

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
November 20, 2009

Committee Members Present: Josh Hafer, Shawn Gillen, Irene Koski, Margie Ritter, Tom Schmoll, Mike Ives, Leigh Lonson, Bill Eckblad, Derek Stanley, Tom Saxhaug, Mary Ives, Peter McDermott, Jane Bymark

Advisory members present:

Present via Conference Call:

Chamber Staff: Bud Stone, Renee Thompson

Mike Ives called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Josh Hafer made a motion to approve the October 30, 2009 meeting minutes. Irene Koski seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

MINNESOTA CHAMBER 2010 LEGISLATIVE POLICIES

Bud reviewed the MN Chamber's draft 2010 legislative policies. K-12 education, environmental issues and healthcare remain at the top again this year.

The committee discussed taking a closer look at the MN Chamber's legislative policies, after they are finalized, to compare their goals to the committee's goals.

ACTION: Bud will email the MN Chamber's final policies to the committee when he gets it.

MEMBER UPDATES

Shawn discussed that the City has RFP's out to redo the City's Comprehensive Plan, that the wastewater treatment center has caused the City's credit rating to go down a bit and that the commentary is working on computerizing their records.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

Peter informed the committee that MDI is continuing to work on ways to grow.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

Bud discussed IEDC purchasing Ainsworth and how the Blandin Easement will unintentionally create a "Central Park" setting as new properties are annexed by the City of Grand Rapids.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

Mary discussed a Range Ready Housing meeting she attended.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

Senator Saxhaug discussed a visit he had at the ESSAR site and the positive things that can come out of IEDC purchasing the Ainsworth site.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

Bill did a brief recap regarding the article on nursing home falls that Jake discussed at the last meeting.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, December 18, 2009.

Peter McDermott made a motion to adjourn. Margie Ritter seconded the motion.
Meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes submitted by Renee Thompson, Administrative Assistant, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.