

# **Grand Valley Metro Council Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday June 21, 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
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Cy Moore	Council Treasurer
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker

### **Other**

Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Janet Fotsch	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dharmesh Jain	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:16 p.m. by Chairman Jim Buck

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

The May minutes were unavailable and will be presented at the July meeting for approval.

### **3. Transportation Department**

#### **a. Project Amendments to the GVMC FY 2007 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

The proposed project amendments to the GVMC 2007 TIP were explained by Abed Itani. The projects concern the Local Jobs Today program; ITP 2007 allocation from the Federal Transit Administration; Three projects within our MPO area have been selected for Enhancement awards; The Kent County Road Commission has received funding pledges for three Safety projects that they submitted for FY 2008 funding.

**MOTION – To Approve the Proposed FY 2007-2008 GVMC TIP amendments. MOVE – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Beelen. MOTION CARRIED.**

**b. FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program**

The 2008-2011 Draft Transportation Improvement Program was explained by Abed Itani. The document was posted on the internet, on display in 4 area member offices and held a public hearing on June 4, 2007. The 30-day public comment period ended on June 19, 2007. Public comments and input appear in the document as an Appendix.

**MOTION – To Approve the Proposed FY 2008-2011 GVMC TIP. MOVE – Beelen. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Wrap up Report on the 2007 Growing Communities Conference**

Don Stypula commented on the Growing Communities Conference that was held on June 14, 2007 at the Prince Center. The event had good registration, excellent sponsorship and has received wonderful compliments from attendees. Stypula also thanked Andy Bowman, Jay Hoekstra and Gayle McGrath for organizing the event.

Andy Bowman commented that the financials of the event are positive. Attendance was up from last year with 170 paying attendees. Bowman has also received positive feedback regarding the conference. The only suggestions were regarding the lack of space in some of the break out rooms. That could be fixed by reserving the space earlier. The topic of Infrastructure is a progressive topic.

**5. Legislative Issues - Update**

**a. Business Tax**

Don Stypula reported that the Business Tax should have the legislation completed by the first week in July. The personal property tax will see substantial reduction due to MTA, MML, MAC and other groups' interaction.

**b. State FY 2008 Budget**

Expecting a \$1.8 billion deficit, some solutions that are on the table are 6% tax on items considered a luxury such as sporting events, concerts, movie theater tickets. Personal state income tax would be increased to 4.6% or 4.2% from 3.9%. Another \$300 million would be raised from fees, permits and licenses.

Government reforms could see the elimination or reformation of 312, pooling of public employee and retiree benefits, and union negotiations.

**6. FY 2008 GVMC Strategic Business Plan – Next Steps (referred by the Metro Council back to the Executive Committee)**

The Directors within GVMC will meet to discuss the result of the Business Planning Session and will report back to the Board.

**7. Other Items**

Don Stypula brought up the question of reinvigorating critical issues among GVMC and was looking for suggestions on starting issues or topics.

Rick Root advised to try to avoid issues that had separated communities in the past and have been agreed on to disagree.

Kurt Kimball liked the idea of a forum to challenge ourselves rather than formal meetings. He agreed that there is a fine line to stay out of certain issues. This would allow Metro Council to work with issues so Lansing is not making decisions for us. Topics had been discussed previously and suggested to revisit those topics first.

Don Stypula will email the previous topics list to the Executive Committee for review.

The Strategic Alliance editorial was also discussed. Don Stypula is planning to meet with the editor to re-introduce GVMC to her.

The GVMC Quarterly Luncheon will be Monday July 9 at 12:00pm – 2:00 pm at the Fifth Third Ballpark.

**8. Adjourn – 1:16 p.m.**