MINUTES

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2017 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS - 301 W. RAILROAD ST., WESLACO, TEXAS
BUILDING B, KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: MAYOR AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ, PRESIDENT

President Ambrosio Hernandez called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and asked for the roll to be called; upon conclusion of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum of the Board was present. He then recognized Mr. Ron Garza, Executive Director to make announcements about our 50th Anniversary Celebration. Mr. Garza invited all present to stay after the meeting adjourns to enjoy a light lunch and a presentation on the humble beginnings of the LRGVDC on August 2, 1967 and through 50 years of regional impact and united development.

He then moved to item 2. - Consider Approval of June 28, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes. Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the June 28, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes as presented. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Hernandez 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 noted that no one had requested to make public comments.

President Hernandez then moved to item 3.C. – Board Member Recognition and presented a plaque to Mayor Tony Martinez in recognition of his 2016-2017 term as Board President.

Upon conclusion of the presentation, President Hernandez moved to item 3.D. – Presentation and Consider Approval of 2016 Annual Audit and recognized Mr. Oscar Gonzalez, CPA. Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that there are no findings as a result of the completed 2016 audit and his staff gives it a clean opinion. Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to approve the 2016 Annual Audit as presented. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action President Hernandez moved to item 3.E. – Presentation and Consider Approval of Quarterly Investment Report. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the Quarterly Investment Report as presented. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

The President then moved to item 3.F. – Consider Draft Revised LRGVDC Bylaws and Scheduling a Special Meeting of the General Membership. Mr. Garza was recognized and reminded the Board that under New Business at the June meeting it was the consensus of the Board for him to research the possibility of adding a member-at-large to the general membership and a fourth member-at-large to the Board of Directors. Upon conclusion of his research, as per Board consensus, he presented the results to the Executive Committee. Mr. Garza then presented to the Board the draft proposed amendments to LRGVDC Bylaws, Article X, for consideration to move forward.
Mr. Garza stated that Article X covers the composition of the Board of Directors, and as a reminder of the statutory requirement he added, "As per Sect. 391.006 (b) Texas Local Government Code: At least two-thirds of the members of a governing body of a commission must be elected officials of participating counties or municipalities.".

Mr. Garza concluded from his research that, rather than adding a member-at-large, it would benefit the Board to include the following:

f. One (1) director representing University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, serving as the designated regional educational institution with distributed campuses across LRGVDC’s boundaries. Representative shall consist of University President or other Executive Representative of UTRGV’s Office of the President.

He added that this would be a designated seat for the only regional educational institution that is within the same boundaries as the LRGVDC. Mr. Garza emphasized that adding this category would not affect the statutory requirement for elected officials, nor change the number of Board Members required for a quorum. Upon conclusion of discussion Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve moving forward to schedule a special meeting of the General Membership to consider amendments to the bylaws prior to the September Board Meeting. Mayor Tony Martinez 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. Garza to address the following items:

1. LRGVDC Updates & Activities
   a. Southwest Region Executive Directors Association Update

   1. Resilient Region Video
      Mr. Garza informed the Board that the tone of this conference was “resilience”, that and diversification are the messages he took away from this experience. The conference took place in Baton Rouge, LA and they presented many case studies about flooding incidents in Louisiana parishes where, to their detriment, there was no inter-regional cooperation. This brings home the benefit that the regional approach is what will work best for the RGV.

   2. Road to Recycling Regional Tire Project Update
      Mr. Garza informed the Board that during Round 2 of Road to Recycling which took place on July 15, 10,000 tires were collected for a total of 17,000 tires collected so far. Round 3 of this project is scheduled for August 26.

Upon conclusion of Administration items, President Hernandez moved to item 4. – Report from 9-1-1 Department and recognized Program Director Sergio Castro. Mr. Castro noted that the regular status reports were available in the online meeting packet, no action needed.

President Hernandez next moved to item 5. – Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Program Director Joe Gonzalez. Mr. Gonzalez noted that the Area Agency program status reports were in the online meeting packet for review, and that no action was needed.
President Hernandez next moved to item 6. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Director Terrie Salinas. Ms. Salinas addressed item A.1. – Consider Approval of City of Palm Valley’s Membership Nomination to Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC). **Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the City of Palm Valley’s membership to the RSCC; Mayor David Suarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action Ms. Salinas gave the status update on the Keeping PACE in the Valley Program and informed the Board that there have been a few technical and minor changes made to the “Notice of Assessment Lien” for the PACE Program.

Upon conclusion of Economic Development items the President moved to item 7. – Report from Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO). HCMPO Director Andrew Cannon was recognized and informed the Board that last month a state-wide MPO meeting was held in Harlingen; these meetings are held quarterly and this is the first time it has been held in South Texas. He reported that TxDOT plans to bring back the “Trade Fair”. This will allow projects that are ready to begin but may not be funded, to be able to work with TxDOT collectively with larger cities that have funding for projects but are still in the planning stages, to loan funds for projects that are ready to begin. The cost savings for this method is that it is essentially a free loan, and entities are able to repay those funds to the area from which they were borrowed.

President Hernandez next moved to item 8. - Report from Homeland Security and recognized Program Director Manuel Cruz. Mr. Cruz stated that the Homeland Security Program has no action for the Board to consider and that the regular status reports were in the online meeting packet for review. He was pleased to announce that the City of Weslaco invited the LRGVDC Homeland Security Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to participate in the RGV Youth Preparedness Camp in June, and staff was happy to comply.

The President next moved to item 9. - Regional Planning & Services and recognized Program Director Marcie Oviedo. Ms. Oviedo noted that the regular program status reports for Water Resources, Solid Waste Management, and HUD Disaster Recovery Project Updates were available in the online meeting packet for review, and no action was needed.

President Hernandez next moved to item 10. - Report from Regional Police Academy and recognized Assistant Program Director Randall Snyder who gave the status reports on the June statistics for the Basic Police Officer Courses, no action needed.

The President next moved to item 11. - Report from Valley Metro and recognized Director Tom Logan to address item 1. - Consider Approval of System-wide Fare-Free Initiative Extension. Mr. Logan informed the Board that the main goal of this initiative is to improve performance measures for passengers-per-hour and passengers-per-mile while remaining cost effective. The Fare Free Initiative began March 1, 2017 and is slated to end August 31, 2017. The proposed end date for the Fare Free Initiative extension is December 31, 2017. **Mayor Pro-tam Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve extending the Valley Metro system-wide fare-free initiative to December 31, 2017. Mayor David Suarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action Mr. Logan noted that the status reports were in the online meeting packet for review. He then announced that Valley Metro now has the “Double Map” bus tracking app which is a real-time GPS bus tracking system that allows riders to track the exact location of a bus in real time. The system is also installed in all JagExpress and Vaquero Express vehicles.
President Hernandez next moved to item 12. - Old or New Business; Mayor Jim Darling was recognized and noted that reservoirs were just above 50%.

There being no further business to come before the Board Commissioner Daniel Guzman made a motion to adjourn. Mayor David Suarez seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 12:34 pm.

Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez, President

ATTEST:

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary