

Minutes
PIE Committee
Grand Valley Metro Council
October 24, 2005

Present:

Dan Hula, Bonnie Shupe, Don Stypula, Jim Buck, Tom McWhertor, Jay Hoekstra, Andy Bowman, Rick Sullivan

1. There were no minutes available for adoption.
2. Staff Updates
 - a. D. Stypula reported that there is discussion among State leaders about the definition of “commerce centers”, a term coined by the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council, or perhaps first by the Blueprint (I) process. Don and Andy will be attending a discussion of this topic at MSU.
 - b. There was a discussion about the topics that D. Stypula has portrayed in his presentation on local government finances and the constraints put on it by State laws and rising costs. It was asserted by committee members that this presentation should be seen by more public officials and citizens. Filming the presentation for public television was suggested, perhaps in conjunction with a call in show. There was a suggestion that the information be formatted into a book along the lines of “Local Government for Dummies”. The value of the book and appropriate title was discussed.
3. Conference Discussion
 - a. A person from MSU had called Andy to discuss sharing the Growing Communities Conference with us.
 - b. It was concluded that the conference should be stay in the GR area.
 - c. It was concluded that GVMC should lead in deciding the content of the conference, but that we could share a track or session with other organizations.
 - d. T. McWhertor reported that he could get space at Calvin for the conference donated. The space would not be the Prince Conference Center. Lowering food costs with the use of box lunches or Calvin food services was worth considering. Calvin staff probably could help with some logistics.
 - e. It was suggested that an intern be procured to do some of the work that Priscilla has done, under her direction.
 - f. By the next meeting staff should provide recommendations on:
 - i. Whether to hold the conference
 - ii. Who would be the main speaker
 - iii. Where would the conference be located.
4. The Meeting was adjourned.