

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

Public Information & Education Subcommittee

Friday, December 17, 2004
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 McWhertor at 8:20 AM.

Members Present:

Caryl Sue Abendroth	Citizen
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Bonnie Shupe	Cannon Township
Thomas McWhertor	Calvin College
Rick Sullivan	Center for Environmental Study
Carol Townsend	MSU Center for Urban Affairs

Members Absent:

Judy Barnes	Home Builders Assn of Greater GR
Rick Chapla	Right Place Program
Beverly Drake	ACSET Council
Dave Van Antwerp	Creative Partners
Kendra Wills	MSU Extension

Others Present:

Priscilla Martin	Grand Valley Metro Council
Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Shannon Harris	City of Grand Rapids/Youth Summit
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Buck, SUPPORTED by Townsend, to approve the minutes for November 19, 2004. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Staff Updates:

A. Blueprint Award

Martin questioned whether members had any changes to the Blueprint Award Packet that was sent out for review. No suggestions were given. Postcards asking for submissions were sent out to approximately 600 people last week. Bowman noted that he had three people contact him about submitting projects that weren't completely done. He questioned members on the completed project policy to qualify for an award. McWhertor stated that we would have to be careful if we made exceptions. Townsend

remarked that we would have to make sure the project is successful to allow it and that the burden of proof should be on the nominator.

B. Land Use Survey

Bowman noted that he is still working with Nesterenko on the next survey. Townsend announced that Liz Kegan of the community Leadership Program for Aquinas College is hosting a National Issues forum regarding land use on January 31, 2005. At the forum she is distributing a survey for the participants to fill out and she is willing to share the questions and results with us.

C. Conference Sponsor Letters

Martin noted that replies are being received. Sponsorships contributed so far are from the "regulars" at the same amounts. Martin asked if there were any additions or revisions to the sponsor mailing list that was distributed previously. No suggestions were given.

4. Work Session:

A. Growing Communities Conference - Theme/Breakout Discussion

Bowman stated that they have booked Thomas Hylton as the keynote speaker. It was decided to go with the breakout ideas noted in Hoekstra's memo. Need to come up with a title for the conference. Abendroth volunteered to work on getting the media more involved with the conference and the Blueprint Awards.

5. Other items of Business

A. Price of Government

A hand out was distributed entitled "Price of Government". Stypula commented that 2005 will be a miserable year for local government due to funding cuts, but this shouldn't stop policies. Stypula stated that there have been discussions on conducting a survey for GVMC communities and potential members to look at some service related issues and how to maintain them in the local communities. For the land use survey it was suggested to ask a question on what services were important to the citizens. Townsend stated that citizens are not educated on the importance of some services such as planning. Most citizens would tend to say police and fire are the most important. Shupe questioned how this could be avoided? Bowman suggested having explanations in the survey. Stypula stated that communities might be asked by the state to consolidate services with neighboring communities. Stypula also noted that he predicts that revenue sharing will be cut for local government in the near future.

Stypula informed those present that the CRC will be distributing surveys in early January dealing with what services county and local governments provide and if and how they are sharing these services with neighboring units. A second survey will go out in February regarding local government finances and how local units pay for things at a local and county level.

Abendroth suggested having the media educate the public on this survey. Sullivan suggested inviting a media person to be on the PIE committee. Stypula to look into this.

Buck questioned whether we would see the results of the GR survey and whether the results would reflect the same concerns as other areas? Would it be a duplication of

efforts? It was suggested that we survey townships/rural areas and use the GR survey results for the city aspect. Townsend questioned whether this was a possible breakout for the conference? All agreed that it was.

B. Youth Summit

Stypula noted that they could not find funding to have a Youth Summit this year. There have been discussions on whether to combine the Youth Summit with the Growing Communities Conference. Harris noted that the date of the conference is bad timing for high school students though. It was suggested to move the conference back a week when high school students will be out for the summer. It was suggested to invite the Youth Council to this year's conference. It was questioned if and what we should charge students. Martin noted that the students were charged \$15 last year to cover the cost of food. Sullivan suggested including home schooled students as well. It was decided to create a sub-committee to combine the Youth Summit and GC Conference for next year. Those that volunteered included Gayle McCrath, Shannon Harris, Priscilla Martin, and Rick Sullivan. For this year's conference it was decided to send an invite to the youth summit mailing list, the Mayor's Youth Council, KISD, and home schooled students. It was decided that McCrath would work on this along with Shupe, Abendroth, and Harris.

6. Future Agenda Items/Next Meeting Date:

The PIE Committee meets on the 3rd Friday of every month at the Grand Valley Metro Council at 8:00AM. The next PIE meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 21, 2005.

7. Adjournment:

McWhertor adjourned the committee meeting at 9:50 AM.