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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2017 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS - 301 W. RAILROAD ST., WESLACO, TEXAS
KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: MAYOR TONY MARTINEZ, PRESIDENT

In the absence of President Tony Martinez, Vice President Celeste Sanchez called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and verified that a quorum of the Board was present. The Vice President then moved to item 2. - Consider Approval of March 29, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the March 29, 2017 Board Meeting minutes as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Sanchez then moved to item 3.A. - Report from Legislative Delegation; however no reports were available at this time. She then moved to item 3.B. - Public Comment, no one had signed up for Public Comment and she moved to item 3.C. - Staff Recognition for Years of Service. Vice President Sanchez and Executive Director Ron Garza presented 13 staff members with awards for 5, 10, 15, and 20 years of service to the LRGVDC.

Upon conclusion of the awards presentation Vice President Sanchez moved to item 3.D. - Consider Appointment of 2017 Nominating Committee. She noted that the full Board of Directors is eligible to sit on the Nominating Committee, and there is no quorum requirement for this meeting. Mr. Garza was recognized and asked for a show of hands for volunteers to sit on the Nominating Committee. The names were noted and The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to accept the volunteers as members of the 2017 Nominating Committee. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on the Nominating Committee, the Vice President moved to item 3.E. - Consider Approval to Schedule Nominating Committee Meeting on Wednesday, May 17, 2017. Commissioner Danny Guzman made a motion to schedule the Nominating Committee meeting on May 17, 2017 at 12:00 noon at Arturo’s Restaurant in Weslaco. Mayor David Suarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Sanchez moved to item 3.F - Presentation of Quarterly Investment Report. Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to approve the Quarterly Investment Report as presented. Mr. Arturo Ramirez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

The President then moved to item 3.G. - Executive Director Report and recognized Mr. Ron Garza to address the following items:

1. LRGVDC Updates & Activities
   a. Consider Approval of Resolution of Regional Support
      In follow up to discussions at last month’s meeting regarding the Washington DC trip and the release of the draft American First Blue Print Budget, Mr. Garza drafted Resolution 2017-03 to Provide Support from the LRGVDC that Reaffirms the Economic and Community
Significance of the Rio Grande Valley Region. Mr. Garza's intent with this resolution is to capture the Valley's relationship with Mexico and voice concerns regarding federal programs that would affect the Valley such as EDA (Economic Development Administration) and CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds. He then read out loud the three "asks" in the resolution, which are:

1. Embracing the vital relationship with Mexico to ensure cooperative and strategic planning on matters such as trade, immigration, border security, and economic development;
2. Supporting continued funding for the federal programs which provide valuable regional resources such as EDA and the CDBG program;
3. Remaining committed to further strengthening the Lower Rio Grande Valley as a significant and resilient region that offers a premier quality of life and a highly desirable place to live, work, and visit.

Mr. Garza then suggested that the upcoming RGV to DC trip could provide a platform on which to read this resolution.

After discussion and review of the resolution the Board recommended adding the following items:
- estimated dollar amount and impact of CDBG funds
- population figures
- public safety

Mr. Garza stated he would revise the resolution with this information and invited the Board and audience to share data from their jurisdictions for inclusion in this resolution. No action was taken; this resolution will be brought back for consideration at the next regular meeting.

b. Presentation of Draft Code of Ethical Conduct Policy
Mr. Garza informed the Board that in response to a compliance finding by Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) the LRGVDC is now mandated to include the following items in our Ethics Policy:

A. All staff and members of the governing body will be required to participate in an annual ethics compliance training program
B. That we include a method to report suspected violations of ethical non-compliance
C. Outline our financial recording requirements as mandated by the Texas State Auditor's office.

Therefore staff has amended Appendix A of the LRGVDC Personnel Policy Manual to include the above. Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the revised Code of Ethical Conduct Policy as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

c. Upcoming Events
Mr. Garza informed the Board of the following events

- May 4 - Large City Coalition Meeting
- May 15 - EDA/Congressional Press Conference
- May 23 - Leadership & Innovation in City Government (Professional Development Program)
- May 31 - Regional Police Academy Graduate Recognition
- June 12-14 – RGV to DC Trip
- Date TBD “Road to Recycling” Press Conference
Mr. Garza reported that the Road to Recycling is a great inter-regional project with Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties as well as other jurisdictions. It will have approximately 20 sites in this region just for tire recycling and proper disposal, which the counties have already identified. The goal of the project is to properly dispose of up to 40,000 illegally dumped tires, and it is the first regional project of its kind.

The budget for this project is approximately $85,000 which will be applied toward the purchase of 250-300 roll-off trailers, the cost of collection, and recycling. When bids are received, provided the Board approves this procurement process, staff will have a better idea of the cost. Going out for bids on this project requires Board approval because according to the LRGVDC Procurement Policy, Article II, Part A: Organization and Contract Administration § 2.101 Executive Committee or Board of Directors, I. “All purchases exceeding $25,000 must be approved by the Executive Committee or Board of Directors”. Therefore, staff requests Board approval to begin this procurement process. **Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to approve the purchase of equipment, etc. for the Road to Recycling Project according to the LRGVDC Procurement Policy. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of Administration items, Vice President Sanchez moved to item 4. – Report from 9-1-1 Department and recognized Program Director Sergio Castro. Mr. Castro noted that the regular program status reports were in the online meeting packet for review. He then announced the dates of several 9-1-1 related events and that earlier this month he was elected President of the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) Texas Chapters for the 2017/2018 term.

Vice President Sanchez next moved to item 5. – Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Program Director Joe Gonzalez. Mr. Gonzalez announced that the Annual Centenarian Recognition is scheduled for May 4, and invited the Board to attend. He also pointed out two new publications that might be of interested to the Board: The *44a Policy Priority for 2017*, and the *Area Agencies on Aging-Local Leaders in Aging and Community Living*. Both publications are available in the online meeting packet.

Vice President Sanchez next moved to item 6. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Director Terrie Salinas who gave the status reports on department activities and the Regional Small Cities Coalition activities.

Upon conclusion of Economic Development items the Vice President moved to item 7. – Report from Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO). HCMPO Assistant Director Linda De La Fuente was recognized and gave a report on TxDOT Options for the I-2 and I-69C Interchange. This project is being led by TxDOT and is in the early developmental process. There are three options currently under consideration, and they are:

1. Widen existing connectors and relocating turn arounds
2. Add four connectors, which would require additional columns
3. Reconstruct and replace all connectors

The cost of these options has not been shared as of yet; however at the March Texas Transportation meeting the commission recommended the designation of $120 MM in discretionary funding for this project with the requirement that local communities contribute a $20 MM cost share. HCMPO staff has met with local officials for discussions on the cost share amount. Report only, no action.

Vice President Sanchez next moved to item 8. - Report from Homeland Security and recognized Program Director Manuel Cruz. He noted that the program status reports for the Homeland Security Department are available in the online meeting packet for review.
The Vice President next moved to item 8.B. - Act upon Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Recommendations. Mr. Cruz reported on the following:

1. Consider Approval of FY 2017-2018 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Priority Listing and Resolution
2. Consider Approval of FY 2017-2018 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Program Priority Listing and Resolution
3. Consider Approval of FY 2017-2018 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Priority Listing and Resolution
   Mr. Cruz advised the Board that the available VOCA grant funds currently exceed the amount of funds requested by $1,116,499.48. In order for the region to utilize the entire $4,770,343.00, the CJAC will allow VOCA applicants to adjust their applications accordingly.
4. Consider Approval of FY 2017-2018 Violence Against Women (VAWA) Grant Priority Listing and Resolution

It was the decision of the Board to act on items 8.B.1. - 4. in one motion. Commissioner Danny Guzman made a motion to approve items 8.B.1. - 4. as presented with the understanding that the VOCA applicants will be able to revise their applications to utilize the entire amount of available funds as recommended by the CJAC. Mr. Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz noted that the program status reports were available in the online meeting packet for review.

The Vice President next moved to item 9. - Regional Planning & Services and recognized Program Director Marcie Oviedo who noted that the regular program status reports were available in the online meeting packet for review. She added that staff is pleased to announce that they received approval from TCEQ to reallocate $37,061 of the FY 2016/2017 Implementation Projects funds to the Road to Recycling Project.

Vice President Sanchez next moved to item 10. - Report from Regional Police Academy and Training Center and recognized Mr. Garza. He introduced newly hired Assistant Director Randall Snyder to the Board and then addressed item 1. – Consider Approval of Revisions to Standard Operating Procedures. Mr. Garza informed the Board that after discussion and comments from the Regional Police Academy Advisory Committee, the revisions to the Standard Operating Procedures, noted below, were recommended. These revisions bring additional clarity to the admission process, continue maintenance of quality standards and implement timelines to ensure all required documents are submitted in a timely manner.

These are the recommended revisions:

A. Applicant physical examinations, drug screens and psychological exams must be current (6 months prior to the 1st day of the academy) and cannot be transferred over from another agency.
B. Applicant re-admission into the academy after (1) one calendar year if clinical psychologist denies admittance into the academy.
C. Applicant psychological appointment for acceptance into the academy must be scheduled no later than (3) three weeks prior to the 1st day of the academy.

Commissioner David Fuentes made a motion to approve the revisions to the Regional Police Academy Standard Operating Procedures as presented. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Garza noted that the program status reports were available in the online meeting packet for review.
The President next moved to item 11. - Report from Valley Metro and recognized Assistant Director Maribel Contreras to address the following:

1. Consider Approval of Revisions to Oversite Policy
   Ms. Contreras informed the Board that the policy revisions are minor in nature and reflect changes in staff contact information and grammatical corrections. The Hon Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the revisions to the Oversite Policy as presented. Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Consider Approval of Update to Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan
   Ms. Contreras reported that the Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan was last update November 2011. Since then, new services have emerged and major changes have taken place in the region thus requiring the plan to be updated. The plan updates were completed this March by KFH Group, Inc. This update requires Board action. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the updates to the Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan as presented. Commissioner David Fuentes seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Ms. Contreras gave the status reports about the NADO 2017 Excellence in Regional Transportation award and noted the marked increase in ridership since the implementation of the Fare Free Pilot Program.

Vice President Sanchez next moved to item 12. - Old or New Business. Mayor Jim Darling noted that the reservoirs were 64% full. There being no further business to come before the Board Commissioner David Fuentes made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 1:26 pm.

Mayor Tony Martinez, President

ATTEST:

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary