

**Grand Valley Metro Council  
Executive Committee Meeting**

Monday, September 27, 2010  
11:30 pm

Grand Valley Metro Council  
678 Front Ave. NW, Suite 200  
Grand Rapids, MI

**MEETING NOTES**

**Present**

Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Cy Moore	Council Treasurer
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Michael Young	City of Rockford

**Absent**

Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Alan Vanderberg	Ottawa County

**Other**

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 11: 45 a.m. by Chair Jim Buck.

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION – Approval of GVMC Executive Committee Minutes of August. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT - VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **3. Jamestown Rejoining GVMC**

Don Stypula reported Jamestown Township voted 4-3 to return to the Metro Council.

**MOTION – To Invite Jamestown Township Back into GVMC. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **4. Strategic Initiatives**

Don Stypula reported he has incorporated last meeting's suggestions into the current document and can adjust the timeline if needed.

### **Managing Emerging Issues**

Don Stypula stated several of these require an information portal through our website. He has been talking with GVSU with the assistance of Tom Butcher. The next step will be making this a reality.

### **Encouraging Collaborative Service Sharing**

Don reported last Monday was the first meeting on this initiative. He will take the information from the meeting with the State and put it on the web site. This will include Milt Rohwer and will reach out to other foundations to help with the other 50% of cost sharing idea.

Jim Buck reported Pat Lockwood is the lead person on the Governor's staff for this issue.

George Heartwell asked if GVMC will be facilitating conversations between governmental entities, an example of which is the NE Beltline planning which worked quite well.

Don Stypula said he would add this under item 2.

### **Coordinating Region-Wide Training Exchange for GVMC Members**

Don reported this will set up a mechanism for communities to take part in each other's training coordinated by GVMC to reduce training costs.

Daryl Delabbio stated MML, MTA & MAC training opportunities could be listed on a calendar and communities could add to the calendar.

Cy Moore suggested adding something under b about sharing of costs.

### **Nurturing Regional Economic Development Partnerships**

Don stated this was redeveloped from the idea of the regional welcome mat. He has had regular opportunities to interface with the Right Place. Mike DeVries will bring information on the last portion of the welcome mat to the Township Supervisors group.

Don Hilton will let Don Stypula know the outcome of this meeting.

Michael Young stated the first week in October The Right Place will be interfacing with the MEDC regarding brownfields and GVMC should be involved.

Don Stypula stated he is planning to be there.

Cy Moore suggested there should not be a specific date on this as GVMC may vote to table it.

Don Stypula said he would change the wording as directed.

Jim Buck asked if Don sees this as the reemergence of the Regional Cooperation Committee.

Don Stypula said yes, and additionally, Tom Fehsenfeld suggested a local development committee which others could be invited to participate in. Should this be a separate committee or part of the Regional Cooperation Committee?

Rob VerHeulen asked if this item would be concluded when the statement on the welcome mat is printed by The Right Place.

Don Stypula stated no, then it will be up to our partners to meet with communities and discuss and encourage them to be involved.

Rob VerHeulen said we shouldn't wait until the Michigan government, MEDC, or Township Supervisors group finish and keep moving the timetable out. We really don't need to wait to move forward. Go ahead and schedule this and move forward.

Don Hilton reported the Township Supervisors group is not holding this up. They are developing a model others can adopt.

### **Planning Sustainable Communities**

Don Stypula reported this item came out of last month's discussion and the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. It is not known why it fell off at the Executive subcommittee level. The focus will be making planning relevant. There will also be discussions on HUD grants, etc.

Michael Young asked if GVMC could look at a project such as Rockford's master plan. What could GVMC do?

Andy Bowman stated GVMC could help with new ideas and techniques. This kind of project would fit process-wide.

Don Stypula asked why GVMC is not involved in the West Michigan Sports Commission sports complex.

Andy Bowman said that would fit the objectives under multijurisdictional coordination.

George Heartwell stated we should focus on what we do best before we become an umbrella for everyone. He would rather see WMSA do that or a university.

Andy Bowman reported that for one grant, WMSA was not broad enough.

Don Stypula said he would get a new draft out to everyone within one day.

Question was asked whether #5 was contingent on the HUD grant funding.

Don Stypula stated through current funding we can only continue operation of the Strategic Initiatives department for 2/3 of a year.

Rob VerHeulen asked if we should reach out to the communities involved in the sports complex and tell them we will need money to coordinate.

Don Stypula asked Michael Young to invite him to the next meeting of the sports complex organizers.

Michael Young said he would talk with the planners and see if they would be willing to pay GVMC for that.

### **Retooling GVMC Governance**

Don Stypula explained this group would look at the current governance, Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, committee system, meeting schedule, etc. to determine if any of these should be changed.

Jim Buck asked who would make up this task force.

Daryl Delabbio suggested one or two representatives from the Executive committee, but not more than five in total and maybe one At-large member. He suggested Kurt Kimball and Milt Rohwer.

Daryl Delabbio asked what obligations currently exist for the Strategic Initiatives staff and how will they be realigned.

Don Stypula stated he would get that information to everyone.

## **5. Adjournment – 1:45 p.m.**