

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

February 6, 2020

8:30 a.m.

Kent County Commission Chambers
300 Monroe
Grand Rapids, MI

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mike DeVries called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Rick Baker	At-Large
Rob Beahan	Cascade Township
Wayman Britt	Kent County
Mike Burns	City of Lowell
Tom Butcher	GVSU
Gary Carey	City of Walker
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Deb Diepenhorst	Cannon Township
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Rob DeWard	Gaines Township
Brian Donovan	At-Large
Kevin Green	Algoma Township
George Haga	Ada Township
Tom Hooker	Byron Township
John Hoppough	City of Greenville
Diane Jones	Kent County
Steve Kepley	City of Kentwood
Greg Madura	Alpine Township
Megan Sall	City of Wyoming
Karen McCarthy	At-Large
Brenda McNabb-Stange	City of Hastings
John Niemela	City of Belding
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Jonathan Seyferth	City of Coopersville
Julius Suchy	Village of Sparta
Jeff Thornton	Village of Caledonia
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Cameron VanWyngarden	Plainfield Township
Mike Verhulst	City of Grand Rapids
Mark Washington	City of Grand Rapids

Patrick Waterman City of Hudsonville
Duane Weeks Village of Middleville
Lynee Wells City of Grand Rapids

Members Absent:

Thad Beard City of Rockford
Ken Bergwerff Jamestown Township
Nora Balgoyen At-Large Member
Mandy Bolter Kent County
Robyn Britton Nelson Township
Joshua Eggleston City of Wayland
Adam Elenbaas Allendale Township
Jason Eppler City of Ionia
Rachel Gokey Village of Sand Lake
Jerry Hale Lowell Township
Jim Holtvluwer Ottawa County
Bryan Harrison Caledonia Township
Doug LaFave East Grand Rapids
Steve Maas City of Grandville
Mike Womack City of Cedar Springs

Others Present:

John Weiss Grand Valley Metro Council
Gayle McCrath Grand Valley Metro Council
Wendy Ogilvie Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani Grand Valley metro Council
Andrea Faber Grand Valley Metro Council
Laurel Joseph Grand Valley Metro Council
Mike Zonyk Grand Valley Metro Council
George Yang Grand Valley Metro Council
Brad Doane Grand Valley Metro Council
Tim Dye Truscott Rossman
Dave Kent MDOT

2. Oath of Office

The Oath of Office was administered to Jeff Thornton of the Village of Caledonia. Jeff addressed the Board saying he was very happy to participate in the Metro Council and had been involved in local government for several years.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the December 2019 Board Minutes. MOVE – Britt. SUPPORT – Donovan. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Election of Officers

Chair Mike DeVries explained the Executive Committee has put forth the following slate of Officers and Executive Committee members:

- Mike DeVries – Chair
- Jack Poll – Vice Chair
- Patrick Waterman – Treasurer
- Brian Donovan – Secretary
- George Haga
- Rob Beahan
- Wayman Britt
- Mark Washington
- Al Vanderberg
- Steve Kepley

Lynee Wells commented on the process used in appointing the Executive Committee and Officers. She noted the Bylaws and Articles state the elections should be made in October and she advocated for an open and consistent path and process to be established so that all those interested in serving in those capacities can be considered by the full GVMC Board of Directors.

Mark Washington indicated he spoke with Ms. Wells regarding the process and wanted to assure her that her current and previous comments regarding the issue were not lost on the Executive Committee.

Chair Mike DeVries stated the Executive Committee will come back to the Board with a report regarding the process.

MOTION – To Approve the Above Listed Slate of GVMC Officers and Executive Committee Members. MOVE – Donovan. SUPPORT – Vanderberg. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Amendment of Bylaws

Chair Mike DeVries explained the request to amend the GVMC Bylaws to allow for a minimum of four meetings annually rather than a mandated monthly meeting.

Brian Donovan explained that the Executive Committee has been discussing various ways to increase attendance at GVMC Board Meetings which at times have had issues making quorum. It is understood that all GVMC Board Members have busy schedules and work conflicts. By reducing the number of mandated meetings, it is hoped that members will be able to prioritize the remaining meetings and boost attendance.

Brenda McNabb-Stange reported she supported keeping monthly meetings as she felt the GVMC Board meetings had great value by getting members together and sharing information even when the passage of critical items is not on the agenda.

MOTION – To Approve the Resolution to Amend the GVMC Bylaws to Change the Mandated Number of Meetings Annually to not Less than Four (4). MOVE – Donovan. SUPPORT – Vanderberg. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Truscott Rossman Presentation – Tim Dye

John Weiss reported he had talked to Tim Dye regarding the possibility of Truscott Rossman doing Lunch & Learn sessions for members and their staff on various issues including crisis communication. The sessions would be held at the GVMC offices, include lunch and be free of charge.

Tim Dye presented to the committee and further elaborated on the possibilities of the Lunch & Learn sessions.

7. MDOT Project Update – Dennis Kent

John Weiss asked Dennis Kent of MDOT to address the group regarding a project update listing published by MDOT in response to the Governor’s Bonding proposal.

Dennis Kent explained the projects and answered questions from the group.

8. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update Presentation – Abed Itani and Andrea Faber

John Weiss read an email from Federal Highway Long Range Transportation Plan.

“First of all, I would like to compliment you and the rest of the GVMC staff for putting together a great LRTP. The level of effort shows, and I think that your committees and citizens will really appreciate it.

I have gone through the entire list of requirements for 23 CFR 450.324 – and you have addressed all the items per regulation.

Thank you for the opportunity to review your draft and thank you for putting so much effort into this process. GVMC has done an excellent job.”

Abed Itani and Andrea Faber updated the group on the plan and gave a presentation regarding the process which included significant increase in public participation and comment.

The Board will be asked to approve the Plan and the TIP at the May 7th meeting.

9. Abed Itani – Retirement

Abed Itani addressed the Board and thanked everyone for their support over his 30-year career with GVMC / GRETS. He stated that he has enjoyed his long tenure at GVMC and wouldn't have been able to have the success he had without the support of staff and committees.

10. Adjourn – 9:45 a.m.