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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2016 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS - 301 W. RAILROAD ST., WESLACO, TEXAS
KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: MAYOR TONY MARTINEZ, PRESIDENT

President Tony Martinez called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. and verified that a quorum of the Board was present. He then moved to item 2. – Consider Approval of July 27, 2016 Meeting Minutes. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the July 27, 2016 meeting 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 Martinez moved to item 3.A. - Report from Legislative Delegation, however no reports were provided. The President then moved to item 3.B. – Public Comment and recognized Ms. Delilah Garcia, Valley Proud Environmental Council. Ms. Garcia informed the Board that Valley Proud has scheduled the 25 year anniversary celebration of Rio Reforestation on October 15, 2016. This event will help restore habitat in the Lower Rio Grande Valley; this year the Pharr, San Juan, Alamo area will be the location of the event. Ms. Garcia invited the audience and Board Members to join the celebration.

Next President Martinez recognized Mr. Ron Garza, LRGVDC’s newly promoted Executive Director, to present a plaque to Board Member Wanda Garza who will retire from South Texas College (STC) at the end of the month. The plaque is in recognition of the time she has dedicated to the LRGVDC Board of Directors, and Ms. Garza announced that Mr. Paul Hernandez, Dean of Students for STC, has been appointed as her replacement on the LRGVDC Board of Directors.

President Martinez then moved to item 3.C. – Regional Spot Light. Mr. Garza was recognized and informed the Board that this item was a new addition to the agenda. He has discovered many hidden gems in the Valley and would like to introduce them as a collaborative and promotional effort. Mr. Garza then turned the floor over to Ms. Holly Johnston from the Valley Nature Center. She informed the Board that the Valley Nature Center is the oldest nature center in the area and is a secret garden in the heart of the Rio Grande Valley. The Valley Nature Center is located at 301 South Border Ave. in Weslaco. It is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide knowledge and understanding to children and adults of the Lower Rio Grande Valley’s unique natural communities of plants, bugs, birds, and animals. It is set in the midst of an urban community and has a visitor’s center that leads to a six-acre nature park. The park has a mile of interpretive trails through a recreated Tamaulipan thorn-scrub forest and an extensive collection of South Texas native plants. Upon conclusion of her presentation Ms. Johnston invited the Board and guests to visit the Valley Nature Center.

The President next moved to item 3.D. – Consider Approval of Resolution Naming the Ken Jones Executive Board Room. President Martinez turned the floor over to the Hon. Norma G. Garcia to present this item. Ms. Garcia was President of the Board in 1992, 24 years ago, when Mr. Ken Jones was selected as the second Executive Director of the LRGVDC upon the retirement of Mr.
Robert Chandler. Ms. Garcia was honored to present Mr. Jones with a resolution that names the new Executive Board Room on the LRGVDC Main Campus after him. Ms. Garcia read the resolution out loud for all to hear that “we shall continually honor Ken Jones through dedication of the meeting facility located in at 301 W. Railroad, St., Weslaco, Texas” and that this resolution “formally bestows that the Ken Jones Executive Board Room be dedicated to Kenneth N. Jones, Jr. for a lifetime commitment of leadership, vision, and service to the Lower Rio Grande Development Council and the citizens of Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties”. Mr. Jones received a well-deserved standing ovation from all present. Upon conclusion of the presentation and Mr. Jones’ acceptance, the Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the Resolution Naming the Ken Jones Executive Board Room as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion passed unanimously.

President Martinez next moved to item 3.E. – Executive Session RE: Personnel and stated he would take a point of privilege and move this item to the end of the meeting as a matter of convenience. The President next moved to item 3.F. – Consider Approval of 2017 – 2022 Regional Strategic Plan and recognized Mr. Garza. He informed the Board that the Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) is a five-year plan that is updated every two years to coincide with our State Legislative Session. The developmental process began in February this year and has included various formats for public and stakeholder input. The LRGVDC is the facilitator for the RSP and this final document represents the efforts of many in the Valley that are committed to assuring that any gaps in services are addressed. Mr. Garza stated that the document presented to the Board is the executive summary. Upon Board approval it will be taken to publication to create the full document which should be ready to distribute in 30 – 45 days, in time for the upcoming legislative session. Upon conclusion of Mr. Garza’s presentation Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the 2017-2022 Regional Strategic Plan as presented. Mayor San Juanita Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of Administration items President Martinez moved to item 4. - Regional Police Academy and Training Center. Regarding item 4.A.1. – Consider Approval of Revised Police Academy Advisory Committee Bylaws, Mr. Garza was called upon to address this item. He informed the Board that after reviewing their bylaws the Police Academy Advisory Committee recommends approval of the revised bylaws in order to be in compliance with, and better align with Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) rules and statues. Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the revised Police Academy Advisory Committee Bylaws as presented. Commissioner Eddie Gonzales seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Garza stated that the regular status report was on the Board tablets for review.

President Martinez next moved to item 5. – Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Program Director Joe Gonzalez. Under item A. – Act upon Area Agency on Aging (AAoA) Advisory Council Recommendations, Mr. Gonzalez addressed the following action items:

1. Consider Approval RE: Fiscal Year 2017 Older American Act Funding
Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommends approval to fund the following list of organizations for fiscal year 2017 under the Older American Act program:
   Amigos Del Valle
   Cameron Willacy Counties Community Projects
   City of Los Fresnos
   City of Rio Hondo
   City of La Joya
   Mission Housing Authority
Annual extensions will be considered for the next three fiscal years. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2017 Older American Act Fund list as presented. Mayor Pro-temp Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Consider Approval RE: Fiscal Year 2017 Direct Purchased Vendor Pool

Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommends approval of thirty-six (36) vendor agreements for Fiscal Year 2017. The services provided by these vendors include:

- Home modifications
- Medical transportation
- Medication assistance
- Medical supplies and equipment
- Homemaker services
- Caregiver respite care

These vendors will be utilized by Case Managers for purchasing services for their clients. Mayor Celeste Sanchez made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2017 Direct Purchased Vendor Pool as presented. Mayor Pro-temp Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez stated that the regular status report was on the Board tablets for review.

President Martinez next moved to item 6. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Program Director Terrie Salinas. Ms. Salinas gave the status reports for the Keeping PACE in the Valley program, and for the Regional Small Cities Coalition. Upon conclusion of the status reports Ms. Salinas recognized Ms. Leticia Flores, Office of the Governor, State of Texas and presented her with a Community Service Award for the great work she has done for many years in keeping the Valley communities aware of new programs and services available through the State.

President Martinez then moved to item 7.A.1. - Presentation on 86th Legislature Proposed RGV College/University Transportation Pilot and recognized Valley Metro Director Tom Logan, and Assistant Director Maribel Contreras. They informed the Board that staff is requesting $5MM to establish an RGV College/University Transportation System. If approved, there will be a federal/local contribution of $6MM: $1MM for capital and $5MM for operating costs. The pilot program will last two years and expand the current service to college and university campuses as well as to disadvantaged areas. For every $1 of State operating cost match, the LRGVDC will be able to draw down $1 from federal funds. They noted the need for service and that the proposed expansion will include inter-campus express routes, rural and colonia service expansion, expanded morning and afternoon service, improved frequency of routes, on-board surveillance with live feed to command center, acquisition of high capacity buses, and one call & one click center. Upon conclusion of the presentation Ms. Wanda Garza made a motion for the Board to approve and support this plan as presented and strongly recommended that the LRGVDC Board should be represented at the capital to testify on this matter. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Logan then informed the Board that the regular status reports were on the Board tablets for review.

President Martinez next moved to item 8. - Report from Regional Planning & Services. Ms. Marcie Oviedo was recognized and stated that there were no action items to consider this month for the Regional Planning Department and that all the status reports were on the Board tablets for review. There being no questions for Ms. Oviedo, President Martinez moved to item 9. – Report from Homeland Security and recognized Program Director Manuel Cruz. Mr. Cruz gave status reports
under item A.1. – Homeland Security on the following topics: Homeland Security Grant Programs, Citizen Corps Program (CCP)/Preparedness, FY2015 Homeland Security Grant Program, and the FY 2016 Homeland Security Grant Program. He then gave the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Planning Program status reports on the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) Planning and the Computerized Criminal History (CCH) Compliance.

President Martinez next moved to item 10. - 9-1-1 Program and recognized Program Director Sergio Castro. Mr. Castro noted that the regular status reports were on the Board tablets for review and informed the Board about the completion of Text to 9-1-1 Solution. He reported that this region is the second beta site in Texas, and this region was the selected site for Intrado Solution. September is the target date to have Text to 9-1-1 online in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties.

At 1:07 pm the Hon Norma G. Garcia made a motion to go into Executive session. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. The record reflects that Mayor Chris Boswell did not participate in Executive Session. At 1:28 pm Mayor Celeste Sanchez made a motion to reconvene regular session. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. No action was taken in Executive Session.

President Martinez then moved to item 11. – Old or New Business; there being none Ms. Wanda Garza made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Ron Mills seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

ATTEST:

[Signature]

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary