President Norma G. Garcia called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared.

The President then moved to item 2: Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes (September 26, 2018). Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Pete Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Garcia then moved to item 3: Public Comment and/or Report from Legislative Delegation, there being none she moved to item 4: Administration and addressed the following:

A. Presentation RE: 86th Legislative Session & Regional Transit Authorities (RTA)
   State Representative Armando “Mando” Martinez was recognized and informed the Board that he has carried this legislation across several Legislative Sessions. It passed out of the house last session, but not the senate. He has met with several large cities in the Valley that have transit systems and has developed an agreement on this bill. The bill will be introduced again in the next session.

   By way of background, he informed the Board that in 2007 a commuter rail bill was passed which created a commuter rail district in the thirteen counties along the border and allowed every county to create their own rail district authority. Hidalgo County created a Rail District Authority Board and received a $500,000 grant from the state to do a feasibility study. The study showed that in Hidalgo County alone there would be 16,000 riders per day usage of a commuter rail. The well-established east to west corridor is important, and for the future there is the idea to create a north to south corridor. For rail to be successful there also must be a bus system in place that will reach rural areas as well as urban areas.

   The idea of this legislation is to create an all-encompassing transit authority that would be administered by the LRGVDC. The goal of the RTA would be to better coordinate, develop, and maintain all the Valley’s mass transit, bus and rail, and to plan and develop rail in the Rio Grande Valley. The legislation is a planning shell that the Board of Directors would use to make decisions on how transit runs in every city in the Valley. The reason Mr. Martinez considered the LRGVDC is because the Board of Directors are the voices for each of the cities and all areas of the valley would have input as opposed to a small board making mass transportation decisions for the region. This
planning shell would allow current municipal bus providers to continue operating their lines and will not reduce the amount of funding they receive.

B. Consider Appointment of Board Designees and Alternates to Texas Association of Reginal Councils (TARC) and Corporation for Texas Regionalism (CTR)
President Garcia informed the Board that Mr. Javier Deleon has served as the TARC representative for the past two years and Mayor Jim Darling has served as his alternate. Mayor Jim Darling has served as the CTR designee for the past two years and Mr. Javier Deleon has served as his alternate. Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to appoint Mr. Javier Deleon and Mayor Jim Darling to serve a third term in the same capacities. Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

C. Consider Annual Adoption of Investment Policy
Finance Director Crystal Balboa was recognized and informed the Board that staff recommends re- adoption of the current investment policy. Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to re-adopt the current Investment Policy as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pete Garcia seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

D. Presentation of Quarterly Investment Report
Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to accept the Quarterly Investment Report. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

E. Executive Director Report

1. Introduction of New Staff Member
Executive Director Ron Garza was recognized and announced that Valley Metro has six (6) new bus drivers: Mr. Domingo Garces, Mr. Luis Morales-Gonzales, Mr. Prudenciano Castillo, Mr. Victor Deleon, Mr. Carlos Martinez, and Mr. Sean Deloach.

LRGVDC Updates & Activities

2. CIEDO Building Expansion
Mr. Garza informed the Board that a Request for Qualifications for Architect/Engineering services for an addition to Building D was recently ranked and Gignac Architects was selected from that process. As per LRGVDC Procurement Policies Board approval is required to authorize the purchase of this service. Mayor Pro-tem Pete Garcia made a motion to approve Gignac Architects to develop the Building D expansion. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

3. Census 2020
Mr. Garza announced that the LRGVDC will hold the final Complete Count Committee (CCC) 101 on November 19 to create CCCs.

4. Large & Small Cities Coalition “Legislative Collaborative Forum”
Mr. Garza announced that on December 13 the Large & Small Cities Coalitions will hold a Legislative Collaborative Forum at the LRGVDC Main Campus at 11:30 am. Participants will engage in collaborative discussions about this region’s unified priorities in preparation for the 2019 legislative session. This event will feature remarks from members of the RGV state
delegation and is open to mayors, city managers, this Board of Directors and members of the LRGVDC Large and Small Cities Coalition Advisory Committees.

5. BikeShare RGV

Mr. Garza announced that, at this time, staff has suspended the rollout for LimeBike that was scheduled for November 9. The micro-mobility industry is rapidly changing, and staff recently was informed that LimeBike (and other providers) are shifting from dockless bikes to electric scooters. He stated that the LRGVDC has strategically and progressively planned for dockless bicycles for the better part of 2018. Mr. Garza then introduced an alternative; he stated that it has been a long-term vision to expand the BCycle program in McAllen to become a regional model. During a visit with McAllen City Manager Roy Rodriguez they conceptualized a model and McAllen has agreed to “contribute” their current fleet of bicycles to a regional RGV BCycle. A regional model would cost over $1 million to provide enough bicycles and their infrastructure for the region; however, with the contribution of docks, bicycles, and software technology from McAllen, RGV BCycle would be over one third of the way there.

There are two grant opportunities for funding of this project, one is with the Hidalgo County Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) which would be for the system in Hidalgo County, and the other is a grant for which the LRGVDC is in the process of being invited to submit the full application. With this invitation Mr. Garza has requested a funding amount increase from $100,000 to $400,000 to provide BCycle service in Cameron County. If these two grants are approved, RGV BCycle could happen in 2019.

For the cities that agree to participate there will be a matching investment of 25% of the cost of the bicycles and infrastructure they would receive. The City of McAllen has made a substantial investment in the software technology to navigate the BCycle program that locates bike stations and tracks the bikes with a cell phone app which is part of the national BCycle program. Annual membership to BCycle allows the individual access to bikes everywhere the program is in place. A bike can be rented in one city and returned to a BCycle station in another city which makes it a seamless environment. RGV BCycle would be locally governed by an advisory committee and each city could control their own rates as well as where they would like the docking stations installed. The current average rental rate is $2.00 per hour or $65.00 for an annual pass that can be used open ended. Some areas even include a metro bus pass in their annual BCycle membership which provides an additional form of transportation and expands the seamless system. This alternative is truly sustainable because the LRGVDC and partner cities will buy and own the bikes and infrastructure and control its operation through the advisory committee, Valley Metro, and the LRGVDC Board of Directors.

Mayor Cyndie Rathbun asked about maintaining the fleet of bicycles. Mr. Garza responded that RGV BCycle would be operated by LRGVDC’s Valley Metro as a fleet of bicycles similar to how they operate their fleet of busses. Valley Metro would use the revenue from the BCycle program to hire a third party for bicycle maintenance.

Mr. Garza added that providing regular bicycles as opposed to electric bikes and/or scooters relates directly to the Health and Human Services priority of the LRGV Regional Strategic Plan to “enrich community health, safety and wellness through promotion of quality nutrition, physical activity, obesity prevention and support of active lifestyles”.
6. **2019 Mayor’s Walk for Wellness (It’s Time Texas Community Challenge)**  
   Mr. Garza announced that Saturday, January 5th, 2019 is the date for the next RGV Fit 5K and the Mayor’s Walk for Wellness. He was pleased to share with the Board that the It’s Time Texas staff used the video from our event this past March at their state conference and reminded the Board that the Valley won several categories for state wellness in 2018.

   Upon conclusion of Administration items, President Garcia moved to item 5: Department Reports.

A. Economic Development

**Economic Development Status Reports**

1. **Consider Approval to Provide EDA Grant Administration Services to the Town of Laguna Vista**  
   Economic Development Director Terrie Salinas was recognized and reported that the Town of Laguna Vista has been invited to submit a full grant application to the Austin Regional Office of the Economic Development Administration (EDA). For this application the EDA requests financial assistance for the public works infrastructure project totaling $1,000,000. The Town of Laguna Vista will provide the $300,000 match required to construct the infrastructure needed to attract retail and commercial businesses and other future development to this area.

   The Town of Laguna Vista has requested that the LRGVDC Economic Development District assist in the grant administration of this project. As per the EDA Program, Economic Development Districts are eligible to administer EDA grants and charge administration costs to the grant project. The administrative assistance provided to the grantee by the LRGVEDD is an excellent opportunity to also assist staff in planning other development projects that will help this small rural town grow. **Mayor Jim Darling made a motion for approval to provide EDA grant administration services to the town of Laguna Vista as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

   Upon conclusion of discussion Ms. Salinas summarized the status reports on Economic Development Projects, the Regional Small Cities Coalition, and the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program.

**Explore RGV Status Report**

1. **Consider Approval to Create Explore RGV Advisory Committee**
   Economic Development Specialist Blanca Davila was recognized and informed the Board that as part of the ongoing stakeholder involvement and feedback, staff realized that engagement and suggestions are key to developing and sustaining the most up-to-date and relevant information regarding our region’s assets. In an effort to formally capture this information and continually improve the Explore RGV platform, staff recommends the creation of the ExploreRGV Advisory Committee. This advisory committee would develop bylaws for governance under the LRGVDC Board of Directors and would be comprised of regional chambers of commerce, convention and visitors’ bureaus, and other tourism stakeholders. **Mayor Pro-tem Pete Garcia made a motion for approval to create the Explore RGV Advisory Committee. Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
B. Community & Environmental Services

**Community Development Status Report**
Program Director Marcie Oviedo was recognized and informed the Board that the status reports on the HUD Disaster Recovery Housing Program were in the Board packet for review.

**Environmental Resources Status Report**

Solid Waste Management Program

1. Consider Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Recommendation for Revision on Scope of Work for Hidalgo County Solid Waste Project
Ms. Oviedo stated that the SWAC met on October 9 and reviewed the Revised Scope of Work for the Solid Waste Project. Hidalgo County requested to change the scope of work from a Feasibility Study for Rural Solid Waste Collection to a Regional Study on Scrap Tire Disposal. The SWAC recommends approval of this revision. **Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to approve the revisions on the Scope of Work for the Hidalgo County Solid Waste Project from a Feasibility Study for Rural Solid Waste Collection to a Regional Study on Scrap Tire Disposal as recommended by the SWAC. Ms. Veronica Gonzales seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Water Resources
Ms. Oviedo announced that the next Region M Water Planning Group meeting is scheduled for November 7.

C. Health & Human Services

**Area Agency on Aging Status Reports**
Program Director Joe Gonzalez was recognized and addressed the following items:

1. Consider Approval to Authorize the Area Agency on Aging to Apply for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding
Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommends approval to authorize the Area Agency on Aging to seek CDBG funding from the cities of McAllen, Mission, Pharr, Edinburg, Harlingen, Brownsville, and San Benito. This funding would be used to match the Title III-B funding and provide additional services to low-income seniors within these communities.

2. Consider Approval to Authorize LRGVDC Executive Director Ron Garza to Sign all Documents Related to CDBG Funding
The Advisory Council recommends approval to authorize Executive Director Ron Garza to sign all applications and agreements on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging for CDBG funding. This authorization is for the Cities of McAllen, Mission, Pharr, Edinburg, Harlingen, Brownsville, and San Benito and to cover the program years for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.

Minutes, LRGVDC Board Meeting. October 31, 2018 - Pg. 5 of 9
3. Consider Approval to Authorize the Area Agency on Aging to Issue a Special Request for Proposals for One-Time Projects
Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommends approval to authorize the Area Agency on Aging to issue a Request for Proposals for one-time projects under Title III-B support services and Title III-E caregiver services. Proposals shall include services such as: senior center equipment, senior center repairs, caregiver training, and support to family caregivers. The available funding is a one-time only opportunity because this is carryover funding from the prior year. The 2019 funding had significant increases and came in late June which did not allow the Area Agency on Aging to commit the funding in the current year.

It was the consensus of the board to act on items 5. C. 1-3 in one motion. Mayor Pro-tem Pete Garcia made a motion to approve items 5. C. 1-3 as recommended by the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council. Mayor Jim Darling seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez noted that the status report was in the meeting packet for review.

D. Public Safety
President Garcia next recognized Public Safety Director Manuel Cruz to address the following items:

Criminal Justice Program Status Reports

Mr. Cruz was recognized and addressed the following items:

1. Consider Approval of Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Bylaws
Mr. Cruz stated that in accordance with the 2018 LRGVDC Interagency Contract, the CJAC reviewed and approved the revisions to their bylaws made by the CJAC subcommittee and staff recommends approval.

2. Consider Approval of Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Policy Manual
The CJAC reviewed and approved recommended revisions to the CJAC Policy Manual. Staff recommends approval of the Policy Manual as presented.

3. Consider Approval of Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Biannual Term Appointments
Mr. Cruz reported that the CJAC reviewed the biannual term appointments and presented the list of appointees that were approved by the committee at their most recent meeting. Staff recommends approval of these appointments as presented.

4. Consider Approval of Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Chair and Vice Chair for the FY 2018-2020 Term
Mr. Cruz reported that the CJAC reviewed the biennial term for their officers. As noted in the bylaws the Vice Chair David Longoria of Cameron County accepted the automatic ascension to Chair, and the Parliamentarian/Secretary Carla Rodriguez of Hidalgo County accepted the ascension to Vice Chair. Board action is required for final approval.
5. Consider Approval of Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC)
Parliamentarian/Secretary
Mr. Cruz stated that the CJAC nominated Uvaldo Zamora of Willacy County as
Parliamentarian/Secretary and that Mr. Zamora has accepted. This requires Board action for
final approval.

6. Consider Approval of Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Vacancy in the
Citizen/Parent/Faith Based Discipline
Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the CJAC recommends Ms. Soila Garcia from Hidalgo
County to fill the vacancy in the Citizen/Parent/Faith Based discipline.

It was the consensus of the Board to act on items 5. D. – Criminal Justice 1-6 in one motion.
Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve items 1-6 as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Norie
Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.
Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the Criminal Justice Program
status reports were in the meeting packet for review.

Emergency Communications Status Report

1. Consider Approval to Purchase Two (2) Vehicles for Emergency Communications/9-1-1
Division.
Mr. Cruz informed the Board that staff requests approval to purchase two vehicles: 1-F250
2500 Truck and 1-Passenger Cargo Van. These vehicles would be used to transport staff,
cargo such as PSAP equipment, and tow the ECOMMS/9-1-1 equipment display trailer to
public education events. These vehicles would also provide transportation for department
staff for local and out of region travel.

The Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) has approved the purchase
of vehicles, which will be made through Texas Buy Board Purchasing cooperative, Texas
Smart Buy Contract #072-A1, of which LRGVDC is a member. CSEC supports this option
as a feasible, more cost-effective means versus employee mileage reimbursement.

The Buy Board Purchasing Cooperative has selected the vendor through a competitive bid
process to sell these vehicles at a combined estimated cost of $80,000.00.
Mayor Pro-tem Pete Garcia made a motion to approve the purchase of two vehicle for the
Emergency Communications /9-1-1 division as requested. Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the
motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr.
Cruz noted that the Emergency Communications program status reports were in the meeting
packet for review.

Homeland Security Status Report
Mr. Cruz noted that the Homeland Security Program status reports were in the meeting packet
for review.

Regional Police Academy Status Report
Mr. Cruz noted that the Regional Police Academy status report was in the meeting packet for
review.
E. Transportation

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization Status Report
HCMPO Director Andrew Canon was recognized and informed the Board that $2.6 million in Transportation Alternatives Projects (TAP) funds are eligible for the construction and planning of on road and off road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation, such as sidewalks, ADA compliance, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting & other safety related infrastructure, bike share, shared used paths, and bus stop improvements. The deadline for this program is November 21, 2018.

Valley Metro Status Report
Program Director Tom Logan was recognized and addressed the following items:

1. Consider Approval of Revisions to Operating Policies and Procedures
   Mr. Logan reported that these policy revisions provide more detail and clarification to the DOT Physical Exam Policy within the Valley Metro Operating Policies and Procedures handbook. The revisions include language in the Pre-employment section for the regional Transit Services Department to accept active and certified DOT Physical Medical cards not tested through Valley Metro. Valley Metro will accept the Medical Examiner’s Certificate or DOT Physical Medical Card once the card has been verified and authenticated as required for any safety sensitive position. Valley Metro staff will verify the authenticity of the active Medical Examiner’s Certificate by contacting the Medical Examiner, identifying the expiration date, and verifying the Medical Examiner is listed in the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners.

2. Consider Approval to Authorize Purchase of Transit Revenue Vehicle through Texas Smart Buy
   Mr. Logan stated that staff recommends the purchase of a transit revenue vehicle through Texas Smart Buy, Contract #071-A1. The vehicle price is $74,000 and is a Type II Cutaway Bus providing 24 seats for passengers and has ADA Accessibility. Funds received through the Texas Department of Transportation from Section 5339 Funding will support the purchase of this vehicle. This unit will be placed in service within the small urban Harlingen Urbanized Area. The Harlingen Urbanized Area service ensures passengers reach medical, educational, and other necessary resources on a regular basis. FTA regulations allow this purchase through state managed Co-ops like Texas Smart Buy.

3. Consider Approval to Submit Regional Hike & Bike Planning and Bike Infrastructure Project Requests for Transportation Alternative Program to HCMPO
   Mr. Logan requested approval to submit a two (2) project grant application to the HCMPO for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). One project will be submitted under the Planning funding category to facilitate the plan for regional connectivity of a Hike & Bike Trail Plan. This plan would be inclusive of any city or county precinct that wishes to contribute the matching funds to conduct an assessment of current trail infrastructure, plan for gaps in access, and develop a long-range guide for seamless east/west connectivity across Hidalgo County.

   A second project will be submitted under the construction funding category for the purchase
of B-Cycle docking stations. Again, this resource would be inclusive of any city, county precinct, or college that wishes to contribute the matching funds to purchase B-Cycle docking stations. This infrastructure would enhance the B-Cycle program to begin expansion across the region.

It was the consensus of the Board to act on item 5. E. 1-3 in one motion. Mayor Cyndie Rathbun made a motion to approve items 5. E. 1-3 as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Garcia next moved to item 6. – New or Unfinished Business; there being none, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm.

ATTEST:

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

Hon. Norma G. Garcia, President