

**Grand Valley Metro Council
Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday, August 22, 2010
12:00 pm

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

MEETING NOTES

Present

Jim Buck
Daryl Delabbio
Cindy Fox
Don Hilton, Sr.
Cy Moore
Rick Root
Rob VerHeulen
Michael Young

City of Grandville
Kent County
Cascade Township
Gaines Township
Council Treasurer
City of Kentwood
City of Walker
City of Rockford

Absent

George Heartwell
Alan Vanderberg

City of Grand Rapids
Ottawa County

Other

Andy Bowman
Leon Branderhorst
Abed Itani
Gayle McCrath
Don Stypula

Grand Valley Metro Council
Grand Valley Metro Council
Grand Valley Metro Council
Grand Valley Metro Council
Grand Valley Metro Council

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – Approval of GVMC Executive Committee Minutes of July 2010. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT - VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.

3. GVMC FY 2010-2011 Budget

Don Stypula reviewed the proposed GVMC FY 2010-2011 budget. The budget has been discussed intensively in the Finance committee which recommended passage. The budget includes funding for only 2/3 of the year for the Planning and Strategic Initiatives department. There are a number of grants which are not yet confirmed including the HUD regional sustainability grant.

Cy Moore stated the original budget showed a deficit of \$60,000 and the Finance committee directed the presentation of a balanced budget.

Michael Young asked about the increase of \$50,000 in Transportation dues. Shouldn't there be a corresponding decrease in the general dues?

Don Stypula reported the Tech and Policy committees met extensively to develop the new formula. The Executive committee directed a new dues structure be developed so that the GVMC general dues would not have to be used to subsidize Transportation.

Don Hilton added the new formula does not entirely eliminate the subsidy. It will be phased out over four years with remaining \$20,000 subsidization.

Rob VerHeulen asked if there would be a salary increase for employees.

Don Stypula reported for the second year in a row there would be no salary increases.

Concern was expressed that the new formula would result in an overall increase of dues for members.

Abed Itani stated the Transportation committees voted unanimously in favor of the new dues structure.

Don Stypula added communication would be crucial. There will be a letter of explanation along with a personal visit when the invoices go out.

MOTION – To Approve the Overall GVMC FY 2010-2011 Budget as Well as the REGIS FY 2010-2011 Budget. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Strategic Direction

Daryl Delabbio reported the sub committee of the Executive Committee working on the strategic direction had originally focused on sub regional issues. However, upon review it was deemed impractical. Now they are looking at it anew. The first item on the report appears to be more a task that could fit under #3 than a strategic initiative.

Rob VerHeulen asked if the timelines in the document were doable. He would rather see three months listed rather than over promise with two months.

Michael Young stated he liked what was put together, although one focus from the retreat was for Planning to engage in tangible activities, which isn't shown on this plan.

Daryl Delabbio reported the comments were mixed on Planning. If the new emphasis is on the strategic initiatives, shouldn't the name reflect Strategic Planning Initiatives?

Rick Root said planning activities are tangible only if our own municipalities take it on and implement it. It is very easy not to recognize the effort in relation to the individual member's ability to accept and implement. Many who commented on this item are not utilizing the department's projects.

Michael Young stated he was at a meeting and suggested using the Metro Council for a document based planning activity, but those in attendance didn't want to use GVMC. There is a lot that can be done that is tangible.

Rick Root asked if it is a marketing problem.

Michael Young reported the community planners completed a survey which found they didn't want planning services from GVMC.

Daryl Delabbio added that part of the issue is that there is no enabling legislation to provide teeth that would result in regional planning with teeth. All that can be done is theoretical planning.

Jim Buck stated he liked item #1 where it was on the document because he likes to lead off with success stories. He suggested carrying the issue over and bringing it back next month.

5. Legislative Advocacy

Don Stypula reviewed the legislative priorities recommended by the Legislative committee.

MOTION – To Approve the Legislative Priorities and Move Them to the GVMC Board Agenda. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Young. MOTION CARRIED.

Don Stypula reported both gubernatorial candidates would be contacted to meet with members.

6. GVMC Quarterly Luncheon October 11, 2010

The October Quarterly Luncheon will feature a presentation about what is happening in Greenville.

7. Adjournment – 1:40 p.m.

MOTION – To adjourn. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.