

**Grand Valley Metro Council
Executive Committee Meeting**

March 20, 2014

12:00 noon

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

Minutes

Present

Jim Buck
Mike DeVries
Brian Donovan
George Heartwell
Don Hilton, Sr.
Alan Vanderberg
Michael Young

Secretary
Grand Rapids Township
City of East Grand Rapids
City of Grand Rapids
Gaines Township
Ottawa County
City of Rockford

Absent

Daryl Delabbio
Cy Moore

Kent County
Council Treasurer

Other

Chris Brown
Abed Itani
Gayle McCrath
Wendy Ogilvie
John Weiss

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1. Call to Order

Chair Al Vanderberg called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the December Executive Committee Minutes. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Donovan. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Educational Sessions

John Weiss explained GVMC has received a lot of publicity on its Street Summit. Talks have begun with the Chamber of Commerce to hold another one. This year they want it the Chamber to be the lead with the focus on more business participants and input, letting legislators know how the road situation affects their ability to carry out business. It will be held April 25 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. and include lunch. The location is yet to be determined.

John also explained he has had a request from a member to do an educational session on Ethics. He said it could be held either day or evening with various options for presenters such as MTA & MML.

Brian Donovan asked about the possibility of doing it as a Quarterly Luncheon topic.

Al Vanderberg suggested asking Daryl Delabbio to present as he does a great session on Ethics.

John indicated he will talk with Daryl.

The issue will be considered and brought back at a later date.

4. Finance

a. Check Signing Policy

Chris Brown reported on the proposed check signing policy which would allow for a single signature on checks under \$3,000 and dual signature on non-recurring checks over \$3,000. Under this policy, normally recurring payments such as health insurance, retirement, rent, etc., will not require a second signature.

MOTION – To Bring the Proposed Check Signing Policy and Required Bylaw Amendment to the GVMC Board. MOVE – Donovan. SUPPORT – Heartwell. MOTION CARRIED.

b. Line of Credit

A line of credit had been proposed in the past so that GVMC would be able to cover expenses if fund balance fell short. Considering the cost of \$350 to get a line of credit and with GVMC's current healthy financial situation, it was determined is not a need for it.

5. WMSA Discussion

Al Vanderberg reported the West Michigan Strategic Alliance is mothballed right now. WMSA is a very valuable model for convening and determining needs in a region. There had been a lot of talk about making it more sustainable, but the options didn't pan out. Maybe it would be a good idea to "park" the structure with GVMC. We would own their intellectual work and have control in what it became, as well as open ourselves up to a vibrant donor base. It comes with \$50,000 debt. Huntington Bank and Jim Brooks will pay

off the debt. There are a lot of positives involved in taking it on. There would be approximately \$1,000 per year in fees to keep up the nonprofit status.

George Heartwell stated if it is a good idea to take on, it should be a good idea to use. Are there any initiatives we can take over, call our own and run with?

Mike DeVries agreed the purpose shouldn't be to "park" it, but take it on in a positive note.

After further discussion, it was decided more research should be conducted with the issue discussed again by the Executive Committee at a later date.

MOTION – To Move the Issue to the GVMC Board for a Vote. MOVE – Young. SUPPORT – Heartwell. WITHDREW and TABLED.

Al Vanderberg indicated this group would work with WMAS to develop a process and outcome for the proposal and bring it back to the next Executive Committee.

6. Strategic Planning

John Weiss reported there has been a lot of pressure for GVMC to take on a variety of different initiatives and projects.

Michael Young and Brian Donovan talked about the proposal for GVMC to take over the ambulance consortium doing light administrative and financial work. Cost for the work would be paid by the consortium.

John Weiss added this request, as well as others, bring up the bigger question of what all should GVMC take on?

John will put together some numbers on the projected costs for the ambulance consortium and bring it back to the next meeting.

Strategic Planning will be held April 24, 8:00 a.m. – noon. At the Byron Township Center Recreation Center. Lou Bender will facilitate.

Brian Donovan suggested a general document be drawn up with suggestions of what we should be involved in to give participants a frame of reference (given to Lou Bender).

George Heartwell stated we need guiding principles and a clear mission statement so we can decide which initiatives to take on.

7. Adjourn

MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Young. MOTION CARRIED.