

**Grand Valley Metro Council
Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday, October 23, 2008
12:00 pm

Grand Valley Metro Council
40 Pearl Street NW, Suite 410
Grand Rapids, MI

MEETING NOTES

Present

Jim Buck
Daryl Delabbio
Don Hilton, Sr.
Kurt Kimball
Cy Moore
Jim Meidema
Rick Root

City of Grandville
Kent County
Gaines Township
City of Grand Rapids
Council Treasurer
Jamestown Township
City of Kentwood

Absent

Audrey Nevins
Carol Sheets
Alan Vanderberg

Byron Township
City of Wyoming
Ottawa County

Other

Andy Bowman
Leon Branderhorst
Gayle McCrath
Don Stypula

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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 pm by Chair Jim Buck.

2. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION – To Approve the September 2008 GVMC Executive Committee Minutes.
MOVE – Root. SUPPORT- Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Mediation

Don Stypula updated the committee on the proposed dispute mediation service funded by foundations. If the service is used, the parties will contact Don Stypula who will work with the West Michigan Mediation Service Center. Don will put them in touch with the center, which will meet with the parties to determine if they can work out their differences through mediation. If so, they will sign an agreement to use GVMC and the mediation service. They will still maintain their rights to litigate. One person would be at the table on behalf of each party. It would be held at a neutral location with no one from GVMC reported to or involved. GVMC would act as the coordinator between the center and its members. If this is approved, Don Stypula will coordinate funding through Milt Rohwer. A good friend of Don's, Dick Hinshon, works for the West Michigan Mediation Center and worked on a big project in Detroit. If this committee agrees to the concept, Don will bring it up in front of the full council.

Cy Moore asked if the incentive was that the mediation would be free, and if that is a big enough incentive.

Don Stypula stated yes, hopefully.

Cy Moore asked when funding would happen, before or after an issue was brought to mediation.

Don Stypula stated he wanted to talk to the committee and get their opinion.

Cy Moore stated there should definitely be funds up front.

Kurt Kimball added the foundations may not want the money actually out of their bank accounts before, but an arrangement needs to be made to obligate the money.

Daryl Delabbio asked if Don knew how much average mediation costs.

Don Stypula stated \$2,500 - \$5,000.

Rick Root said it sounds good, but asked with what frequency and with members only? What about when one party is a member and the other one isn't? How many times does this actually happen? What is the potential?

Kurt Kimball stated there doesn't appear to be a down side, although it is unknown whether or not this would have changed the current issues area communities are dealing with.

Cy Moore said perhaps it should be offered to GVMC members only and others would be charged.

Andy Bowman asked how it would be structured. Will the foundations expect a certain outcome or deliverable?

Don Stypula stated he would bring it to the next council meeting to see what they think.

4. Office Layout

Don Stypula reviewed the latest version of the proposed layout for the GVMC offices at Riverview. We are still on track to move in March.

5. Land Use Planning Charette

Don Stypula and Andy Bowman reviewed the Fisher Station charrette. With generous funding support from several Grand Rapids-based foundations, the Grand Valley Metro Council conducted a design charrette for Fisher Station, an area along south Division Avenue between 54th and 60th Streets that will house one of the transit stations planned for ITP-The Rapid's proposed bus rapid transit (BRT) line. With 19 stops, a dedicated travel lane, and buses every 10 minutes, the \$40 million BRT will use a dedicated travel lane that runs north along Division from 60th Street to the central city.

Rick Root stated this was planning for the future, not for ourselves. It falls to us to grasp the vision of what could be. This is why we serve. He is very excited to see the process roll out.

Don Hilton reported he has stated several times he believes the transit line should be further south, and hopefully someday it will.

6. Transportation

Don Stypula reported the Ottawa County transportation study and the Kent County-wide study of those not serviced by the RAPID are moving forward.

7. Film Friendly Michigan

Don Stypula reported a course on Film Friendly Michigan was recently given in Southeast Michigan with a grant from Wayne County and asked if this is something that should be done here. We would solicit funding from foundations. The cost would be \$5,000. If no grants are available, a charge of \$75 - \$90 could be administered.

Kurt Kimball stated he would support the idea.

Don Stypula said he would check with foundations on funding.

8. Legislative

Don Stypula stated he has not been able to get a call back from anyone on the status of HJR III which would adjust Proposal A. The bill is still out there. The House is still holding it. There is an identical bill in the Senate ready to go.

Don Stypula reported the federal stimulus package is said to include funding for transportation projects.

9. Adjournment—1:30 pm