

Government Affairs
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
May 6, 2011

Chamber Members Present: Mike Ives, Terry Snyder, Lilah Crowe, Margie Ritter, Roger Hoyum, Irene Koski, Peter McDermott, Mary Ives, Jim Millis, Ed Zabinski, Allison Rajala Ahcan

Advisory Members Present:

Chamber Staff: Renee Thompson

Ed called the meeting to order.

MINNESOTA CHAMBER CONFERENCE CALL

The committee participated in a legislative conference call with the Minnesota Chamber.

Updates were heard on the following issues:

- Environment & Natural Resources: Finance Conference Committee scheduled to meet today;
- Labor: E-verify bill, prevailing wage bill, teacher validation bill - is in the Ways & Means committee in the House.
- Education: Early Ed, higher Ed;
- Health & Human Services: The Insurance Exchange did not meet the committee deadline;
- Transportation;
- Coal & Nuclear Energy Moratorium Bill;
- Civil Justice: Class action reform;
- Tax Front: eliminating sales tax for data center

Racinos did not appear to have votes to move forward.

The committee discussed the MN Chamber Conference call.

Mike explained the prevailing wage opposition.

ACTION: The next MN Chamber conference call will be on Friday, May 13 2011.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ed asked for a motion to approve the April 15, 2011 meeting minutes.

Mike made a motion to approve the April 15, 2011 Government Affairs Committee minutes. Irene seconded the motion. Motion passed.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

MEMBER UPDATES

Irene informed the committee that interviews were held for her replacement. Negotiations to hire the candidate will take place soon.

Lilah informed the committee that the City of Grand Rapids will be 125 years old in 2016. Committees are being formed now to start the celebration planning.

Allision spoke about Invest Early & Beyond the bottom line. She also informed the committee that Matt Rezac will be leaving the foundation and there is a Public Policy position available at the Foundation.

Mary spoke about St. Joe's all class reunion that is being planned.

Peter spoke about the outcome of the 75 million totes celebrations. He also spoke about working on getting rehabilitation money for MDI. Lastly, Peter spoke about a Healthcare dialogue meeting he attended.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

CONFERENCE CALL WITH SENATOR SAXHAUG

Senator Saxhaug phoned in for a conference call with the committee.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is on May 13, 2011 at 7:30 a.m.

There will be a MN Chamber conference call.

Roger made a motion to adjourn. Irene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Renee Thompson, Administrative Assistant and Finance Coordinator.