MINUTES

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVDCC TRANSPORTATION CENTER
510 PLEASANTVIEW DR. - WESLACO, TEXAS

PRESIDING: MAYOR CHRIS BOSWELL, PRESIDENT

President Chris Boswell called the meeting to order at 12:10 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. President Boswell then moved to item 2. - Consider Approval of September 24, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes. Mr. Steve Brewer made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes President Boswell moved to item 3.A. - Report(s) from Legislative Delegation, however, no legislative delegation representatives were present and he moved to item 3.B. - Public Comment. Mr. Desi Martinez was recognized and commented on a recent meeting of the Texas House of Representatives Economic Development Incentives Committee meeting whose topic was “Texas 10-Steps to afford all of Texas a Competitive Edge and provide more Cost Benefits to all local economies”. Ms. Norma Villanueva and Ms. Kasandra Valadez from the Nueva Luz Foundation were recognized next. They informed the Board of an event their organization will cohost called “A Night in Monte Carlo Inaugural Fall Gala” scheduled for November 6th that will benefit those suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and encouraged the Board to attend and tell others about this event.

President Boswell then moved to item 3.C. - Discussion RE: Results of Board Orientation Survey. Mr. Ken Jones, Executive Director, was recognized and stated that as was the consensus of the Board at the last meeting, an orientation was scheduled prior to this meeting at which he gave a presentation on the LRGVDC's overall operation. The presentation was well received and well attended. As the Board requested, surveys were sent to all Board Members to determine which departments they would like to hear from at the next orientation and in which order. Fifteen (15) surveys were returned that indicated the Board would like to hear first from our Economic Development Department, then Regional Planning, and on down the line in this order: Administration, Homeland Security, Area Agency on Aging, Valley Metro, 9-1-1 Department, and Regional Police Academy. In keeping with the Board recommended every-other-month timetable the Economic Development presentation will be scheduled for 11:00 a.m. prior to the January 2015 Board meeting, provided the Board opts to forego a meeting in December. No action needed.

President Boswell next moved to item 3.D. - Presentation RE: Upcoming Border to Border Transportation Conference Scheduled for November 18-20. Ms. Maria Champine was recognized and gave a presentation that covered the origin of the conference, past conferences, and what is planned for 2014 conference. Upon conclusion of the presentation, Ms. Champine provided contact and registration information and encouraged Board Members to attend.

The President next moved to item 3.E. - Consider Approval RE: Annual Adoption of Investment Policy. Mr. Jones was recognized and informed the Board that staff recommends no change from the
2013 Investment Policy. **Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to approve the Annual Adoption of the Investment Policy as presented. Mayor Pro-temp Armando Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action President Boswell moved to item 3.F. – Presentation of Quarterly Investment Report. Mr. Jones was recognized and noted that the largest impact this past quarter was in the 9-1-1 Department and in the General Land Office for the construction costs of the Disaster Recovery Housing Program. **Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the Quarterly Investment Report as presented. Mayor Pro-temp Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Boswell next moved to item 3.G. – Consider Dates RE: November and December Board Meetings. **Mayor Pro-temp Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to schedule the November meeting on Wednesday the 19th and to not schedule a meeting in December. Mayor Pro-temp Armando Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action the President moved to item 3.H. – Consider Approval RE: 2015-2020 Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) and recognized Mr. Manuel Cruz. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the purpose of the RSP is to be a supporting mechanism and a resource for expanding the vital services provided to communities within this region. The RSP will not supersede or replace any existing plans, but rather will enhance the priorities set at the regional level. The reasons for the development of the RSP lie within the legislative charge that created councils of government (Local Government Code, Chapter 391) to “make studies and plans to guide the unified far reaching development of a region, eliminate duplication, and promote economy and efficiency in the coordinated development of a region”. **Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the 2015-2020 Regional Strategic Plan as presented. Commissioner Danny Guzman seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Mayor Celeste Sanchez requested monthly updates in the form of benchmark reports on the RSP. Mr. Jones stated that the benchmarks for the LRGVDC in terms of the RSP will be detailed in the 2014 Annual Productivity Report which will be presented to the Board in March 2015 and benchmarks for 2015 will be presented to the Membership this coming January.

President Boswell then moved to item 4. - Regional Police Academy. Mr. Paul Williams, Program Director, was unable to attend due to training out of the region and Mr. Jones noted that the status report was in the folders for review.

The President next moved to item 5. - Report from Area Agency on Aging, and recognized Mr. Joe Gonzalez. Regarding item A.1. - Consider Approval RE: HomeMeds User Agreement and HIPPA Business Associate Agreement, Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommended approval of the HomeMeds User Agreement and HIPPA Business Associate Agreement with Partners in Care (Partners). Partners is a non-profit organization that developed an evidence-based software program to identify medication related problems and errors that may endanger the lives and wellbeing of older individuals. This program will be used by case managers when conducting home visits. Both agreements have been reviewed by legal counsel and both were found to be acceptable. **Mayor Pro-temp Pilar Garza made a motion to approve the HomeMeds User Agreement and HIPPA Business Associate Agreement as presented. Mayor Pro-temp Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez noted that the program status reports were in the Board folders for review.

President Boswell next moved to item 6. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Ms. Terrie Salinas. Regarding item 6.A.1. – Consider Approval RE: Membership to the Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC), Ms. Salinas stated that at the September meeting the RSCC received requests for membership from the Cities of Penitas, Granjeno, and South Padre Island and
that Board action is required to approve their membership. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza made a motion to approve the membership of the Cities of Penitas, Granjeno, and South Padre Island to the RSCC. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

The President next moved to item 6.A.2. – Consider Approval RE: Submission of LRGVDC’s EDA Continuation Application and Resolution for Matching Funds. Ms. Salinas stated that staff received the grant application for continuation of the EDA Partnership Planning Grant and that the Economic Development Department would like to request funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration for another three years. Staff requests Board approval to submit this application. Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve submission of the LRGVDC’s EDA continuation application and resolution for matching funds as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Boswell then moved to item 7. - Report from Valley Metro Program and recognized Mr. Tom Logan. Mr. Logan was pleased to announce that in the 2014 fiscal year Valley Metro has seen an 11% increase in ridership, surpassing the goal of a 5% increase. Mr. Logan noted that student ridership has doubled due to new routes to and from the campuses of UTPA, TSTC and STC which contributed to the overall increase.

President Boswell next moved to item 8. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Ms. Maricel Oviedo who noted that the status reports for Water Resources and Solid Waste Management were in the Board folders. Ms. Oviedo then addressed item 8.B.1.a. – LRGVDC Supplemental Option for Remaining Multi-Family CDBG Disaster Recovery Funding. She stated that the LRGVDC CDBG-DR Multi Family Program currently has approximately $1,562,736 that is unassigned. The Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) met on October 14th and made a recommendation to set aside a maximum increase of 8% of current awardee’s grant from this unassigned amount to cover potential construction cost increases that have occurred since proposals were submitted in 2012. The proposed 8% set aside amount is $938,558. An awardee requesting these additional funds will be required to provide cost increase justification and supporting documentation for program review to determine any potential allowable increase. This would leave $624,178 to be transferred to the Non-Rental Single Family Program to assist additional applicants. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to approve the LRGVDC Supplemental Option for Remaining Multi-Family CDBG Disaster Recovery Funding as presented. Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action President Boswell moved to item 8.B.2. – Program Status Reports on 2nd Round of Disaster Recovery Funding. Ms. Oviedo noted that the regular status reports were in the Board folders for review and proceeded with a brief presentation that illustrated progress made in one year. The presentation included maps of the tri-county area that indicated how many homes have been built or purchased in each city. By October 2013, 41 houses had been completed. By October 2014, 121 homes have been purchased under the Homeowner Opportunity Program (HOP) and 577 homes have been reconstructed (698 total to date). By the end of Round 2 of the Disaster Recovery Program it is estimated that 759 homes will have been reconstructed or purchased.

President Boswell then moved to item 9.A. – Act upon Homeland Security Program Recommendations and recognized Mr. Manuel Cruz who noted that the Homeland Security Program status reports were in the Board folders for review.

The President next moved to item 9.B. – Criminal Justice Program and Mr. Cruz addressed the following items:
1. Consider Approval RE: Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Revised Policy Manual. Mr. Cruz stated that in accordance with the 2014 LRGVDC Interagency Contract, the CJAC convened on October 14th to review and revise their Policy Manual. No substantive changes were made, however minor revisions to update and format the document, as noted in the draft provided for review, are recommended. **Mr. Steve Brewer made a motion to approve the revised CJAC Policy Manual as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

2. Consider Approval RE: Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Revised By-Laws. Mr. Cruz stated that in accordance with the 2014 LRGVDC Interagency Contract, the CJAC reviewed and considered revisions to their by-laws. Upon completion of review the committee determined no revisions were needed at this time, however Board action is required to meet the interagency contract requirements. **Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza made a motion to approve the CJAC by-laws as presented. Mr. Steve Brewer seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

3. Consider Approval RE: Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Appointed Membership, Election of New Officers, and Member Selected for Vacancy. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the CJAC met and conducted a yearly review of the committee membership, to accept the reappointed CJAC members, elect new officers and fill vacancies. Mr. Cruz stated that the CJAC recommends Ms. Cookie Bader, Hidalgo Co. as Chair, and Ms. Angie Castillo, Cameron Co. as Vice Chair.

The CJAC recommends the following persons for reappointment: Gloria Ocampo, Cameron Co.; Benjamin Clinton, Willacy Co.; Angie Castillo, Cameron Co.; David K. Longoria, Cameron Co.; James Harris, Cameron Co.; Israel "Buddy" Silva, Hidalgo Co.; Rene Guerra, Hidalgo Co.; Ruben Viescas, Hidalgo Co.; Roy Valdez, Regional, Raul Garza, Willacy Co.

Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez nominated Commissioner Danny Guzman to replace Mr. David K. Longoria in the Non-Profit Organization discipline. **Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez then made a motion to accept the election of new officers and reappointed members as recommended by the CJAC and to nominate Commissioner Danny Guzman to replace Mr. David K. Longoria in the Non-Profit Organization discipline. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza seconded the motion.** Upon further discussion Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez amended the portion of his motion regarding the nomination of Commissioner Danny Guzman, to leave Mr. David K. Longoria in the Non-Profit Organization discipline and nominate Commissioner Guzman to fill the vacancy in the Citizen/Parent(Faith Based) discipline. **Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza seconded the amended motion, upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

**Commissioner Danny Guzman made a motion to nominate Mr. John Mendoza, Principal of Donna Disciplinary AEP, to fill the vacancy in the Education discipline. Mayor Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

**Dr. Stella Garcia made a motion to nominated Chief Aurelio Torres, TSTC PD to fill the Law Enforcement discipline. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz requested the nominators provide him with contact information and a letter of recommendation for their nominees.
President Boswell next moved to item 10. — Report from 9-1-1 Department and recognized Mr. Stephen Tice in Mr. Juan Gomez’ absence. Mr. Tice informed the Board that Mr. Gomez and Mr. Sergio Castro were in Mexico at the NENA (National Emergency Number Association) conference and that the status reports were in the Board folders for review.

President Boswell moved to item 11. — Old or New Business, there being none the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor Chris Boswell, President

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary