



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

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GVMC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Noon, April 19, 2012

GVMC Offices

- 1) Approval of March 2012 Minutes**
- 2) Review of Quarterly Luncheon**
- 3) Legislative - PPT Update**
- 4) Mic Gunderson – Closest Unit Response**
- 5) Local Government Survey**
- 6) Open Discussion with Executive Director**
 - a) Retirement of Jay Hoekstra**
- 7) Next Meeting – May 17, 2012**
- 8) Adjourn**

Grand Valley Metro Council Executive Committee Meeting

March 15, 2012

Noon

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

Minutes

Present

Jim Buck
Daryl Delabbio
Cindy Janes
Don Hilton, Sr.
Cy Moore
Michael Young

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

Absent

George Heartwell
Rick Root
Alan Vanderberg
Rob VerHeulen

City of Grand Rapids
City of Kentwood
Ottawa County
City of Walker

Other

Abed Itani
Andy Bowman
Gayle McCrath
John Weiss

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1. Call to Order

Chair Jim Buck called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

2. Transportation Update

Abed Itani updated the committee on transportation funding. On the federal level, it is hoped that Safe TEA-LU will be renewed by March 31. The bill will last for two years. It includes several changes including the Tier I & II MPO designations. Funding will be at 2009 levels with a possible staff funding decrease of 5%. The bills take what we do a step further regarding policies, goals and improvements. And will base performance on measured results.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION - To Approve the January 2012 GVMC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes. MOVE – Fox. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION – To Approve the February 2012 GVMC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes And Move the 2010-2011 GVMC Audit to the Board. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Moore. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Update on Finance Position

John Weiss updated the committee on the search for a financial services solution. John and GVMC Treasurer, Cy Moore, have interviewed Chris Brown CPA, who handles financial services for the Macatawa Coordinating Council. Chris is familiar with the finances of MPO operations as well as dealing with MDOT & Federal Highway. Also considered were proposals by East Grand Rapids and Kent County Road Commission, as well as outsourcing payroll and flexible spending accounts thru Dominion and Secure One. John would like to move forward with a contract with Chris Brown as his qualifications most closely meet GVMC's needs and it is expected his services will result in a substantial savings. MDOT has already approved a draft contract with Mr. Brown.

MOTION – To Bring the Contract with Chris Brown to the GVMC Board Pending Background Investigation. MOVE – Young. SUPPORT – Cindy. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Service Sharing & Cooperation Survey

John Weiss reported the second phase of a survey on government collaboration and corporation has been commissioned thru the Johnson Center. The first phase surveyed the public. The second phase will survey elected (and maybe appointed) officials. In late May there should be another survey initiated on the other five strategic areas.

6. PPT

Daryl Delabbio reported on the “Brandenburg letter” which detailed the elimination of the PPT by 2016 on purchases after 2012. Replacement revenue is expected to be 81%. Of concern is verbiage on forced consolidation.

John Weiss reported he wanted Hildenbrand and Jansen to meet with GVMC members and others to discuss the PPT. Both said they did not know enough to comment. They are being very tight fisted about the information. We'll keep on it and keep talking.

7. Staff Excused – 1:00 p.m.



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April 11, 2012

John Weiss, Executive Director
Gayle McCrath, Director of Human Resources & Administration
Grand Valley Metro Council
Suite 200
678 Front Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear John and Gayle:

I am hereby retiring from Grand Valley Metro Council effective June 30, 2012. I have greatly enjoyed my time of employment at GVMC, and appreciate the opportunities to do good and useful work for the benefit of the public. I don't know of any other position for a planner in West Michigan that has had so many innovative and interesting responsibilities. Just off hand I remember: the first bicycle plan, the first pedestrian plan, the Form Based Code Study, the first Framework process and plan, the North East Beltline Plan and Committee, the Fisher Station Charrette, two decennial Census geography changes, population projections, finding speakers for the Growing Communities Conference, about 20 local workshops with Dan Burden, the Zimmerman Volk Housing Study, the Heartside Charrette, the Orfield study promotion, assisting the Kent County PDR program, helping startup the planning layers for REGIS, the Cherry Street Bicycle Connector, the Commerce Center Report, probably about 200 presentations to local government and other groups about sprawl, walkability, good streets, urban design, regional planning; and the chance to work with all the city and township planners in the region.

I moved to Grand Rapids because I knew that people here believed that government was a good and important institution; that public service was a high calling and that working together is a universal principle. That has proven to be true every year I have worked here.

I believe that GVMC has great opportunities in the next few years due to changes in State and Federal policies and trends in society. I hope for the best for GVMC.

I am quite excited about my next phase of life. I expect to use all the skills and insights I gained while at GVMC, as well as explore the use of other gifts that God has given me. I will keep in touch.

Peace to you all
Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Hoekstra". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jay" being particularly prominent.

Jay Hoekstra

Cc Andy Bowman, Abed Itani, Dharmesh Jain