

**Grand Valley Metro Council
Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday, February 18, 2010
12:00 pm

Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NW, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI

MEETING NOTES

Present

Jim Buck
Daryl Delabbio
George Heartwell
Don Hilton, Sr.
Cindy Fox
Cy Moore
Rick Root
Alan Vanderberg
Rob VerHeulen

City of Grandville
Kent County
City of Grand Rapids
Gaines Township
Cascade Township
Council Treasurer
City of Kentwood
Ottawa County
City of Walker

Absent

Jim Miedema

Jamestown Township

Other

Andy Bowman
Leon Branderhorst
Abed Itani
Gayle McCrath
Don Stypula

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1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION – Approval of GVMC Executive Committee Minutes of January 2010.
MOVE – Root. SUPPORT - Vanderberg. MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Transportation – Amendments to FY 2008-2011 TIP for ITP-The Rapid and MDOT

Abed Itani explained the request for TIP amendment. In preparation of the FY2010 &2011 Section 5307/5309 grant applications, The Rapid is requesting an amendment to the FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY2010 & 2011. The Rapid is requesting the change in order to update Activity Line Items for bus stop signs; Wealthy Street landscaping; Wealthy Street operations expansions and streetcar.

MDOT is requesting an amendment to the FY 2008-2011 MPO TIP to convert several I-196 projects, for PE phase and related costs, from 100% state funds to federal aid. These conversions to federal aid eligibility are being made under the requirements of 23 CFR Section 1.9.

MOTION – To Amend FY2008-2011 TIP to Reflect The Rapid’s and MDOT’s Requested Changes. MOVE – Fox. SUPPORT – Heartwell. MOTION CARRIED.

Don Stypula reported on a change in the way the Council would vote on MPO transportation items in the future. When a vote is called, the Council will be reminded that only members of the MPO can vote on the item.

Rick Root added a list of the MPO members should be brought to every meeting for reference.

4. Proposal by Grand Valley State University to Join the Metro Council

Jim Buck discussed GVMC’s At-large members and how their 2-year terms had not been monitored. This year the Nominating committee will take up two of those positions, and next year the remaining two.

Don Stypula reported he researched what other organizations in Michigan did. Most had some provision for letting higher education have input. One option GVMC could consider would be to give one of the current At-large positions to GVSU. It would be voting and non dues paying. The other option would be to change the GVMC Bylaws by a majority vote of the membership to allow for a higher education advisory committee. Don recommends amending the Bylaws and trying this out for one year.

Rob VerHeulen suggested making the trial period two years. He suggested the dues be only enough to cover administrative costs incurred.

Cy Moore asked if the “Council Area” should be defined more.

Jim Buck reported the “Council Area” has been defined previously as including Kent County and any county contiguous to Kent.

Andy Bowman suggested the Bylaws be checked to see what they define the “Council Area” as.

Questions arose regarding why the amendment would specify public institutions and not include private.

Questions also arose regarding what constitutes enrollment and campus.

Don Stypula stated he would contact Jim Brown and get a clear definition on campus and see if there should be additional wording added regarding a pilot period.

Jim Buck added the Finance committee could take up the dues.

Rob VerHeulen stressed we should sit down with them to plan and define GVSU’s role so that we can make the best out of this situation and really engage them. Those discussions could start right now.

MOTION – To Move the Request by GVSU for Membership in the Metro Council to the GVMC Board. MOVE – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Fox. MOTION CARRIED.

5. GVMC Endorsement of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS)

MOTION – To Remove from the Table the Endorsement of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Vanderberg. MOTION CARRIED.

Don Stypula reviewed the resolution to endorse the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System.

MOTION – To Move the Endorsement of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm to the GVMC Board. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Update on Strategic Initiatives

Don Stypula reviewed a presentation on GVMC’s possible role in collaborative services. One option would be for GVMC administrative staff to work as a coordinators / neutral parties in a sub-regional collaboration effort and try to move the process along. Services could include public safety, emergency dispatch, planning & zoning, etc.

Phase I could tap into the fund balance to bring parties together. Foundations should be willing as a group to fund as it rolls out.

Another option would be to administer a master contract and oversee the private service provider. We could do an electronic survey to determine what services are needed. The Council could have a collaborative discussion and work with legal advisors.

The third option would be to directly provide services by GVMC staff.

Daryl Delabbio stated this seems more like Step II or III rather than Step I. We need to determine first what Metro Council should be doing and then determine how to do it.

Cindy Fox said this seems like it is already in the implementation phase. We need to step back and define what it is that GVMC should be doing.

Don Stypula asked if the committee would be amiable to bringing in the Board for four hours and have Lew Bender address those questions.

Jim Buck stated Daryl brings up a good point. Is there value in getting together or do we assume silence is acquiescence by those who do not participate in the survey?

Daryl Delabbio said he felt we have to do it if you care about the organization. Maybe it should be eight hours over a number of days.

Jim Buck asked if just the Executive committee should be involved or if it should be everyone.

Al Vanderberg stated we should invite and encourage everyone. He also suggested using electronic voting.

Daryl Delabbio added we could do ranking pairs.

Rob VerHeulen asked if it would make sense to have Al design the system with Don since he has experience.

Cy Moore stated we need to get the key people to agree to a schedule and then go back to the whole Council and let the others know.

Don Hilton said that Lew Bender talked about lots of things. This session would need to be well planed and we would need to be able to accomplish something.

Don Stypula asked if he had the committee's permission to look at dates with Lew Bender and then he will bet together with Al, Abed and Andy and nail it down.

Al Vanderberg said Lew may already have a method he uses. We should check with him.

Rick Root stated let's get down to it. It is the best idea we have heard, and now let's move forward.

Rob VerHeulen stated he couldn't agree more and we had to incorporate a sense of urgency in this. Don't wait for another monthly meeting to take one small step. We have got to run with it.

Al Vandenberg asked for an exhaustive list of what Metro Council does so he can get moving on it.

Jim Buck stated the list created for the County Commissioners is a good place to start.

7. Next Meeting – March 18, 2010

8. Adjournment – 1:30 p.m.

MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.