

MINUTES
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
March 12, 2010

Committee Members Present: Irene Koski, Mary Ives, Steve Arbour, Leigh Lonson, Mike Ives, Jeff Tillman, Derek Stanley, Paula Frings, Jeff Borling, Dale Adams

Advisory members present:

Chamber Staff: Bud Stone, Renee Thompson

Bud called the meeting to order.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

MINNESOTA STATE CHAMBER CONFERENCE CALL:

The committee participated in a legislative conference call with the MN Chamber. Issues addressed were as follows:

- Environmental: Non-ferrous mine bill was withdrawn.
- Nuclear issues
- Work comp and unemployment
- Employment issues: Sick Leave and Lunch Break Bills, Work Comp Bill
- Transportation:
- Education: Alternative Teachers Licensing
- Healthcare: Oral chemo
- Elections
- Budget and taxes

ACTION: No further action necessary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mike made a motion to approve the February 26, 2010 meeting minutes. Jeff Tillman seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

MEMBER UPDATES

Mike – Pointed out that unemployment rates are 19% in Brainerd and 17% in Grand Rapids.

Jeff - IEDC is working to expand the business base in IT and Forestry.

Irene – Reported that the Living Word Bible Camp is being asked to complete an EIS.

Mary - Discussed IRR funding for affordable housing and revamping whole housing developments.

Paula – Discussed CEO's in the schools and the need for escorts for Future Workers, which will be held on May 6, 2010. Also, touched on revealing the FEAP communications campaign.

Leigh – Informed the committee that Grand Rapids GM got the Cadillac line of cars back.

Bud – spoke about the Polymet hearing.

Dale – spoke about the proposal to merge operations between the City of Grand Rapids and the Grand Rapids Public Utilities. Shawn Gillen will be presenting at an open meeting on Wednesday, March 17th at the PUC building.

Dale also spoke about discussions the City is having with other communities regarding how to handle LGA cuts.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

Submitted by Renee Thompson

The next scheduled meeting is on March 26, 2010 at 7:30 a.m. There will be a MN State Chamber Conference call.

Meeting adjourned.