

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Public Information & Education Subcommittee**

Friday, May 13, 2006
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 8:05 AM.

Members Present:

Caryl Sue Abendroth	Citizen
Rick Chapla	Right Place Program
Thomas McWhertor	Calvin College
Bonnie Shupe	Cannon Township
Rick Sullivan	Center for Environmental Study

Members Absent:

Judy Barnes	Home Builders Assn of Greater GR
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Beverly Drake	ACSET Council
Carol Townsend	MSU Center for Urban Affairs
Dave Van Antwerp	Creative Partners
Kendra Wills	MSU Extension

Others Present:

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Chris Dingman	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 April 15, 2005 were accepted.

3. Staff Updates:

A. GC Conference

Martin informed those present that, to date, there were 55 registrations which is about normal for this time. Sponsorship are at \$9,050 including in-kind contributions.

Martin stated that neither Applause Catering nor Frederik Meijer Gardens were fond of the break discussion tables due to limited space and pre-setting the Grand Room for lunch. They are allowing it this year, but we should probably not do it next year. Discussions continued regarding Frederik Meijer Gardens and their increasing costs and being more difficult to deal with. It was recommended to check out the Pinnacle Center and the Crowne Plaza for next year.

Bowman noted that he is working with Girb at the Community Media Center to get the *Save Our Land, Save Our Towns* video shown prior to the conference including a tag line about our conference. They will also be taping the keynote speaker, Thomas Hylton, as an in-kind sponsorship as well.

B. GVMC Survey

Bowman stated that he is meeting with Alex Nesterenko next week to go over the survey results.

4. Work Session: Blueprint Awards

Bowman summarized all nominations submitted for the 2005 Blueprint Awards. For Program/Policy those projects submitted included:

- Land Conservancy of West Michigan
- Ada Township Open Space Projection Program

The Program/Policy committee came to the conclusion that Ada Township should receive a Blueprint Award because it is a good example of the Blueprint Process. Bowman noted that the committee also wanted the Land Conservancy to be highlighted because they too are illustrating Blueprint Principles in their work. Bowman stated that he talked with Julie Stoneman of LCWM and she too wanted Ada Township to be a recipient of the award. Bowman recommended that Stoneman present the award to Ada Township while also promoting the Land Conservancy.

MOTION by Sullivan, SUPPORT by Chapla to approve Ada Township's Open Space Program as a 2005 Blueprint Award winner. MOTION CARRIED.

Bowman stated that there were six projects submitted for Development/Design. These included:

- Balsam Hills
- Calvin College Ecosystem Preserve
- Hilland Hills
- Imagine Muskegon!
- City of Walker Intersection Reconstruction
- Genesis - Heron Courtyard Apartments

The Development/Design committee came to the conclusion that two nominees were deserving of the Blueprint Award. These were Calvin College's Ecosystem Preserve and Genesis' Heron Apartments. Bowman stated that the Genesis project ranked high in community design, shared resources and leadership and Calvin College ranked high in leadership in sustainability and education.

Bowman stated that Balsam Hills and Hilland Hills were average neighborhoods with some new urbanism ideas. The City of Walker Intersection was good, but there are a lot of these out there and the Imagine Muskegon project is not yet complete.

MOTION by Shupe, SUPPORT by Sullivan to approve Calvin College's Ecosystem Preserve and Genesis' Heron Apartments as 2005 Blueprint Award winners. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Other items of Business

A. Stypula noted that Kendra Wills from MSU Extension has asked him to write a paper on the fiscal challenges counties and local units are having now and will have in the future,

and how this affects planning efforts both regionally and locally. Presentations will follow the written report.

- B. Hoekstra presented a draft copy of a Form-Based Code Study completed by Farr Associates for our regional area. Hoekstra is in the process of getting feedback on the draft from local professional planners. The consultants measured approximately 40 existing best known urban areas. Standards were set for four of the six zones (no measurements are necessary for rural areas). Street components were also included. Results are included in the study. Hoekstra noted that they hope to have a final copy of the study by September at which time it will be rolled out to the communities.
- C. Hoekstra updated PIE members on the planning INDEX software roll out process. There will be two breakout sessions at the conference regarding the program, and six planners were trained on the software last week.

Discussions ensued on how to get the word out not only on the transect study but on other efforts of GVMC as well.

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, June 17, 2005..

7. Adjournment:

Bowman adjourned the committee meeting at 9:20 AM.