

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

June 9, 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
Sam Bolt	City of Wyoming
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Jim LaPeer	Cannon Township
Elias Lumpkins	City of Grand Rapids
Summer Minnick	MML
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Carol Sheets	
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

3. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION – To Approve of the May GVMC Legislative Committee Minutes.
MOVE – Hoemke. SUPPORT – DeVries. MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Review Candidate Letter

Don Stypula reported he has received eleven responses so far on the candidate survey. The responses have been very thorough and he is impressed with the answers. Friday he will send out a reminder via e-mail and ask everyone who has not yet responded to e-mail their surveys back as soon as possible. The deadline is next Monday. Answers will be compiled according to district. We will send out invitations to all candidates for our candidate luncheon on July 12.

5. Candidate Luncheon

Don Stypula explained we will do a buffet luncheon in attempts to keep costs down. Seating will be by legislative district.

Jim Buck said there is a potential for a large number of candidates responding.

Jim Buck suggested a welcome by himself followed by a short intro. from Don and then a speech by a GVMC member on the issues which are important to us. Then give people a chance to question the candidates at their table on the issues.

Rick Root stated each place setting should include a copy of the objectives of the Metro Council and the issues. It will be up to us at the tables to go after the important points. The hard drivers should be those at the table. He added it should also be a media event.

Jim LaPeer suggested a person assigned to be the mediator of each table.

Don Hilton asked how will we make sure we have good GVMC member representation?

Don Stypula said it was critical to get the word out. The more people there, the better. Right after this meeting, Don will e-mail the members of the Board of Directors of GVMC and tell them it is important to have a good turn out. Don will send out the invitations to the members of the Metro Council. Invitations will not go out to the normal Quarterly Luncheon distribution list. At least 10 days in advance, he will also send out notice to the media.

Mike DeVries stated this is an example of how we can show GVMC membership has value. Our associates in the Chamber of Commerce should also be invited.

Milt Rohwer added that it would communicate the solidarity of GVMC if the keynote speakers were divided by county, township, and city.

6. Issues Update

Summer Minnick of the MML reported on legislative issues.

The budget was promised to be done by June 30, although this is highly unlikely. Revenue sharing is on the table again. It might be easier to work on legislators after they have gone home for summer break. The Revenue Estimating Conference showed sales tax slowly upturning.

State Transportation Budget – The House is going to pass the transportation budget today. The MML is working for a gas tax increase and to secure the local match for maximum federal funding.

Unfunded Mandates – Initially everyone wanted to support this. In the details it breaks apart. Mitch Bean of the House Fiscal Agency testified in opposition because of the burden it will put on the agency. They don't have the ability to calculate all of the costs.

Speed Limit Bill – May see more action. It is surprising the amount of support it gets.

Driver Responsibility Fees – Are also being looked at as anti-government sentiment rises.

312 – A change to 312 will probably pass but without the amendments the MML wants. A lot of people in the Senate wish they could revote as the bill did not turn out as anticipated.

7. Adjourn - 9:30 a.m.