

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

Public Information & Education Subcommittee

Friday, February 20, 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 Bowman at 8:08 AM.

Members Present:

Caryl Sue Abendroth	Citizen
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Beverly Drake	ACSET Council
Thomas McWhertor	Calvin College
Bonnie Shupe	Cannon Township
Carol Townsend	MSU Center for Urban Affairs

Members Absent:

Judy Barnes	Home Builders Association
Rick Chapla	Right Place Program
Lori Larsen	Citizen
Dave Van Antwerp	Creative Partners

Others Present:

Priscilla Babcock	Grand Valley Metro Council
Brian Berdanier	Grand Valley Metro Council
Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Jay Hoekstra	Grand Valley Metro Council
Jay Peters	West Michigan Strategic Alliance
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Rick Sullivan	Center for Environmental Study
Kendra Wills	MSU Extension

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for January 16, 2004 were accepted.

3. Staff Updates:

A. Growing Communities Conference

Hoekstra announced that a potential speaker for the land use portion of the conference is Bill Gietema. His presentation would be based on tax base and an open space value gradient model. Rural aspect. Bowman stated that they are also looking into Zimmerman and Volk for another land use breakout discussing value issues.

The keynote speaker, John Norquist has already been booked.

Babcock reported that Chris Dingman has been working on booking speakers for the transportation portion of the conference. Rodney Slater never returned his calls so he is looking into an alternative, and Gloria Jeff has a previous commitment that day, but is trying to rearrange her schedule so that she can make it. Townsend question whether Gloiria Jeff would be talking about contact sensitive design. Bowman stated that most likely she would, but we could ask her to make sure.

Berdanier reported that he is looking into Randall Johnson who is the Director of Regional GIS in Minneapolis, as a possible breakout speaker for the REGIS portion of the conference. He is also looking into Frank Wash of Alpine Township and the Walker Planner to discuss the 4-mile corridor case study of GIS for another breakout session.

Miscellaneous Breakout Session Discussion

- Shupe suggested having a breakout in which attendees would read a book first and then have a work session discussing it – possibly Norquist’s book. McWhertor stated that he liked the idea, but there might be low attendance because people won’t want to read the book. It was stated that people could attend the breakout if they wanted even if they haven’t read the book. Shupe suggested tying this in with United Growth, or look into them helping us with the arrangements. Wills to look into this.
- Bowman asked Jay Peters if he had any ideas for the miscellaneous track of the conference. He suggested:
 - Regional efforts of the Broadband Coalition regarding a strategy funding mechanism
 - Green Infrastructure (Bowman noted that this might be good to include as the third breakout under land use)
 - GIS Consortium
 - Government Land Use Leadership Report

Bowman questioned whether Peters had any information on the tourism initiative and promoting our area as a destination. Peters replied that the Michigan West Coast should have some information on this and that he would get in touch with Steve Wilson and Longwood about their report.

- Hoekstra brought up the idea of having a breakout on traditional neighborhood development cost value. It was suggested to include different examples in the region as case studies. It was also noted that this would make a good panel discussion with developers.

B. Blueprint Awards

Bowman reported that the postcards and applications were sent out last month. There have not been any submissions to date, but they usually come in during the week they are due.

4. Work Session: Community Award

Bowman stated that he had a discussion with others about doing a “community” award in addition to the Blueprint award. The Community award would be to recognize communities with meritorious small projects. Townsend commented that the communities recognized as runner ups for the Blueprint award appeared to be the same thing. McWhertor noted that the Community award seemed like a “good old boy” award - he continued by stating that we should encourage projects to submit for the Blueprint Award.

5. Other Items of Business

Bowman noted that he was still working with Alex Nesterenko of GVSU on the survey project.

6. Future Agenda Items/Next Meeting Date:

The PIE subcommittee meets on the 3rd Friday of every month at the Grand Valley Metro Council at 8:00 AM. The next PIE meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 19, 2004.

7. Adjournment:

McWhertor adjourned the committee meeting at 9:20 AM.