

GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

ANNUAL

GROWING COMMUNITIES

CONFERENCE



BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS

SHAPING OUR FUTURE

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2008

PRINCE CONFERENCE CENTER
CALVIN COLLEGE
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN



Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
40 Pearl St NW, Suite 410
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Please note: Sessions with double asterisks (**) will be repeated in the morning.

Successful New Urbanist Developments**

Peter Allen of Peter Allen & Associates. Land developers have come a long way in adopting new designs based on historic principles of good urban form. However, building truly successful developments requires so much more. Peter Allen is a well known developer and educator from the Ann Arbor area and will share critical aspects of successful urban development projects including land acquisition, financing, assessing profitability and more.

Making Transit Oriented Developments**

Alden Raine, of DMJM Harris. With all the talk in Grand Rapids about new transit options for our future, it is time to take a serious look at developing centers and nodes associated with those options. Join us for this important presentation on how to build Transit Oriented Developments (TOD's) and learn what might best fit our proposed S. Division BRT and similar projects which may be ahead for Grand Rapids.

Creating Entrepreneurial Towns**

Barb Fails, PhD. , MSU. Small towns throughout Michigan are looking to maintain their economic relevance, especially at a time when larger cities are becoming increasingly attractive and decades of rural-area sprawl has stripped away their capacity for attracting a maintaining more traditional means of economic development. This session will examine a new program from MSU which assigns mentors to small towns to help build on their strengths and help attract "entrepreneurial businesses".

For Whom the Town Plans**

George Fulton, PhD. U of M. This presentation will take a look at recently released population forecasts for Michigan and our metropolitan area and help paint the picture about who we are becoming. This information will have profound implications for our future demographics, our future land use and master plans and how we hope to build better cities and communities in the years ahead.

Cities as Energy & Climate Change Solution**

Center for Clean Air Policy

As America faces the twin challenges of unsustainable energy consumption and an increasingly erratic climate, we also have the chance to undertake widespread solutions by rebuilding our cities and infrastructure to support more efficient forms of transportation. Studies show that by building with better design, we can increase access to goods, services and each other, while at the same time reducing overall energy spent. This session will highlight a recent report on mitigating climate change.

Grand Vision for Grand Traverse Bay Region.

Doug Christensen, Mead & Hunt Inc. Using innovative visioning and build-out techniques developed in the recent Envision Utah project, the Grand Traverse Bay area is undertaking a similar regional planning effort using citizen-based visioning with state-of-the-art planning tools to produce policy guidance for crucial aspects of land use, transportation and economics.

Approaching Professional Unity

Panel Discussion. Planners, engineers, architects, lawyers, builders, developers, real estate professionals, bankers and other community-oriented professionals all enter the public realm with their own language, their own principles and, not surprisingly, often end up with their own results. After decades of professional specialization, we appear to be producing uncoordinated results serving "silos" of specific fields of study, often not the public for whom they serve. Join us for an afternoon panel bringing together an array of participants from various community-based professional careers engaged in the building of cities, towns or community in our metro area. We will focus the conversation on emerging techniques which unify our various professions to produce better overall results for the public to be sustained over longer periods of time.



KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Morning Keynote:

"Sustainable Urbanism for Suburb and City"

Douglas S. Kelbaugh, FAIA, Dean of Architecture and Urban Planning at University of Michigan

Doug Kelbaugh will discuss the hidden and not-so-hidden costs of sprawl, focusing on alternatives that are more sustainable in environmental, social and economic terms. He will illustrate New Urbanist and other design principles with built and proposed projects that he and his colleagues have worked on since 1988, when he led a design charrette that gave birth to Transit Oriented Development (TOD). The talk will also cover some of the many charrettes that he has organized in the city of Detroit and its environs.

Professor Kelbaugh has been Dean of Taubman College since 1998. During this time he has developed an urban design program, a real estate development program and a community design center and annual design charrette in Detroit; increased enrollment and expanded the faculty; and served on a number of university and state committees and boards.

Kelbaugh has co-chaired eight national and international conferences on energy, urbanism, and design; spoken to hundreds of professional and community groups; appeared on numerous local and national radio and television programs; and served on more than a score of regional and national design juries. He chaired the AIA National Urban Design Awards jury and the 4th National Symposium on New Urbanism, and is a board member of the Congress for the New Urbanism. With Peter Calthorpe, he edited and co-authored in 1989 *The Pedestrian Pocket Book*, a national bestseller in urban design that documented their work in transit-oriented development and helped jump-start the New Urbanism and Smart Growth movements. Kelbaugh also authored *COMMON PLACE: Toward Neighborhood and Regional Design*, a book on theory, design and policy published by the UW Press in 1997, now in its second printing. Its sequel, *Repairing the American Metropolis: Common Place Revisited*, was published in 2002. *The Michigan Debates on Urbanism*, a three-book series he edited, was published in 2005. One of the first to popularize the modern design char-

rette, Kelbaugh has organized and participated as a team leader in some thirty of these community design workshops on urban and suburban design issues in North America, Europe, Asia and Australia, many of which have resulted in publications and subsequent projects. He continues to speak and consult widely on private and public development projects here and abroad.

Lunch Presentation:

"Blueprint for Smart Growth"

Milt Rohwer, President, Frey Foundation

Early in the last decade, most land use planners and many public officials in the Grand Rapids metropolitan area knew something was wrong. They saw we were not growing in well managed ways and found that we were not developing in sustainable patterns of community. In 1992, a small working group of planners and community leaders assembled under the banner of a newly formed Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC) and with financial help from Michigan's Department of Transportation and Department of Commerce, embarked on a new type of planning process. They conducted land use visioning for an entire metropolitan region and established for the first time anywhere in the state, (perhaps in the nation), a plan for smart growth. At that time, "Smart Growth" was not the well known brand it is today, and this new metro-area plan was deemed the Metropolitan Development Blueprint. It was adopted by GVMC two years later, and it has been paying smart growth dividends ever since.

Milt Rohwer, currently President of the Frey Foundation, has extensive background in both the Blueprint and the history of planning and development throughout the metropolitan area. He served early in his career with the City of Grand Rapids planning department, and went on from there to serve as President of the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. Milt has been instrumental in the formation of countless important organizations throughout our state including GVMC, Right Place, Inc., West Michigan Strategic Alliance, Michigan Future, Inc., the Center for Michigan and more. Be sure to join Milt at our conference lunch as he narrates a brief pictorial presentation showing a few of the many smart growth spin-offs which have emanated from the original GVMC Metropolitan Development Blueprint.

LOCATION



Date & Time: June 12, 2008, 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Location: Calvin College
 Prince Conference Center
 1800 East Beltline SE
 Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546
 (616) 526-7200

Parking: Parking is available at the Prince Center.

REGISTRATION

Conference Attendees

Name _____

Organization _____

Title _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

E-Mail _____

I require a vegetarian meal:

Name _____

Organization _____

Title _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

E-Mail _____

I require a vegetarian meal:

Payment

Advance Payment Required. Cash/Checks Only.

\$75.00 per person

\$85.00 per person if postmarked after May 26, 2008

Send payment along with registration form to:

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

Attn: Gayle McGrath

40 Pearl St. NW, Suite 410

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Cancellation Policy

Full refund before May 26, 2008. 80% refund between May 26 and June 2, 2008. No refunds after June 6, 2008.

For More Information

Phone: (616) 776-7613 Fax: (616) 774-9292

E-Mail: mccrathg@gvmc.org

Website: www.gvmc.org