MINUTES

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS - 301 W. RAILROAD ST., WESLACO, TEXAS
BUILDING B, KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: HON. NORMA G. GARCIA, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Vice President Norma Garcia called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared.

The Vice President then moved to item 2: Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes (March 28, 2018). **Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mayor David Suarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Vice President Garcia then moved to item 3: Public Comment and/or Report from Legislative Delegation and recognized young Mr. Joel Chavarin, Student Council Representative for Rodriguez Elementary in Harlingen CISD. Mr. Chavarin is in the 5th grade and stated that he and his class were present to observe government in action and to voice their support for the programs the LRGVDC oversees.

The Vice President then moved to item 4: Administration

A. Consider Approval of Quarterly Investment Report.
   Executive Director Ron Garza was recognized and gave the Quarterly Investment Report. **Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to approve the Quarterly Investment Report. Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

B. Presentation Texas Gas Services Energy Efficiency Program Updates
   Ms. Haley Cunningham, Energy Efficiency Program Manager was recognized and provided an update on this program that included an overview, program highlights from 2017, 2018 budget progress, and upcoming education and outreach activities. No action needed.

C. Presentation on Texas Gas Service Cost of Service Adjustment Filing
   Ms. Stacey McTaggart, Director of Rates and Regulatory was recognized and gave a presentation on the Cost of Service Adjustment Filing (COSA) that explained the reason for this annual adjustment. The deadline for cities to take action on the COSA is July 28, 2018 and COSA increase will be in place in August 2018.

D. Consider Approval for LRGVDC Staff to Coordinate with Valley Cities Gas Coalition (VCGC) on Upcoming Texas Gas Services Cost of Services Adjustment (COSA) Filing
Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to approve LRGVDC staff to coordinate with the VCGC on the upcoming COSA filing. Mr. Gilbert Ortiz seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Jim Darling stated that City of McAllen Attorney Kevin Pagan has offered to be the point of contact for the VCGC again this year.

E. Executive Director Report

1. Staff Recognition for Years of Service
   Vice President Garcia was honored to present LRGVDC staff members with awards recognizing 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years of service. A special mention was made for Ms. Anna M. Hernandez, recently retired Director of Human Resources, who served the LRGVDC for 40 years.

2. Introduction of New Staff Members
   Mr. Garza introduced:
   - Carlos Saldana, Vehicle Maintenance, Valley Metro
   - Victor Zuniga, Vehicle Driver II, Valley Metro
   - Juan A. Hernandez, Vehicle Driver II, Valley Metro
   - Guadalupe Saldivar, Vehicle Technician II, Valley Metro
   - James Salazar, Vehicle Driver II
   The Board warmly welcomed our new employees to the LRGVDC.

3. Consider Meeting Date for 2018 Nominating Committee
   Commissioner Danny Guzman made a motion to schedule the Nominating Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 16 at 12:00 noon at Arturo’s Restaurant in Weslaco. Mayor David Suarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

4. Consider Approval of 2017 Annual Productivity Report
   Mr. Garza stated that almost every benchmark set in the 2017 Annual Work Program was achieved and is recorded in the 2017 Annual Productivity Report. Mr. Paul Hernandez made a motion to approve the 2017 Annual Productivity Report as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

LRGVDC Updates & Activities

5. Consider Approval to Form Census 2020 Ad Hoc Committee
   Staff recommends the name of this group to be “Census 2020 Regional Taskforce”. This taskforce will meet at least quarterly and develop a regional calendar to ensure all entities move through the phases of the census timeline together and share best practices. In coordination with the US Census Bureau the group has scheduled the next meeting on May 10. Mr. Garza emphasized that the Census 2020 Regional Taskforce is a resource and sources of technical assistance for all 43 cities, all counties and all other categories of complete count committees in the RGV. Upon conclusion of discussion Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to approve forming the Census 2020 Regional Taskforce. Commissioner Danny Guzman seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.
6. RGV 2020 (CEDS)

- Focus Group Outcomes
  Mr. Garza stated that the RGV 2020 (CEDS) process is going very well. Focus groups for education and the private sector met and staff has garnered a tremendous amount of valuable information from this process.

- Steering Committee Representative – College Category
  The previously mentioned focus group session centered on education, and it was the consensus of those present to include newly appoint Texas Southmost College President Dr. Jesus Rodriguez on the committee to represent junior colleges. Mr. Garza asked the Board to consider approving this recommendation. Mr. Richard Sanchez made a motion to approve Dr. Jesus Rodriguez of Texas South Most College as a member of the RGV 2020 (CEDS) Steering Committee. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

7. 2018 RGV to DC

Mr. Sergio Contreras, RGV Partnership Executive Director was recognized and informed the Board that the 2018 RGV to DC trip is scheduled for June 11-14, 2018, the Legislative Tour of the RGV is scheduled for January 24, 2019, and that the next RGV Day at the Capitol is scheduled for February 5, 2019. Mr. Contreras stated that these events are being coordinated in partnership with the LRGVDC.

8. Explore RGV

- RFP Selection
  Mr. Garza provided an update on the results for the previously approved Request for Proposals (RFP) process for a company to develop a website, an app, and social media awareness for the Explore RGV project. Six (6) qualified bids were received and RG Vision has been awarded this project. A launch party for Explore RGV will happen near the end of this summer.

- Photo Contest Winner
  A photo contest was developed to create awareness of the Explore RGV project. The LRGVDC Executive Committee judged photos in four (4) difference categories; the winners are as follows:
    Attractions & Entertainment: Jose Castillo
    Museums & Culture: Tony Garza
    Outdoors & Recreation: Richard Loya
    Shopping: April M. Vallejo
  The RGV Partnership has awarded prize packs valued at $75.00 to each winner.

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

A. Economic Development

Ms. Terrie Salinas, Economic Development Director was recognized to address the following:
1. Consider Approval of City of Palmview’s Membership Nomination to the Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC)
   Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to approve Palmview’s Membership to the RSCC. Mayor David Suarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

- Keeping PACE in Texas
  Ms. Salinas introduced Ms. Charlene Heydinger, Executive Director for Keeping PACE in Texas who gave a presentation titled “Advancing PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) in the LRGVDC”.

B. Community & Environmental Services

   Community Development Status Report
   Director Marcie Oviedo stated that the status report on the HUD Disaster Recovery Housing Program, and the Solid Waste Management Program were in the meeting packet for review.

   Environmental Resources Status Report
   Mayor Jim Darling urged all entities that provide municipal water to include their water management strategies in the Rio Grande Regional Water Plan in order to avoid having to make costly amendments to qualify for funding from the Texas Water Development Board. Ms. Oviedo added that the Region M Water Planning Group will advertise for two vacancies in the near future.

C. Health & Human Services

   Area Agency on Aging Status Reports

1. Consider Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with the Health and Human Services Commission RE: Community Partner Program
   Director Joe Gonzalez informed the Board that the purpose of this MOU is to address the online Community-based application assistance services under the YourTexasBenefits.com website. This is one of the deliverables under the Aging and Disabilities Resource Center (RIO-Net ADRC). Commissioner Pilar Garza made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Health and Human Services Commission RE: Community Partner Program as presented. Judge Aurelio Guerra seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez noted that the status report on the Community Development Block Grant Presentations and the New Community Center to Provide Congregate Meals was in the meeting packet for review. He also announced that this year’s Centenarian Celebration is scheduled on May 3 at the Weslaco Community Center.

D. Public Safety
   Vice President Garcia next recognized Public Safety Director Manuel Cruz to address the following items:
Criminal Justice Program Status Reports

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that applications were submitted to the Office of the Governor’s Criminal Justice Division on February 20 and that the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) met April 11-12 to review, score, and rank both the JAG and JJDP grant applications. He stated that CJAC recommends full funding for all nineteen (19) of the JAG applications and all eleven (11) of the JJDP applications. Mr. Garza added that many times there are funding overages, so using the strategy of recommending full funding for all applications received will provide all applicants with the opportunity to receive any potential extra funds. **Commissioner Pilar Garza made a motion to approve the JAG and JJDP resolutions and full funding of all nineteen (19) JAG applications and all eleven (11) JJDP applications as recommended by the CJAC. Mayor Jim Darling seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that applications were submitted to the Office of the Governor’s Criminal Justice Division on February 20 and that the CJAC met April 11-12 to review, score and rank both the VAWA and VOCA grant applications. CJAC recommends full funding for all six (6) VAWA applications and all twenty-three (23) VOCA applications. There were some questions and discussion regarding the ranking method that the CJAC employs to prioritize these applications, and it was determined that this process will be included in the next Board Member Orientation scheduled for June 27 at 11:00 a.m. Upon conclusion of discussion **Commissioner David Fuentes made a motion to approve the VAWA and VOCA resolutions and full funding of all six (6) VAWA applications and all twenty-three (23) VOCA applications as recommended by the CJAC. Mr. Paul Hernandez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Vice President Garcia noted that the status reports on the Public Safety Departments were in the meeting packets for review.

E. Transportation

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization Status Report
Andrew Canon, Director of the HCMPO, was recognized and gave a brief presentation on the success of the 8th Annual Walk n Roll event that took place on April 21 in Edinburg.

Valley Metro Status Report
Program Director Tom Logan was recognized and gave the status of ridership for Valley Metro.
Vice President Garcia next moved to item 7. – New or Unfinished Business; there being no further business to come before the Board *Mr. Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner David Fuentes seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 1:16 pm.*

ATTEST:

Hon. Norma G. Garcia, 1st Vice President

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary