

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

April 28, 2010

8:30 a.m.

GVMC Offices
678 Front Ave., Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

MINUTES

1. Call To Order

Chair Rick Root called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Present:

Haris Alibasic	City of Grand Rapids
Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Sam Bolt	City of Wyoming
Bill Cousins	Cascade Township
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim LaPeer	Cannon Township
Elias Lumpkins Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

3. Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the March 2010, Legislative Committee Minutes with Correction. MOVE – Hoemke. SUPPORT – DeVries. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Review of Issues Vehicle for Candidate Survey

The committee reviewed the issues for the candidate survey. The answers should be tracked on a scorecard and posted on the web site.

Sam Bolt stated we need to do something more than just track their answers and votes. We need to hold their feet to the fire.

Haris Alibasic stated we should be more concerned on how we can get people to buy into our issues rather than just keeping score on them. Michiganvotes.org has a tracking tool, but more importantly, how do we get our issues moved forward?

Don Stypula added there is also a tool used by the Mackinaw Institute. He thinks the tool will work to try to move the ball forward depending on the quality of the candidates.

Milt Rohwer reported there are major contributors on every issue and we need to investigate if those contributors are blocking the movement of the issues.

Alex Arends said we should also put responsibility on the individual members of the GVMC Board to talk to legislators.

Mike DeVries stated we should report on the Metro Council and include maps in the candidate package to make it more relevant. We need to remain focused on our issues and work with people to build consensus. We need to do this quickly and of the first things in their box should be this survey.

Haris Alibasic stated we have agreement in the issues. However, do the legislators listen to constituents, consultants, etc.? Success depends on how we engage the constituents and how we get them to ask why the legislature is not listening.

Rick Root said the challenge is not understanding, but moving the issues through the caucuses and contributors.

The group agreed on the list of issues presented: transportation funding, tax structure, unfunded mandates, government reform, and revenue sharing.

Don Stypula will redraft the letter and email it to all in no more than one week. It will be sent via U.S. mail to the candidates within 10 days of the final filing deadline.

5. Issue Update

Not much new to report.

The budget hasn't moved. The same dynamics as last year are slowing the process this year.

Unfunded Mandates – We will know more today on whether or not this will move.

6. Adjourn - 9:40 a.m.