

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

May 13, 2009

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
Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Sam Bolt	City of Wyoming
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim LaPeer	Cannon Township
Bob May	City of Hastings
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

3. Approval of Minutes from April 2009

The minutes were approved by a consensus of those attending

4. Legislative Day

Bob May commented he was very disappointed on turnout on our part. Maybe it

would help if the event was held earlier in the year, but we need to find out what the problem was.

Sam Bolt stated he was very disappointed in the turnout by legislators. Jansen and Green did not even show. Sam left the event by 1:30 p.m.

Don Stypula stated we could fix that problem by holding it earlier next year.

Alex Arends reported many legislators said they had multiple lunches that day.

Bob May reported the MML had just been there shortly before.

Jim LaPeer stated he enjoyed the event but was disappointed on the turn out of legislators. It would be helpful if next time we had a rigid schedule with certain things scheduled at 10:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, etc.

Don Hilton added that MTA was also recently there. They had a reception at 3:00 p.m. More legislators attended the MTA event, but our locals didn't stop by and they didn't last week either.

Rick Root asked if it should be done again.

The consensus was yes.

The cost was about \$1,500.

Jim LaPeer stated next time we should have more advanced planning.

Don Stypula indicated it could be held in February. This year several legislators have been term limited out. We could do it in the Mackinac Room. There we would have an opportunity to make it more formal format. We could get the room for morning – 1:30 p.m. It would allow presentations and discussions. Also could use room 426 on the house side, it has more room.

Denny Hoemke asked if we are losing 31 out of 35 legislators, why should we court them.

Sam Bolt asked about bringing the event local and inviting candidates. It is tough for elected officials to get to Lansing.

Don Stypula stated a Monday after the primary would be best. We could use the conference room in our new location which has round tables and theater style seating. We could put it off until after the 2010 primary.

Jim LaPeer stated we could go back to Lansing every other year and make it more formal.

Mike DeVries reported we need to have a contingent that sets up specific meetings with legislators and staff. If we do a candidate meeting we should have a dog and pony show on GVMC and let them know why we matter. They will be looking for endorsements. We should also have MTA, MML and MAC there along with our local partners. We all have to be on the same page with three or four issues and let them know we speak for one million people.

Sam Bolt said it is important for us to go to the legislature with preset appointments.

Jim Buck recapped the strategy which would include smaller trips quarterly to Lansing with preset meetings and issues which would include Don and a few others. The meetings would have 2 or 3 preset meetings per day with a carefully defined agenda. Then in 2010 we would have the Legislative Luncheon locally and include candidates after the primary. In 2011 it would be back to Lansing.

Bob May stated the offices of House officials are so close; you could do several in one day.

Don Hilton added it would be helpful if lobbyists from MTA and MML would join also.

Bob May stated it is important to also include representatives from outlying areas.

Rick Root asked if this plan needed to go to the Executive Committee?

Jim Buck said he thought it would be good as it creates awareness if it is shared with the Executive Committee and Board. Mike DeVries and Rick Root can do a presentation.

Don Stypula stated as soon as the GVMC move is complete we will have a woman from Lansing who is a public relations guru talk with us in a big meeting on what we should be doing and how to do it. It would take half of a day and you could bring some of your people with you. Everyone will be very impressed with this person, Kelly Rossman. It will not cost GVMC anything. She will do it gratis.

5. Update on State Fiscal Issues

Don Stypula reported there is no good news. Revenue is still bad. There should be another Executive Order reduction. The Mackinaw Center believes we will see 17-20% unemployment because of GM.

Haris Alibasic reported the revenue estimating conference is scheduled for Friday.

6. Update on State and Federal Transportation Funding

Don Stypula reported tomorrow a 13 bill package of legislation will be introduced. Some of it would eliminate the current gas tax and would replace it with a wholesale tax. It would be framed initially to give the public a tax cut. If the feds increase funding, the state will need to also in order to have the match to capture the federal funds. Everyone needs to talk with their legislator regarding the need to increase funding. Part of the package would allow for a local option tax.

Rick Root commented it is a state road system; it shouldn't fall to the locals to maintain.

Don Stypula will send everyone a flow chart from MDOT on how Act 51 works. There has also been move on the federal level in the House to reauthorize SAFET-LOU.

7. Update on Official Publication Requirements

There is a movement to look into the official requirements of publishing public notices. It is an attempt to make it easier to do business

MOTION – For Don Stypula to Convey the Position of GVMC on Publication of Public Notices to the Legislature. MOVE - DeVries. SUPPORT – May. MOTION CARRIED.

8. Adjourn – 10:00