

Grand Valley Metro Council Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 18, 2007
12:00 PM

Grand Valley Metro Council
40 Pearl Street N.W., Suite 410
Grand Rapids, MI

MINUTES

Present

Jim Beelen	Allendale Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Don Hilton Sr.	Gaines Township
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Cy Moore	Council Treasurer
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Alan Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker

Absent

Other

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dharmesh Jain	Grand Valley Metro Council
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by Chairperson Jim Buck.

1. Legislative Issues Update

Don Stypula explained what was going on regarding the state budget, as well as what has been happening on proposed new tipping fees and government reform.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion – To Approve the September, 2007, GVMC Executive Committee Minutes. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Appointment of New GVMC Board Member

At the November GVMC Board meeting, Milt Rohwer will be sworn in as a new representative for the City of Grand Rapids replacing Bev Drake.

4. The Civics Institute Request for Funding Assistance for Local Government Curriculum Project

Al Vanderberg reviewed the school curriculum project undertaken by the Civics Institute. They are requesting a \$5,000 donation from GVMC to continue the project.

He addressed questions previously brought forward regarding if the MTA approved of how townships were portrayed in the curriculum. Al stated he talked with Larry Merrill and suggested Larry could personally review the next section of the project.

Al also addressed the question of how many school systems are using the curriculum. He stated they do not have an accurate tracking mechanism, however he would estimate about 100. It was piloted in 46 school districts. The schools which have used it indicate they find it useful.

They have been very diligent in cutting production costs. The cost this time has dropped by approximately \$10,000. It is being marketed to schools to try to get a higher saturation rate.

Audrey Nevins asked if funding is coming from the MTA, MML, and other organizations, aren't we double dipping by also contributing through GVMC. Is it one of our goals to fund education?

Al Vanderberg stated GVMC contributed to the other legs of the project.

Rick Root also asked if it was the goal of GVMC to fund education. Has GVMC ever taken a policy statement on it?

Audrey Nevins indicated she is in support of education; however it needs to be justified by our goals. Otherwise it should be left up to the MML, MTA, etc., and whatever local entities choose to donate.

Don Stypula stated funding would come from the GVMC general fund, and he will ask for a budget amendment in 2008 to reflect that.

Rob VerHeulen indicated he shared concern that GVMC is both a grant seeker and a grant giver. However, he does like the program and if it were supported, we need to make it clear we are not a source of money for all good organizations. It would open doors that we don't want to.

Daryl Delabbio stated he understands the points made, but it can be justified by the fact that we are involved in education and it is a legacy issue. Then we will end the grant requests here.

Cy Moore asked if GVMC has ever given to any thing else.

Don Stypula stated no it hadn't.

Don Hilton added that MTA had funded at least \$20,000.

MOTION – To Move the Donation of \$5,000 to the Civics Institute for Continuation of the School Curriculum Project to the November GVMC Board Agenda. MOVE – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Delabbio. All In Favor with the Exception of Audrey Nevins. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Legislative Committee
a. Draft Resolution in Support of Increased Funding for Transportation Infrastructure

Don Stypula discussed the draft resolution to in support of increased transportation funding.

MOTION – To Move the Draft Resolution in Support of Increased Transportation Funding to the November GVMC Board Meeting Agenda. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – Beelen. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Discussion Regarding Additional At-Large Board Member

The committee discussed the possibility of adding an additional at-large member, and the process to follow if one were to be added.

It was decided to send the question to the Nominating committee, and for them to see what perspective is lacking on the GVMC Board (education, business, etc.). It was the consensus that based on that information, recruitment for the position should begin.

7. Draft Bylaws – Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds

Don Stypula reviewed the proposed bylaws for the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds and indicated it is a work in progress.

Brian Donovan discussed the work of the steering committee, and the proposed bylaws.

Don Stypula stated Jim Brown will review the document and his comments will be brought back to the steering committee.

Rob VerHeulen asked who is going to manage this organization. It maybe too detailed and difficult to manage in its proposed form.

Brian Donovan indicated it was the first round of draft organization and changes will be made as necessary. It may be too complex.

Don Hilton agreed that it seemed too complex.

Al Vanderberg stated he thought it was a good start and maybe should be expanded West Michigan wide.

Andy Bowman indicated that the Strategic Alliance could coordinate that.

Audrey Nevins stated she supported the creation of the agency as its work is what the Metro Council is all about.

8. Progress Report on the GVMC Strategic Business Plan

Don Stypula reviewed the GVMC Strategic Business Plan. He reported he had worked on the document with Al Vanerberg and Michael Young to create and track goals. At the GVMC Board meeting on November 1, Don will present it along with a briefing memo. He will also update the Executive committee on a regular basis as to the progress of the goals of the business plan.

9. Adjourn

**MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Kimball. SUPPORT – Hilton.
MOTION CARRIED.**