

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL  
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**August 13, 2008**

**8:30 a.m.**

GVMC Offices  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**MINUTES**

**1. Call To Order**

Chair Rick Root called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Present:

Haris Alibasic	City of Grand Rapids
Chuck Bloom	Cannon Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Eli Lumpkins	City of Grand Rapids
Bob May	City of Hastings
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

**3. Approval of Minutes from June, 2008**

The minutes of the GVMC June, 2008, Legislative Committee meeting were accepted into record.

#### **4. Legislative Breakfast**

Don Stypula stated very few of the districts will have competitive races this year. Only about two would be considered up in the air at this point, most others are solid. He asked if candidates from both parties should be invited even if they are not expected to win.

Rick Root stated there would be the potential of insult if we began picking and choosing to invite only certain candidates.

Don Stypula stated he would find out who all the candidates were and would provide invitations to all.

Rick Root stated at the last breakfast, there were more candidates than members. What can we do to improve participation by GVMC members?

Don Stypula asked if it would be more productive to wait until after December to have the breakfast, after the elections have been held.

Several agreed it would be more productive.

The question was posed which would be preferred, a legislative breakfast or dinner.

In December, a breakfast would be easier to schedule than a dinner. A dinner could be held in January or February. Don suggested December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Rick Root suggested the meeting be held a little later in the morning (9:00) and offer a light brunch as we do for the Board Meetings.

Don Stypula stated he would produce hand-out information for the legislators and also honor those retiring.

Don Stypula will check the interest of members in having a legislative dinner after the first of the year. He will also check with the speaker and minority leader to determine the best date.

#### **5. Reform Michigan Ballot Proposal**

Don Stypula handed out summaries and discussed the Reform Michigan ballot proposal. He will reformat the information in a larger font and distribute to all GVMC members. The proposal makes changes in a huge number of sections of the Michigan Constitution, will many unintended secondary consequences. There are several legislators who may resign if this proposal is enacted because they couldn't

afford to pay cut.

If this makes the ballot, a request for a constitutional convention may quickly follow and may modify or amend any changes made from the proposal.

Although it is a democratic sponsored initiative, many democrats including the Governor, do not support it.

Don Stypula recommended GVMC not take a formal position on this as it is viewed by the public as reforming a broken state government, and is not a fight we want to be associated with. It could put GVMC in an awkward position.

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce and Michigan Manufacturers oppose the proposal. However polling has shown 77% approval.

Don Stypula has been asked by the Michigan Chamber of Commerce to work on his own time using his own resources with them on the issue. He would strictly log his time and charge it to his vacation time.

Consensus was it would be alright if Don worked with the Michigan Chamber of Commerce as long as it was in the manner he described without using GVMC assets.

## **6. Adjourn – 9:35**