MINUTES

MEETING OF THE
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBERSHIP

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER
510 PLEASANTVIEW DR. - WESLACO, TEXAS

PRESIDING: MAYOR JIM DARLING, PRESIDENT

President Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. and announced that a quorum of the Board and Membership were present. President Darling then moved to item 2. - Consider Approval RE: Meeting Minutes.

A. Membership Meeting of May 27, 2015

Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the May 27, 2015 Membership Meeting minutes as presented. Mayor San Juanita Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

B. November 24, 2015 Board Meeting

The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the November 24, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Council Member Richard Molina seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes President Darling moved to item 3.A. - Report from Legislative Delegation, however no legislators were present and no reports were submitted. The President then moved to item 3.B. – Public Comment, no one requested to make public comments and President Darling took this opportunity to introduce the LRGVDC's new Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Ron Garza.

President Darling next moved to 3.C. – Presentation RE: Proposed Creation of Natural Gas Efficiency Program for the RGV and recognized Ms. Julie Hatfield, Texas Gas Services. Ms. Hatfield gave a presentation that illustrates the benefits of natural gas use, the decline in residential use of natural gas, and outlined the proposed program that includes rebates, no cost appliances through low income services, and educating retailers and contractors on the benefits of natural gas use. Mayor Tony Martinez made a motion to endorse the creation of the Natural Gas Efficiency Program and for Texas Gas Services to move forward with it, but not for a rate increase. Mayor San Juanita Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Darling next moved to item 3.D. – Consider Approval RE: Quarterly and Annual Investment Reports. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve the Quarterly and Annual Investment reports as presented. Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action President Darling moved to item 3.E. – Consider Annual Work Program & Budget Committee Recommendation.

1. Adoption of FY 2016 Annual Work Program

Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to adopt the FY 2016 Annual Work Program as presented. Mayor Tony Martinez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Adoption of FY 2016 Annual Budget

Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to adopt the FY 2016 Annual Budget as presented. Mr. Steve Brewer seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.
Upon conclusion of Membership Action President Darling moved to item 3.F. – Discussion RE: Board Member Terms. The Board discussed the potential of two-year terms versus the current one-year terms for those member groups that caucus every year. Upon conclusion of discussion Mayor Celeste Sanchez made a motion to not make any changes to voting member terms. Council Member Richard Molina seconded the motion, and the motion carried by a majority vote.

President Darling next moved to item 3.G. – Discussion and Action RE: Board Meeting Start Times. In order the save LRGVDC budget dollars and to facilitate meeting flow the Board discussed starting the meeting at a different time and eliminating lunch provided by the LRGVDC. Upon conclusion of discussion Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion for the meeting start time to remain at 12:00 noon and for the LRGVDC to no longer provide lunch. Mr. Steve Brewer seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. President Darling noted that Board Members are welcomed to bring their own lunch to the meetings.

President Darling next moved to item 3.H. – Discussion RE: Meeting of LRGVDC Large Cities. The President noted that a report on the meeting, written by Deputy Executive Director Ron Garza, is in the Board folders. Topics of discussion at the meeting included regionalizing the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) into one large MPO, exploring the feasibility of combining two currently designated Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) into a single delineation, studying the benefits and actions needed to identify a regional marketing/publicity program for enhanced regional benefits, and further investigating the status and possibilities of enhanced regional Economic Development initiatives. The coalition plans to meet again in March. No Action.

Upon conclusion of action on Administration items President Darling moved to item 4.A. – Act upon Recommendations from LRGVDC Regional Police Academy; item 1. – Consider Approval RE: LRGVDC Handgun Policy. Program Director Paul Williams was recognized and stated that the Regional Police Academy recommends approval of the Handgun Policy in adherence to and compliance with the Texas Penal Code. Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the LRGVDC Handgun Policy as presented. Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Williams stated that the regular status reports were in the Board folders for review.

President Darling next moved to item 5. – Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Program Director Joe Gonzalez. Regarding item A.1. – Consider Approval RE: Memorandum of Understanding for New Care Transitions Program, Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommends approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with all partnering hospitals for the Medicaid Care Transitions Program. The Area Agency on Aging is transitioning from the Medicare program to the Medicaid population with a Managed Care Organization. The program will provide Care Transitions to Cigna Health Springs members who are discharged from the hospital to the community. President Darling disclosed a conflict of interest because Doctors’ Hospital at Renaissance, where he works, participates in this program, and he asked 1st Vice President Tony Martinez to preside over action on this item. Chairman Martinez called for a motion; Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for New Care Transitions Program as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion. President Jim Darling abstained, and upon conclusion of the vote the motion carried. Upon conclusion of action President Darling resumed his duties as chairman and Mr. Gonzalez gave the status reports on the Community Based Care Transition Program, Medicare Improvements, and Delegates from the Grand Gateway EDA and the Southwest Oklahoma Development Association’s visit to the Valley.

President Darling next moved to item 6. - Report from Economic Development Department, Item A.1. – Consider Approval RE: Regional Small Cities Coalition Committee Officers and recognized Program Director Terrie Salinas. Ms. Salinas reported that at their December 10th meeting the Regional Small Cities Coalition unanimously nominated the following officers:

Chairman, Mr. Ben Medina, Rio Hondo City Manager
Secretary/Treasurer, Ms. Lydia Moreno, Lyford City Secretary
Member-at-Large #1, Ms. Aida Gutierrez, Combes City Secretary

Mayor Celeste Sanchez made a motion to approve the slate of officers for the Regional Small Cities Coalition as presented. Ms. Wanda Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried.
unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Ms. Salinas gave the status of the PACE Program.

President Darling then moved to item 7. - Report from Valley Metro, item A. - Act upon Staff Recommendations and recognized Assistant Director Maribel Contreras who addressed the following items:

1. Consider Approval RE: Revisions to Oversight Policy
   Ms. Contreras informed the Board that these policy revisions will allow Valley Metro to insure that its sub-recipients are in compliance with Federal Transit Administration and Texas Department of Transportation rules and regulations. **Mayor Celeste Sanchez made a motion to approve the revisions to the Oversight Policy as presented. Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

2. Consider Approval RE: Revisions to Vehicle Maintenance Policy Plan
   Ms. Contreras explained that these policy revisions include the addition of the New Flyer Midi Bus Fleet as well as the addition of newly built and/or acquired maintenance facilities. **Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the revisions to the Vehicle Maintenance Policy Plan as presented. Mayor Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

3. Consider Approval RE: RFP Process for Acquisition of Consultant Services
   Staff requests Board authorization for the Executive Director to request, negotiate and enter into a contract to hire a consultant to update the 5-Year Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan for Region 21. The contract amount is $75,082 from TxDOT’s Section 5303 funds at 100% match. The Plan will consist of revising the region’s inventory of transportation resources, completing a comprehensive needs assessment, and a gap analysis. When completed this update will provide the basis for all transit agencies in the Rio Grande Valley to coordinate and plan future development. **Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve the RFP process for the acquisition of consultant services as presented. Mr. Ron Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Ms. Contreras noted that the status reports on the Rural and Urban Systems were in the Board folders for review.

President Darling next moved to item 8. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Program Director Marcie Oviedo. Ms. Oviedo noted that the status reports under item A.1. – Water Resources were in the Board folders for review and moved to item 8.A.2. – Solid Waste Management, item a. – Consider Recommendation from Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) RE: Solid Waste Implementation Project Ranking. **The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Implementation Project Ranking as presented. Mayor Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Ms. Oviedo noted that the status reports on Solid Waste Program Activities and the HUD Disaster Recovery Funding were in the Board folders for review.

President Darling next moved to item 9.A. – Act upon Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Recommendations and recognized Program Director Manuel Cruz who addressed the following items:

1. Consider Approval RE: Nominations for HSAC Chair and Vice Chair for FY 2016
   Mr. Cruz informed the Board that at their January 8th meeting the HSAC recommended Police Chief Javier Garza, City of South Padre Island Emergency Management Coordinator as HSAC Chair; and Mr. Jason Arms, City of Pharr Emergency Management Coordinator as Vice Chair for FY 2016. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the HSAC recommendations for Chair and Vice Chair as presented. Mr. Ron Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

2. Consider Approval RE: FY 2016 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Supplemental Allocations and Jurisdictions Selected
   Mr. Cruz explained that on December 9, 2015 the Office of the Governor’s Homeland Security Grant Division (OOG-HSGD) release the initial estimated awards for the FY 2016 Homeland Security Grant Programs (HSGP) for the LRGVDC region. The HSAC convened on December 17, 2015 to review the HSGD awards for the purpose of allocating the overage of the funding which totals $146, 304.76 to eligible jurisdictions. The initial regional total amount that the HSAC
used in November 2015 was $600,000.00. The estimated regional allocation received by the LRGVDC from HSGD was $746,304.76. The HSAC will meet in March 2016 to rank the applications for this supplemental allocation. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the FY 2016 Homeland Grant Program Supplemental Allocations and Jurisdictions Selected as presented. Mayor San Juanita Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Consider Approval RE: Lower Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSAs) to Submit Grant Application for FY 2014 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)**

Mr. Cruz stated that this year the Texas Homeland Security State Administrative Agency is seeking projects from the top eight Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) that were not funded with Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding for the 2014 grant year. Each project/application may not exceed $100,00 and must be completed within 60 days or less with the earliest start date of February 2016 and the latest end date of June 2016. These projects will be considered if funds become available during the SHSP close-out process. **Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the Lower Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Statistical Areas to Submit Grant Applications for FY 2014 State Homeland Security Program as presented. Mr. Steve Brewer seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz noted that the program status reports were in the Board folders for review.

President Darling next moved to item 10. - 9-1-1 Program and Mr. Ken Jones noted that the program status reports were in the Board folders for review.

Next President Darling moved to item 11. – Executive Session: Annual Evaluation and Salary Consideration of Executive Director. The President stated that the Executive Committee met prior to this meeting to evaluate the performance of and discuss the salary for Executive Director Ken Jones. It was the consensus of the Board to forgo a closed executive session and President Darling stated that the Executive Committee recommends a salary increase of 3.5% as noted in the 2016 Budget. **Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to increase the Executive Director’s salary by 3.5%. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

12 - Old or New Business; there being none the meeting was adjourned at 1:19 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

[Signature]

Mayor Jim Darling, President

[Signature]

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary