

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

Public Information & Education Subcommittee

Friday, May 14, 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 8:10 AM.

Members Present:

Caryl Sue Abendroth	Citizen
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Rick Chapla	Right Place Program
Thomas McWhertor	Calvin College
Rick Sullivan	Center for Environmental Study
Carol Townsend	MSU Center for Urban Affairs

Members Absent:

Judy Barnes	Home Builders Association
Beverly Drake	ACSET Council
Bonnie Shupe	Cannon Township
Dave Van Antwerp	Creative Partners
Kendra Wills	MSU Extension

Others Present:

Brian Anderson	MSU Extension - Intern
Priscilla Babcock	Grand Valley Metro Council
Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Jay Hoekstra	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for April 16, 2004 were incomplete and therefore voting was delayed until June's meeting.

3. Staff Updates:

A. Growing communities Conference

Babcock noted that there were 52 registrations to date totaling \$2600. These numbers seem normal for this time. However sponsors are coming in very low with only \$4950 to date. Those present reviewed the sponsor list and assigned members to contact previous sponsors to ask for donations. It was suggested to add WMSA to the sponsor list. McWhertor stated that he would check with the panelists to see if they would sponsor.

Bowman noted that they are in the process of deciding on moderators. For the transportation breakouts the moderators so far will be Chris Dingand and Steve Warren. Townsend suggested asking the sponsors to be moderators. Suggestions included: ITP, Linda Patterson, Judy Barnes, and the Grand Rapids Foundation. John Logie was suggested to introduce John Norquist.

Townsend noted that there are two sections from the Wealth of Cities book that would be good for the book discussion breakout. These included the chapter titled "How the Government Killed Affordable Housing", and the last chapter which is a summary of the book.

Bowman stated that he is trying to get permission from the author/publisher to get pages copied and distributed for people that didn't buy the book. Chapla suggested using book reviews of the book to distribute vs. making copies right from the book because getting copyright permissions might be difficult.

McWhertor questioned whether there would be student involvement this year. Bowman replied that they did not have luck finding interested students from the youth summit. Abendroth stated that we should try and do something and volunteered to try and pull something together. It was discussed and agreed upon to look for college students from local colleges to attend the conference at a charge of only \$15. The colleges to be contacted include: Kendall, GRCC, WMU, GVSU, Calvin, Aquinas, U of M, and MSU. Sullivan volunteered to contact GRCC and McWhertor volunteered to contact Calvin.

4. **Work Session: Blueprint Awards**

With only one award submission this year from Burton Heights Neighborhood Association, the PIE Committee had agreed to examine past award nominees for advancements. Three other projects were chosen to review: City of Wyoming Downtown Plan, Millennium Park and Sustainable Business Forum.

Dingman contacted Wyoming and there were no major changes to their downtown plan. The Sustainable Business Forum resubmitted their application with additional information. Sullivan noted that the timing is good now to give Millennium Park an award, if they deserve it.

Bowman was hesitant about giving an award for Millennium Park because it is still in progress and they might not fulfill what they say they are going to. Chapla noted that the plan is good and that pieces have already been constructed. Sullivan added that overall it is a great step forward. The majority of those present agreed that Millennium Park should receive an award.

Chapla questioned whether the Sustainable Business Forum was far enough along. Bowman noted that they have made good progress.

Townsend stated that the Burton Heights project might not be far enough along for an award this year. She suggested they get an honorable mention though.

MOTION by Sullivan, SUPPORT by Buck to give Millennium Park (Dev/Design) and the Sustainable Business Forum (Prog/Policy) Blueprint Awards for 2004 and to give Burton Heights an honorable mention. MOTION CARRIED.

McWhertor commented that we should highlight the fact that both of the winners this year had been projects submitted in previous years. McWhertor also noted that we need to encourage more submissions in following years and that the PIE Committee needs to be more active in pursuing submissions. Chapla stated that in the future we might want to honor the Governor and legislators on the Land Use Leadership Council.

5. **Other Items of Business**

None

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 18, 2004.

7. **Adjournment:**

McWhertor adjourned the committee meeting at about 9:30 AM.