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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2015 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER
510 PLEASANTVIEW DR. - WESLACO, TEXAS

PRESIDING: MAYOR JIM DARLING, PRESIDENT

President Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 12:03 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 Darling then moved to item 2. - Consider Approval RE: October 28, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza made a motion to approve the October 28, 2015 minutes as presented. Council Member Richard Molina seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes President Darling moved to item 3. A. - Report from Legislative Delegation, however no legislators were present and no reports were submitted. The President then moved to item 3. B. – Public Comment, no one requested to make public comments and the President moved to item 3.C. – Presentation RE: 911 MX and recognized Ms. Sibilia Barajas, Director of 9-1-1 in Cameron County, who introduced Mr. Leopoldo Urdiales, Sales & Marketing for 911 MX. Mr. Urdiales stated that there are several telephone numbers for various emergency services in Mexico and it can be confusing in an emergency situation to know which one to call. He saw the logic behind having one number to connect with the appropriate service for any emergency and after several years they have developed the same type of single contact emergency service that exists in the United States and now they are ready to launch that service using the 9-1-1 number. Mr. Urdiales then turned the floor over to Ms. Angie Beltran, 911 MX who invited the Board to a reception at the McAllen Convention Center to launch 911 MX.

President Darling next moved to item 3. D. – Consider Appointment of 2016 Annual Work Program & Budget Committee. Mr. Ken Jones, Executive Director was recognized and noted that the draft list of committee members presented for consideration is based on and updated from the 2015 committee list. Mr. Ronald Mills indicated he would like to be on this committee and Ms. Wanda Garza stated she would like to receive the meeting information and possibly attend. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to approve the 2016 Annual Work Program & Budget Committee with the addition of Mr. Ronald Mills and notification to Ms. Wanda Garza. Mayor San Juanita Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action President Darling moved to item 3. E. – Consider Date for Annual Membership Meeting. Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to schedule the Annual Membership Meeting in conjunction with the January Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 27, 2016. Commissioner Daniel Guzman seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on Administration items President Darling moved to item 4. - Regional Police Academy and Training Center Report. Program Director Paul Williams was recognized and noted that the regular status reports were in the Board folders for review. He then reminded the Board that the Open Carry law we will be in effect on January 1, 2016 and stated that he was working on an Open Carry Policy for the LRGVDC.

President Darling next moved to item 5. – Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Program Director Joe Gonzalez. Regarding item A. 1. – Consider Approval RE: WellMed Title III-E Caregiver Funding Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommends approval to provide Title III-E.
Caregiver funding to WellMed to implement an evidence-based intervention for family caregivers and to continue providing Caregiver Education and Training. The total amount of funding recommended is $80,000 for sites in both Harlingen and McAllen. **Mayor Celeste Sanchez made a motion to approve WellMed Title III-E Caregiver Funding as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez noted that the status reports were in the Board folders for review.

President Darling next moved to item 6. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Program Director Terrie Salinas. Ms. Salinas gave an update on the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program noting that a public hearing was held at the end of October for Cameron and Willacy Counties; the next and final step will be to request a Resolution of Implementation.

President Darling then moved to item 7. - Report from Valley Metro and recognized Program Director Tom Logan. Regarding item A.1. - Program Status Reports, Mr. Logan was pleased to inform the Board that there has been a 32% increase in ridership for the 2015 fiscal year.

President Darling next moved to item 8. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Program Director Marcie Oviedo. Ms. Oviedo noted that the status reports under item A. - Environmental Resources were in the Board folders for review. Regarding item B. - HUD Disaster Recovery Funding she gave a presentation on the status of the Housing Disaster Recovery Program. Ms. Oviedo informed the Board that as the program comes to a close staff wanted to provide the Board with statistics of the program’s success. The presentation included photos of several homes that have been rebuilt through the Housing Assistance Program purchased through the Homeowner Opportunity Program. In all 777 homes in Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties have been purchased or rehabilitated through the Disaster Recovery Program.

President Darling next moved to item 9. A. - Homeland Security Program and recognized Program Director Manuel Cruz who addressed the following items:

   Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the release of the FY 2016 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) guidelines is uncertain, and that this uncertainty compounded with the very short review turnaround time will hinder the local process and the HSAC’s ability to effectively review and prioritize local applications. Due to the State’s upcoming stringent time lines, and in an effort to conduct an accurate and thorough review of local applications the HSAC decided to take a proactive approach to next year’s grant application process by conducting the local grant application period earlier than in prior years. The HSAC reviewed the local grant applications at their November 12th meeting and selected eligible jurisdictions and amounts. These jurisdictions will submit their approved applications on the Homeland Security Grant Division eGrants system once it becomes available in December. Board approval of the jurisdiction selection is required. **Council Member Richard Molina made a motion to approve the selection of FY 2016 LRGVDC HSGP applications and allocations as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz noted that the Homeland Security program status reports were available in the Board folders for review.

President Darling next moved to item 9. B. - Criminal Justice Program Staff Recommendations

   Mr. Cruz stated that at their November 6th meeting the CJAC finalized revisions to the Policy Manual for the FY 2015/2016 Criminal Justice funding cycle. Updates and changes to the document are on page 8 and include added verbiage to the sections under:
   - Tie Breaking Procedure, which was further clarified with the addition of “and will not affect the overall rankings of all the other applicants”.
   - Mandatory Grant Workshops and Strategic Planning with the addition of “However, points
Commissioner Daniel Guzman disagreed with the provision under Mandatory Grant Workshops and Strategic Planning that states: "If attendance cannot be made to a Grant Workshop, then the grantee must make arrangements themselves to attend a one-to-one technical assistance training with the LRGVDC Criminal Justice staff. It can either be a regional training or a one-to-one visit. Dates for the regional trainings shall be provided by the COG. Applicants must call to schedule a one-to-one training with the Criminal Justice Coordinator if they cannot attend a regional technical assistance training. However, points will not be awarded for one-to-one technical assistance. Technical Assistance must be completed at least 10 working days prior to the corresponding funding source deadline under which an applicant will be applying."

Commissioner Guzman feels that the three workshops, one each in Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy County, are announced with enough lead time for applicants to plan to attend. Attending a regional workshop gains applicants 5 points and attending one-to-one technical assistance gains no points. The total score an applicant can receive is 100, so 5 points is 5% of their score. Yet this paragraph provides leeway in that even though an applicant will not receive the 5 points for attending a workshop, they can still submit a grant application by receiving this one-to-one training, which is basically on a CD, and be eligible for those grant funds. Commissioner Guzman does not feel this is fair to those who make the effort to attend one of the three workshops.

Mr. Cruz stated that the workshops are scheduled and announced with ample time for interested entities to schedule attendance by one of their staff. Mayor Celeste Sanchez stated the existing wording is fair and reasonable because it provides for extenuating circumstances.

Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez agreed with Commissioner Guzman that three opportunities to attend a workshop for grant funds is more than enough opportunity for an entity that is seriously interested. Allowing someone an extra opportunity to apply, even without extra points, is beyond reasonable. Upon conclusion of discussion Commissioner Daniel Guzman made a motion to approve revisions to the CJAC Policy Manual with the elimination of the third paragraph under the Mandatory Grant Workshops and Strategic Planning section. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion. Upon a vote by a show of hands the motion passed. Mayor San Juanita Sanchez requested that the notification list for the grant workshops be disseminated to the Board for clarification of who is being notified within each entity.

2. Consider Approval RE: CJAC 2 Year Membership Reappointments and Member for CJAC Officer – Parliamentarian/Secretary

Mr. Cruz stated that in accordance with the 2015 Interagency Contract between the LRGVDC and the Office of the Governor’s – CJD, the CJAC conducted a yearly review of the 2 year memberships and recommends reappointment of the existing CJAC members. Additionally the CJAC recommends Mr. David Longoria, Harlingen Crime Stoppers, for the position as Parliamentarian/Secretary. Commissioner Daniel Guzman made a motion to approve the CJAC 2 year membership reappointments and member for CJAC Officer – Parliamentarian/Secretary as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

3. Consider Approval RE: CJAC Nominations for Vacancies

Mr. Cruz stated that at their November 6th meeting the CJAC reviewed their vacant seats and recommend the following nominees: Ms. Laura Souls, Tropical Texas Behavior Health for the Cameron County – Mental Health seat; Mr. David White, Edinburg Police Chief for the Hidalgo County – Citizen/Parent (Faith Based) seat; and Ms. Christina Sprawls, South Texas BETA for the Hidalgo County – Education seat. President Darling recognized Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez who questioned the nomination of Edinburg Police Chief David White to the Citizen/Parent (Faith Based) discipline due to the fact that Law Enforcement has its own category and that a layperson should fill the Citizen/Parent (Faith Based) category. Mayor Pro-tem Gonzalez made a motion to nominate Mr. Guadalupe Rodriguez, President of the PSJA School Board, to fill the Citizen/Parent (Faith Based) vacancy. Mayor Celeste Sanchez stated that even though Chief White is in law enforcement he is still a citizen and possibly a parent which qualifies him for this
discipline. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the CJAC nominated Chief White for this discipline based on his involvement with the Boys & Girls Club which qualifies him for it. Council Member Richard Molina seconded the motion. Mayor San Juanita Sanchez recommended that the nomination to fill the Citizen/Parent (Faith Based) vacancy go back to the CJAC for further consideration. Commissioner Eddie Cantu also recommended Mr. Guadalupe Rodriguez on the basis that he represents over 30,000 students in the PSJA ISD which qualifies as parental interest. Council Member Molina added that Chief White was recently hired as the Chief of Police by the City of Edinburg and is needed by the city 24/7, and that holding a volunteer position at this time would not be prudent. At this point President Darling stated that there is a motion and a second and called for a vote by a show of hands; upon conclusion of the vote the motion failed and President Darling called for another motion. Mayor Pro-temp Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to accept the nominations of Ms. Laura Soule, and Ms. Christina Sprawls and to request the CJAC reconsider the nomination to fill the Citizen/Parent (Faith Based) vacancy. Mayor Pro-temp Esmeralda Lozano seconded the motion. President Darling called for a vote by a show of hands. Upon conclusion of the vote the motion carried.

4. Consider Approval RE: Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan for FY 2016
Mr. Cruz stated that their November 6th meeting the committee reviewed, updated, and approved the Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan for the upcoming funding cycle. He reminded the Board that for the past two years and with direction from CJD, LRGVDC staff has coordinated and conducted various strategic planning workshops with many local stakeholders who were instrumental in the creation of the Plan. This Plan identifies key priorities as well as goals and objectives that will continue to address and improve the criminal justice system within the LRGVDC Region. The Plan will be utilized by applicants and most importantly by the CJAC on funding decisions this coming year. Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan for FY 2016 as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz noted that the program status reports were in the Board folders for review.

President Darling next moved to item 10. - 9-1-1 Program and recognized Program Director Sergio Castro who noted that the program status reports were in the Board folders for review.

President Darling then moved to item 11. Old or New Business; there being none the meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

ATTEST:

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

Mayor Jim Darling, President

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