

# Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

## Public Information & Education Subcommittee

Friday, January 21, 2005  
8:00 AM  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
40 Pearl NW, Suite 410  
Grand Rapids, MI

### MINUTES

#### 1. Call to Order and Attendance

The PIE Committee was called to order by Bowman at 8:10 AM.

##### Members Present:

Caryl Sue Abendroth	Citizen
Judy Barnes	Home Builders Assn of Greater GR
Rick Chapla	Right Place Program
Bonnie Shupe	Cannon Township
Rick Sullivan	Center for Environmental Study
Carol Townsend	MSU Center for Urban Affairs

##### Members Absent:

Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Beverly Drake	ACSET Council
Thomas McWhertor	Calvin College
Dave Van Antwerp	Creative Partners
Kendra Wills	MSU Extension

##### Others Present:

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Jay Hoekstra	Grand Valley Metro Council
Priscilla Martin	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for December 17, 2004 were accepted.

#### 3. Staff Updates:

##### A. Land Use Survey

Bowman noted that the survey is underway with 1000 calls being made in the metro area. Questions being asked are the same as in past years. In addition participants are being asked if they can be called on again for another survey that will correspond with the City of Grand Rapid's study. However, the second survey will need additional 500 – 1000 people questioned. Barnes suggested inviting other communities to conduct the same survey (as the City of GR) and to share results. Sullivan voiced that we would need to be careful with quality control though. Bowman noted that GVMC could act as a clearing house to get the communities to conduct the survey. Townsend suggested also having focus groups to get more in dept information. Sullivan noted that there is already

a built in bias by who actually will take the time to complete the survey. Chapla noted these outcomes/tasks: Who is surveying, what subject areas, when and who is being surveyed.

Chapla stated that it would be nice if we could get all of the people conducting surveys in the area together to develop a uniform approach (short and long term) to organize what everyone is doing. Bowman stated that not all surveys are created equally.

**4. Work Session:**

**A. Growing Communities Conference - Theme/Breakout Discussion**

Bowman stated that they have booked Thomas Hylton as the keynote speaker. Bowman is working with Dirk Konig of Community Media Center to try and get the *Save Our Lands, Save Our Towns* video by Thomas Hylton aired on public access channels throughout Michigan. At the same time the video is being shown, we also want to advertise the conference somehow. Hoekstra stated that he is still lining up speakers for the breakouts. Barnes suggested "green buildings" as a breakout. Stypula stated that he will be talking to Peter Ross as a potential member of PIE as well as a speaker for the media breakout at the conference.

Martin stated that no new sponsorships have been received. Plan to send a reminder letter out in February.

It was decided that Bowman would come up with a title for the conference and email it to PIE members for approval.

Bowman noted that Gayle McCrath was organizing a Youth Involvement Sub Committee to get youth involved in the Growing Communities Conference. The first meeting is scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup>.

**5. Other items of Business**

**A. Blueprint Awards**

Bowman stated that he has received three inquiries about whether projects that were designed but not built yet could be submitted for a blueprint award. All PIE member present agreed that the project would need to be built to qualify for an award. PIE members were reminded again to please get the word out about the Blueprint Awards. Information can be found on the GVMC website ([www.gvmc.org](http://www.gvmc.org))

**6. Future Agenda Items/Next Meeting Date:**

The PIE Committee meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month at the Grand Valley Metro Council at 8:00AM. The next PIE meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 18, 2005. Items to be discussed include a conference update (breakout chart and sponsorship update) and current surveys being conducted and by who.

**7. Adjournment:**

Bowman adjourned the committee meeting at 9:20 AM.