

Grand Valley Metro Council

Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes

November 12, 2003

40 Pearl St. NW – Suite 410
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Present

Andy Bowman – GVMC Staff
Leon Branderhorst – GVMC Staff
Jim Buck – City of Grandville
Daryl Delabbio – Kent County
Cindy Heinbeck – Alpine Township
Don Hilton – Gaines Township
Jay Hoekstra – GVMC Staff
Abed Itani – GVMC Staff
Kurt Kimball – City of Grand Rapids
Mark Knudsen – Ottawa County
Gayle McCrath – GVMC Staff
Cy Moore – Treasurer
Don Stypula – GVMC Staff
Rob VerHeulen – City of Walker

Absent

Judy Frey – City of East Grand Rapids
Frank Sessions – Tallmadge Township

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 by Chair Jim Buck.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Buck asked if there were any changes to be made to the October 2003 Executive Committee Minutes. There were none.

MOTION – to Approve the October 2003 minutes of the GVMC Executive Committee Meeting. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Heinbeck. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Transportation

Abed Itani reported on the proposed contract with Sharp Marketing to promote Amtrak through the WESTRAIN coalition. Six firms submitted bids. The WESTRAIN board chose the proposal by Sharp Marketing for \$93,778. The amount is budgeted through the agreement with MDOT and does not affect the GVMC budget in any way.

MOTION – To support the \$93,778 contract with SHARP Marketing for WESTRAIN, and pass it on to the GVMC Board for their consideration at the December Board meeting. MOVE - VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Knudsen. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Blueprint / Landuse Update

Andy Bowman and Jay Hoekstra gave an update on the Blueprint / Land use project. They reported on the process and the results to date. The information gathered in the process has been used to create a Metropolitan Framework map.

Andy Bowman fielded questions regarding inconsistencies between the map and local planning. Mr. Bowman stated that the map is just a beginning and is expected to be continuously modified. Mr. Bowman also reported that a Metropolitan Framework is needed to enact the PDR program for Kent County.

Don Stypula reported that the Blueprint Committee has recently been reconvened, and that it will meet again on December 1st. At this meeting a resolution for approval of the Metropolitan Framework will be developed (which is expected to be brought before the December Executive Committee and the January GVMC Board). Further discussion on the future of the Blueprint Committee is also expected at the December 1st meeting, which will be reported on at the December GVMC Board meeting.

5. Change of Date of January Board Meeting

MOTION – To move the January GVMC Board meeting date and location to January 12th, 2004 at DeVos Place 10:30. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Legislative Update

Don Stypula reported on the 6% overall (12% statutory) proposed cuts to revenue sharing. It appears as if these cuts are almost set in stone at this point.

Mr. Stypula also reported on the State's sale of \$200 million in bonds for sewer and stormwater improvements. Directions will be passed along to members regarding application for the funds as more information becomes available.

Mr. Stypula also reported on HB 4039 which would ban honoraria for local government officials. The bill would inadvertently penalize those who spoke or wrote for a living.

MOTION – To support Mr. Stypula’s work with the MML and MTA either in opposition of HB 4039 or to amend it to prevent penalization of local officials who speak or write for a living. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Heinbeck. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Other Items

It was reported to the Committee that the City of Grand Rapids, the Right Place, and GVMC would like a letter of support to seek a grant in the amount of \$300,000 from the Frey Foundation for the PDR program for Alpine, Sparta and Tyrone Townships.

MOTION – To support the request of the Frey Foundation for funding of the PDR program in the amount of \$300,000. MOVE – Kimball. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.

Adjourn – 1:45 p.m.