budget. It would be brought back again in 30 days for final approval.

**5. Strategic Plan**

Don Stypula reported he had fallen short on moving elements of the strategic plan forward. He gave his word to the Council that he would give regular reports and make great progress on accomplishing the goals.

Regarding regional collaboration, Don reported he is working with the Right Place and others to develop a regional welcome mat which includes a regional approach to economic development. GVMC members can look forward to getting together in mid to late September with the Right Place and review their recommendations for cohesion.

Michael Young asked when GVMC can expect to get new dates and realistic milestones on the items in the strategic plan.

Don Stypula stated in many cases the dates on the report have been missed. GVMC members can look for new dates within the next two months. He won't wait until the next quarter.

Don Stypula reported one of his major objectives was to survey planners in the region to determine if communities would utilize a fee for service program. GVMC would work with area planners and the communities to meet obligations while maintaining a regional perspective.

Andy Bowman indicated the survey was completed several months ago. There was some confusion on the question of if the Metro Council could do specific planning items or if it was just checking on what the needs were. The question is really what are the regional planning needs that fall within GVMC's directive.

The biggest need appears to be in the area of staff training with professional credentials and new techniques. We would also like to do more emphasis on workshops and training for planning commissions.

Rick Root stated that with issues such as capital improvement plans, some communities already have developed a methodology and have a great deal of experience. Kentwood would be glad to share its expertise.

Michael Young stated some things are currently covered by contractors who would not be happy with GVMC supplying these services. In fact, some of the surveys could have even been filled out by the contractors who are currently engaged in these tasks.

Daryl Delabbio added it would be beneficial to convene a session of overall planning commissions and staff to discuss the possibilities.

Andy Bowman stated there is a group of planning staff which currently meets, however it doesn't include commissions.

Jim Holtrop reported Ottawa County has been holding training sessions for years and could share information on their program with others.

Don Stypula stated there is a great deal of expertise around this table and asked everyone to e-mail him with their suggestions on the best way to share that expertise. What is the best way for Metro Council staff to set up meetings to review everyone's expertise and share it? He also asked them to report if there is a way GVMC can reach out to planning

commissions. This is a slow time and it would be a good time to engage planning commissions.

Jim Buck reported the Strategic Plan will be revisited on a quarterly basis by the Executive Committee and Personnel Committee.

## **6. Change of Venue for November Board Meeting**

Jim Buck reported the Kent County Commission chambers will not be available for the November meeting. Carol Sheets of Wyoming has offered her offices.

**MOTION – To Hold the November GVMC Board Meeting at the Wyoming City Offices. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Fox. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **7. Legislative Advocacy**

Rick Root stated there were many members at the last Legislative committee meeting. Notes on the meeting are included in the briefing memo which all have seen. The Legislature and Governor seems to have a total disregard for Headlee. The Committee also discussed the public healthcare proposal. It is worth entertaining; however let's not hurt ourselves while we fix others' problems.

Don Stypula discussed unfunded mandates and the survey being done through Dr. Eric Scorsone of MSU. He encouraged everyone to be prepared to give actual figures and not just antidotal information. Also GVMC members are encouraged to talk to their legislators when they see them around the community and let them know the detailed analysis is upcoming.

Healthcare – Don Stypula reported discussions are ongoing with various groups regarding the public healthcare proposal. With the support of the Council he will send a formal message to Rep. Dillon thanking him for the leadership; expressing our desire to be in on the discussions; and asking the speaker to consider analyzing our area's information on costs and savings. Don will also share the letter with our legislators. The letter will not support the proposal 100%, but will ask to be at the table in discussions.

Rick Root added Sen. Bishop supports the proposal in the Senate, so the letter should also be sent to him.

**MOTION – To Send a Letter to Rep. Dillon & Sen. Bishop thanking them for the Leadership in the Healthcare Issue, and asking to be at the Table in Discussions. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.**

Eric DeLong added he had a call with Rep. Dillon yesterday regarding the issue and how it affects labor. It is important that the healthcare proposal be tie bared to legislation which would enable its use in unions, etc. Since the proposal actually originated with Dillon, a separate letter should be sent to him.

Milt Rohwer strongly advised a copy be sent to Phil Power of the Center for Michigan.

Don Stypula indicated he would forward a copy to all those in addition to all members.

**8. Executive Director's Annual Review**

Michael Young, Chair of the Personnel Committee reported on the Executive Director's annual review. This year a new formula was used which in addition to using the results of a survey of all GVMC members, also included weighted input from the Executive Committee regarding the Executive Director's progress on the strategic goals. The overall rate was 3.34. A detailed report is available. If anyone would like one, please contact Michael Young. Per Don Stypula's request, he will not receive a wage increase this year. However, he will be allotted an additional week of vacation, bringing his total to 5 weeks per year.

**MOTION – To Increase the Executive Director's Vacation Allotment to 5 Weeks Per Year. MOVE – Michael Young. SUPPORT – Rohwer. MOTION CARRIED.**

**9. Transportation**

Don Stypula reported Judd Gilbert has proposed an increase in state transportation funding which will include the recommendations of the transportation funding taskforce of last year. The proposal will probably wait until after the state budget has been finalized.

George Meek asked for an update on the Pavement Management Van at the next meeting

**10. Other**

**11. Adjourn – 9:45 a.m.**

**MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – LaPeer. MOTION CARRIED.**