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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2014 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER
510 PLEASANTVIEW DR. - WESLACO, TEXAS

PRESIDING: MAYOR CHRIS BOSWELL, PRESIDENT

President Chris Boswell 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. President Boswell then moved to item 2. - Consider Approval of June 25, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes. Mayor David Simmons made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Danny Guzman 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 from Legislative Delegation; however no reports were given at this time.

President Boswell next moved to item 3.B. – Public Comment and recognized Mr. George Saenz who informed the Board of a program called "Honor Flight Rio Grande Valley". This program which operates under the auspices of Honor Flight Austin is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is dedicated to transporting veterans to Washington DC to view their memorial at the National Park. Top priority is given to America’s most senior heroes - survivors of World War II, and any veteran with a terminal illness who wish to visit their memorial. The program will transition to veterans of the Korean War, Vietnam War and all other veterans who have served, on a chronological basis.

President Boswell then moved to item 3.C. - Board Recognition. Unfortunately Mr. Don Medina was unable to attend and the President moved to item 3.D. – Presentation of 2013 Annual Audit. Ms. Melissa Gonzalez, Oscar R. Gonzalez, CPA & Associates PLLC, was recognized and reported that the audit revealed that all was as it should be regarding LRGVDC’s finances. Ms. Gonzalez gave a clean opinion and stated that the audit went smoothly. Commissioner Danny Guzman made a motion to approve the 2013 Annual Audit as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action President Boswell moved to item 3.E. – Presentation by HCMPO and Possible Action for Support of Texas Transportation Funding and recognized Ms. Maria Champine. Ms. Champine gave a presentation on Proposition 1 that detailed issues with transportation funding, what should be focused on between now and November, and what needs to be accomplished during the next legislative session. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to support Proposition 1. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

The President next moved to item 3.F. – Presentation RE: Rio Grande Valley Regional Amber Alert System. This presentation was not ready and the Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to table it. Commissioner Danny Guzman seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Boswell next moved to item 3.G. – Consider Approval RE: Quarterly Investment Report. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion for approval of the Quarterly Investment Report as
presented. Mayor Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action the President next moved to item 3.H. - Consider Board Member Appointments to Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) and the Corporation for Texas Regionalism (CTR) Boards, and Board Member Representation at the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Meetings. Mr. Ken Jones was recognized and stated that currently the Board Member designated for the TARC Board is the Hon. Norma Garcia and for the CTR is Mr. Steve Brewer. Mr. Brewer is also the current representative at the NADO meetings. Both members have indicated their interest to continue in these capacities, and that they could also serve as each other’s alternates. Mr. Brewer was recognized and suggested the inclusion of a briefing on agendas following these meetings because pertinent information is disseminated that should be shared with the Board. Mr. Troy Allen made a motion for the Hon. Norma Garcia and Mr. Steve Brewer to continue in their respective appointments and act as each other’s alternates. Mr. John Mendoza seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Boswell then moved to item 4. - Regional Police Academy and recognized Mr. Paul Williams. Mr. Williams noted that the regular status report was in the folders for review and informed the Board that earlier in the month he had provided LRGVDC staff with training on Workplace Violence and Active Shooter scenarios. It was the consensus of the Board to schedule this same training for Board Members at 10:00 a.m. on August 27, before the next Board meeting.

President Boswell next moved to item 5. - Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Mr. Joe Gonzalez. Regarding item 5.A.1. - Consider Approval RE: Ad-Hoc Committee Appointment Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommends approval to appoint the following persons to the Area Agency on Aging’s Ad-Hoc Committee: Blanca Villalpando, Emilio Vera, Alonzo Rodriguez, Ruth Rodriguez, Howdy Smith and Paul Ebrom. This committee’s primary responsibility is to review all proposals submitted in response to the Request For Proposals for Title III Services for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The committee provides recommendations to the Advisory Council for consideration, which in turn submits its recommendations to this Board for final approval. Mayor David Simmons made a motion to approve the Ad-Hoc Committee Appointments as recommended by the Advisory Council. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

The President next moved to item 5.A.2. - Consider Approval RE: Removal of the 5% Reduction in Funds for Support and Caregiver Services. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommends approval to remove the reduction of funding to all contractors for support services and caregiver services that was implemented at the beginning of the fiscal year in October. The services affected were the senior center operations, transportation services, and the caregiver education and training. The Area Agency on Aging has received additional Title III funding for the year. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to remove the 5% reduction in funds for support and caregiver services. Mr. Steve Brewer 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 Boswell next moved to item 6. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Ms. Terrie Salinas. Regarding item 6 A.1. - Consider Approval RE: EDA Grant Administration Contract for the City of Hidalgo Ms. Salinas stated that the City is requesting staff assistance to administer the Hidalgo Viejo Historic District Grant that was awarded to Hidalgo by the Economic Development Administration. Mr. Steve Brewer made a motion to approve the EDA Grant Administration Contract for the City of Hidalgo as presented. Mayor Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Boswell then moved to item 7. - Report from Valley Metro Program. Mr. Tom Logan was unable to attend and Mr. Jones noted that the status reports were in the Board folders for review.
President Boswell next moved to item 8. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Ms. Marcie Oviedo. Regarding item 8.A. - Environmental Resources Ms. Oviedo noted that the Solid Waste Management program status report was in the Board folders for review and the President moved to item 8.B.1. – Consider Recommendations from Housing Advisory Committee:

a. FHAST Form Progress and Submission of Report to the General Land Office (GLO)
   Ms. Oviedo stated that the Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) met on July 15 and requests approval of the progress and submission of this report to GLO. The Fair Housing Activity Statement – Texas (FHAST) was developed and approved by this Board in 2010, the FHAST being considered addresses progress on all impediments. Mayor Steve Brewer made a motion to approve the FHAST Form progress and submission of this report to the GLO. Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

b. Disposition of HOP Vacant Properties
   Ms. Oviedo stated that the HAC met on April 16 and is requesting approval of its recommendation for disposition of HOP vacant properties as approved at the last meeting as follows: HOP Vacant Properties acquired by the program shall be offered to the city, city housing authority, county, non-profit entities and drainage districts, in that order. Staff is waiting on guidance from the Texas GLO to finalize the details of this process. Staff has seen interest from local residents in these properties and requested guidance from the GLO. The GLO has stated that staff could sell these properties at fair market value and place the funds back into the program to assist more applicants. Staff requests approval to add this option to the previously approved process. Mayor Pro-tem Esmeralda Lozano made a motion to approve the disposition of HOP vacant properties as recommended by the HAC. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Ms. Oviedo noted that the program status reports were in the Board folders for review. Ms. Oviedo also briefed the Board on the Final HUD OIG Report that was forwarded to the Board prior to the meeting.

President Boswell then moved to item 9. – Report from Homeland Security and recognized Mr. Manuel Cruz who noted that the status reports for both the Homeland Security and the Criminal Justice programs were in the Board folders for review. He added that the final meeting for the Regional Strategic Plan will take place on August 6.

President Boswell next moved to item 10. – Report from 9-1-1 Department and recognized Mr. Juan Gomez. Mr. Gomez noted that the regular status reports were in the folders and introduced three of his staff members: Ms. Maggie Garza, Mr. Raul Madero and Mr. Joe Chapa.

President Boswell next moved to item 11. – Old or New Business; there being no further business to come before the Board Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to adjourn; Council Member Richard Molina seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

ATTEST:
Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

Mayor Chris Boswell, President

Minutes, LRGVDC Board Meeting, July 23, 2014 - Pg. 3 of 3