

MINUTES
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
April 18, 2008

Committee Members Present: Jake Goering, Rick Utech, Mike Ives, Frank Allen, Tom Schmoll, Shelly Steere, Ed Zabinski

Advisory members present: Marla Beaty, Catherine McLynn

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.

Healthcare reform policies are not making much progress. However, policy bills are moving forward in education.

ACTION: The committee will participate in another Minnesota State Chamber conference call on May 2, 2008.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rick Utech made a motion to approve the April 11, 2008 meeting minutes. Shelly Steere seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

CONFERENCE CALL WITH TONY

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

Tony indicated that while there is a lot going on at the Capitol, not much is moving. The big bills have passed and now they are trying to work out the details of the smaller bills.

Senator Saxhaug informed the committee that the Governor signed the EDA Conflict of Interest bill.

ACTION: The committee will have another conference call with Tony on April 25, 2008.

MEMBER UPDATES

Catherine informed the committee that the County Coordinator position is open again for applicants. The County Board did interview 3 candidates but no offers were made.

Catherine asked for help educating citizens regarding the realignment of Ridgewood Road.

Committee discussion took place regarding the realignment of Ridgewood Road.

Ed Zabinski made a motion to recommend that the Chamber's board of Directors take a position on the Ridgewood Road realignment. Frank Allen seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: Ridgewood Road will be added to the board agenda for April 28, 2008.

The next meeting will be at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, April 25, 2008.