President Tony Martinez called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. and asked for roll call; upon conclusion of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum of the Board was present. The President then moved to item 2. – Consider Approval of January 25, 2017 Board & Membership Meeting Minutes. **Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to approve the January 25, 2017 Board & Membership meeting minutes as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

The President then moved to item 3.A. - Report from Legislative Delegation; however no reports were available at this time. He then moved to item 3.B. – Public Comment and recognized Mr. Jerry Saavedra, Sr., Community Policy Marker for the American Heart Association. Mr. Saavedra informed the Board about their "Smoke Free Texas" Initiative to encourage cities to pass a 100% Smoke Free Indoor Workplace ordinance.

President Martinez next moved to item 3.C. -- Consider Ratification of Executive Committee Action on Regional Police Academy Contract Monitoring Policy. Mr. Garza reminded the Board that during the January 25th meeting they unanimously approved the Regional Police Academy Training Contract Agreement and Instructor Monitoring Checklist. Upon review of the documents by the Office of the Governor – Criminal Justice Division staff was notified that instructions included in the “Instructor Monitoring Checklist” should have been listed separately as a policy, and not imbedded in the checklist. Therefore, to maintain compliance with their criteria, and meet the submittal deadline of February 3rd, staff requested Executive Committee Action. The Executive Committee unanimously approved this request, which now requires ratification by the Board of Directors. **Mayor David Suarez made a motion to ratify the Executive Committee's approval of the Rational Police Academy Contract Monitoring Policy. Commissioner Sofia Benavidez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action President Martinez moved to item 3.D. – Consider Approval of Amendments to Procurement Policy. Mr. Garza was recognized and informed the Board that at the conclusion of the 2016 Triennial Review, the FTA recommended adding procedures to the LRGVDC Procurement Policies concerning Contract Term Limitations, a Prompt Payment Mechanism, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise reporting. TxDOT is in agreement with these additional procedures and staff must implement them by the end of February 2017. **The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the Amendments to the Procurement Policy as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

The President then moved to item 3.E. – Executive Director Report and recognized Mr. Garza to address the following items:
1. **LRGVDC Updates & Office Space Assignments**

   a. **Facility & Office Space Assignments**
   Mr. Garza informed the Board that a staff person from the office of Congressman Filemon Vela will occupy one of the newly created offices in the lobby of Building B, which will also assist the LRGVDC by having a person available to direct members of the public that stop by.

   b. **Consider Approval to Add Regional South Texas Economic Council (RSTEC) as Special Purpose District**
   Mr. Garza stated that an agreement has been made to office Mr. Matt Ruszczak, CEO of RSTEC in the Center for International Economic Development Opportunities (CIEDO) Building. The CIEDO Building (Building D) was funded by an EDA grant for the purpose of being a resource for projects that foster collaboration between business, industry and government. Providing office space to RSTEC is a natural progression to realize this purpose. Having Mr. Ruszczak office near our Economic Development Department will facilitate collaboration between Mr. Ruszczak and Economic Development Director Terrie Salinas. Part of the agreement is that RSTEC will allow the LRGVDC a seat on their Board and staff would like the LRGVDC Board to consider making RSTEC a member of the LRGVDC Membership under the Special Purpose District category. **Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion for approval to add the Regional South Texas Economic Council (RSTEC) as a Special Purpose District. Mayor David Suarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

   c. **Consider Scheduling Program Orientations**
   Mr. Garza stated that program orientations conducted in previous years have been a benefit to Board Members. There are several new Board Members and Mr. Garza offered to again provide program orientations for their benefit. It was the consensus of the Board to schedule program orientations on a quarterly basis and for two or three programs to present condensed summaries of the services they provide and how program funds are utilized. Mr. Garza stated that he would create a schedule for the orientations and present it for Board consideration at the next meeting.

2. **Regional Spotlight – Teach for America**
   Mr. Garza showed a video promoting the positive impact the Teach for America program has had for Valley students.

Upon conclusion of Administration items, President Martinez moved to item 4 – Report from 9-1-1 Department and recognized Program Director Sergio Castro. Mr. Castro informed the Board that the regular program status reports were available in the meeting information posted on the website and he encouraged the Board to try out the Text to 9-1-1 system by sending a test text message. Mr. Castro also showed the Board an example of the address plaques the 9-1-1 Location Validation Program is providing to rural residents. These plaques will help emergency responders find callers in rural locations. Upon conclusion of the explanation on the address plaques, President Martinez requested a status report on the 9-1-1 addressing deficiencies in the cities the 9-1-1 Department serves.

President Martinez next moved to item 5 – Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Program Director Joe Gonzalez who addressed item A.1 – Consider Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Texas Medical Foundation (TMF) RE: Health for Life. Under the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Health for Life, an “Everyone with Diabetes Counts” initiative, TMF will provide the training and supplies needed to conduct the Diabetes Empowerment Education Program.
(DEEP) curriculum. This activity is consistent with the goals of the Area Agency on Aging to begin implementing evidence-based initiatives beyond the care transitions program. Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Texas Medical Foundation for the Health for Life program as presented. Commissioner Sofia Benavides seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Martinez next moved to item 6. – Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Director Terrie Salinas. Ms. Salinas gave status reports on the Keeping PACE in the Valley program and Regional Small Cities Coalition’s experience at the Rio Grande Valley Day at the Capitol.

Upon conclusion of Economic Development items President Martinez moved to item 7. – Report from Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO). HCMPO Director Andrew Canon was unable to attend and Mr. Garza reported on his behalf that the expressway lighting project to upgrade to LED lighting has begun in the McAllen stretches of the expressway.

President Martinez next moved to item 8. – Report from Homeland Security and recognized Program Director Manuel Cruz. Mr. Cruz noted that the Homeland Security Program status reports were available in the online meeting packet for review.

Upon conclusion of action on the Homeland Security Program, President Martinez moved to item 8.B. – Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Recommendation. Mr. Cruz addressed the following items:

1. **Consider Approval of Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, and Parliamentarian/Secretary (Tabled 1/25/2017)**
   
   *Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to remove this item from the table and take no action. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

2. **Consider Approval to Apply for FY 2017/2018 Criminal Justice Division – Victims of Criminal Act (VOCA) and Resolution for the SAFE ROOM and Vehicle Transportation Project**

   Mr. Cruz stated that the Hidalgo County District Attorney’s Office is requesting the Board’s support and approval for the LRGVDC to apply under the VOCA solicitation. The LRGVDC and the Hidalgo County District Attorney’s Office will combine resources for the purpose of increasing the region’s ability to respond to victims of crime. This grant will take into consideration the victim’s rights to safety and will comply with the Texas Criminal Code of Procedure Chapter 56 Art. 56.02, Crime Victims’ Rights section (8). **Commissioner Danny Guzman made a motion for approval to apply for FY 2017/2018 Criminal Justice Division – Victims of Criminal Act (VOCA) and Resolution for the SAFE ROOM and Vehicle Transportation Project as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz gave the status report for the Criminal Justice Program.

The President next moved to item 9. – Regional Planning & Services and recognized Program Director Maricel Oviedo. Ms. Oviedo stated that the status report for Water Resources, Solid Waste Management and the HUD Disaster Recovery Funding were available in the online meeting packet for review. Ms. Oviedo added that staff is working with Cameron and Hidalgo Counties to address the tire dumping issue.

President Martinez next moved to item 10. – Report from Regional Police Academy and Training Center and recognized Assistant Director David Briales. Mr. Briales noted that the regular status reports were available in the meeting information on line and reported that the night academy has begun with approximately 80 cadets.
The President next moved to item 11 - Report from Valley Metro and recognized Program Director Tom Logan. Regarding item A.1. – Analysis of Fare Reduction & Recommendation for Fare Free Period, Mr. Logan informed the Board that staff has performed an analysis to determine the effect of instituting a Fare-free Pilot Program throughout the Valley Metro service area for a period of six months beginning March 2017. The main goal of this program is to improve performance measures of Passengers per Hour and Passengers per Mile to increase ridership while remaining cost-effective. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the six (6) month Fare-free period beginning March 2017. Mayor Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Martinez next move to item 12. – Old or New Business. Mayor Jim Darling noted that the reservoirs are over 60% full. There being no further business to come before the Board, President Martinez called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Sofia Benavides so moved; Mayor Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 12:45.

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary