

MINUTES
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
April 4, 2008

Committee Members Present: Paula Frings, Frank Allen, Jake Goering, Ed Zabinski, Tom Schmoll, Amy Beier

Advisory members present: Marla Beaty

Chamber Staff: Bud Stone, President, Renee Thompson, Administrative Assistant and Finance Coordinator.

Jake Goering called the meeting to order.

MINNESOTA STATE CHAMBER CONFERENCE CALL

The Committee members participated in the Minnesota State Chamber conference call where legislative updates were heard on education, work comp, healthcare reform, unemployment compensation insurance, transportation and JOBZ.

ACTION: The committee will participate in another Minnesota State Chamber conference call on April 11, 2008.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Frank Allen made a motion to approve the March 28, 2008 meeting minutes. Ed Zabinski seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

CONFERENCE CALL WITH TONY

The committee had a conference call with Tony Kwilas and Representative Solberg.

Loren indicated that legislators are trying to get the big stuff off the floor and into committees or onto the Governor's desk. No one knows what action the Governor will take with the bonding bill. The Governor can do one of three things. He can line item veto individual projects, he can veto the whole bill or he can sign it. By the Governor signing it does not mean bonds will be sold.

ACTION: The committee will have another conference call with Tony on April 11, 2008.

MEMBER UPDATES

Bud informed the committee that at the March 31, 2008 Chamber Board of Directors meeting, the board passed a support resolution for an after Labor Day school start date and a support resolution to allow individual school districts to chose graduation requirements that pertain to their region. They also passed a resolution to support the resort community regarding Conditional Use Permits.

However, the board did not take action regarding the realignment of Ridgewood Road.

Marla Beaty informed the committee that she is working on planning a job fair and brown bag lunch seminars.

Paul Frings gave a brief update on Grand Works.

Jake Goering announced that effective May 1, 2008, Grand Villages board meeting will be aired on ICTV.

Ed Zabinski discussed the article in the paper regarding coal dust.

Ed Zabinski made a motion to adjourn. Frank Allen seconded it. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

The next meeting will be at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, April 11, 2008.