

**Grand Valley Metro Council  
Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday, July 17, 2008  
12:00 pm

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

**MEETING NOTES**

**Present**

Jim Beelen  
Daryl Delabbio  
Don Hilton, Sr.  
Cy Moore  
Rick Root  
Alan Vanderberg  
Rob VerHeulen

Allendale Township  
Kent County  
Gaines Township  
Council Treasurer  
City of Kentwood  
Ottawa County  
City of Walker

**Absent**

Jim Buck  
Kurt Kimball  
Audrey Nevins

City of Grandville  
City of Grand Rapids  
Byron Township

**Other**

Andy Bowman  
Leon Branderhorst  
Dharmesh Jain  
Gayle McCrath  
Don Stypula

Grand Valley Metro Council  
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**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 pm by Vice Chair Don Hilton.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

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

### 3. Finance – 2008-2009 Budget

Don Stypula explained the budget was created under the assumption that the office move would take place in June. However, it has been moved back to the original projection of March. He would like to leave this extra in the budget in case of any changes to the projected date.

Don Stypula stated he has been in talks with Herman Miller and Steelcase on furniture and is pretty confident we will be able to get some sort of recognition from either or both of them.

Don Hilton asked if there were any questions.

None.

**MOTION – To Move the 2008-2009 GVMC Budget to the GVMC Board Meeting and Set the Public Hearing. MOVE – Moore. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.**

### 4. Update on GVMC Strategic Plan

Don Stypula stated he included a copy of his update in the paperwork; however he wanted to talk with Al Vanderberg and Michael Young before he presented it to the Board.

Andy Bowman and Jay Hoekstra will be administering a survey on possible planning activities GVMC could do for its members. The survey will also go to Planning Commissions. Don Stypula is drafting a cover letter to the top administrator and will copy the Planning Director of each member. From the results a price list will be created. Don anticipates this will be in the mail by the end of next week or the first of the following week. No full time employees are expected to be hired to conduct work on behalf of the members. Senior level students could be used.

Once this is done, Don will develop marketing brochures.

Cy Moore asked if this will be priced to make money, or at a break even, etc. Would it take away from members not using it?

Don Stypula stated it will be priced according to what it will cost GVMC to do.

Al Vanderberg stated it would make sense to look at cost + pricing. That is the way Ottawa County is doing it.

Daryl Delabbio asked it if would be offered to nonmembers, and if it is, do we run the risk of criticism by the private sector because we are competing with them. It should be members only.

Rick Root added that it should be members only.

Andy Bowman stated that conflict will arise with the private sector when work is done for individual jurisdictions rather than regional work. We also need to anticipate the volume of projects in order to get this going.

Rick Root reported it is important to know who the contractors are and what their credentials are. That needs to be spelled out in the proposal.

## **5. Report From Nominating Committee**

Cy Moore and Daryl Delabbio reported on the outcome of the August 7 meeting. Three finalists: Mike Faas, Mike Shiebler, and John Helmholdt were interviewed. All of the candidates had excellent qualifications. It was thought that with Carol Sheets and Doyle Hayes, GVMC already has adequate representation from Metro Hospital; therefore Mike Faas was taken out of contention. Both Mike Shiebler and John Helmholdt would make excellent at-large members; however the recommendation of the committee is to refer the appointment of John Helmholdt to the GVMC Board. If an additional position becomes open in the future, Mike Shiebler should be considered the top contender for that one.

Don Hilton added that some of the current at-large members rarely attend, and we need to look at their commitment when the time comes to reappoint them.

**MOTION – To Move the Appointment of John Helmholdt to the GVMC Board.  
MOTION – Vanderberg. SUPPORT – Beelen. MOTION CARRIED**

## **6. Dispute Mediation**

Don Stypula reported on his proposal to offer dispute mediation to GVMC members. He proposed Dick Hension, who is certified in mediation and has extensive training, do the mediation. Don has talked to several foundations in this area and they are very, very, interested. Some called him directly regarding it.

It was the consensus of the group that if GVMC offered this service, it would be important that it not get caught in the crossfire in any way. There should be no reporting back to GVMC committees or its Executive Director. Staff should stay completely out of it. The only function GVMC should do is to provide a pool of money and perhaps give a list of service providers. GVMC staff should not provide the mediation, nor should it pick out the mediator. If GVMC was in any way connected to the actual mediation, it could cause hard feelings and may result in members withdrawing from the council.

Don Stypula stated he hasn't found like this enthusiasm about funding a project before in all his dealings with foundations.

Daryl Delabbio pointed out that there is nothing precluding anyone from going to some sort of alternate resolution process now. What is enticing about this option is it would provide funding. GVMC should only function as a clearinghouse for mediation service providers and a source of funding. It should not get involved beyond that.

Cy Moore stated maybe there should be funding for education on the mediation process to raise awareness of this option. Maybe this should be a topic for a quarterly meeting.

Rob VerHeulen stated Don should sit down with Mile Rohwer and get his thoughts on how to approach this and then get back with us.

Jim Beelen asked if there were some logic in talking with the Strategic Alliance on this. Maybe they should offer the service. If they did, relationships in this group wouldn't be damaged.

Don Stypula stated he will sit down with Milt Rohwer to discuss the issue. He will then bring back to this group a proposal which will spell out in detail what Don has in mind.

## **7. Legislative**

Don Stypula reported there will be a legislative breakfast in December to educate incoming legislators and thank those who are leaving service.

Rick Root stated it is a good opportunity and he encourages all members to be there. He also mentioned the potential of a dinner after the new year which would include spouses. Maybe it would not even be considered legislative, just a council wide dinner.

Don Stypula reported the Reform Michigan Now proposal will not be on the November ballot.

Rick Root asked if a request for a constitutional convention would be on the ballot.

Don Stypula stated not this year, but automatically in 2010.

## **8. Adjournment—1:30 pm**