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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 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 12:06 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: July 22, 2015 Meeting Minutes, Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the July 22, 2015 minutes as presented. Council Member Richard Molina seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. At this time President Darling presented Mayor Chris Boswell with a plaque recognizing his service as Board President for fiscal year 2014-2015.

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes President Darling moved to item 3. A. - Report from Legislative Delegation, however, no representatives were present and no report had been provided. The President then moved to item 3. B. - Public Comments and recognized Ms. Ann Williams Cass, Proyecto Azteca and Equal Voice. Ms. Cass informed the Board that she supports two drainage projects being implemented by the Disaster Recovery Program: the area between Alberta Road to Owassa Road from Cesar Chavez Road to HCDD1 Alamo Main Canal and the HCDD1 North Main Drain to Co. Road 3601 approximately following Mile 11 North Alignment (J09). Ms. Cass also congratulated staff on the success of the PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) Conference recently held on South Padre Island.

Upon conclusion of Public Comments President Darling moved to item 3.C. - Consider Approval of 2014 Annual Audit and recognized Ms. Melissa Gonzalez, Oscar R. Gonzalez, CPA & Associates. Ms. Gonzalez referred the Board to the Independent Auditor’s Report included in the 2014 Audit and stated that the firm has given the LRGVDC a clean audit with no findings. Ms. Gonzalez then summarized the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Change in Fund Balance – Governmental Funds. Upon conclusion of her report Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the 2014 Annual Audit as presented. Mayor Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez 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, and recognized Program Director Paul Williams.

a. Act upon Recommendations from Police Academy Advisory Committee

1. Consider Approval RE: Police Advisory By-laws Update
   Mr. Williams stated that the Advisory Committee by-laws must be updated every two years and that the Committee recommends approval of the revisions presented. Mr. Ron Mills was recognized and as a member of the Police Advisory Committee made a recommendation to further review the section of the by-laws regarding Advisory Committee Membership on page 2. Mr. Mills informed the Board that the proposed revision takes the committee from a cumbersome minimum of eleven members down to three members, one from each county, which he considers too small. Mr. Mills would like the opportunity to confer with Mr. Williams and make a recommendation on further revisions to this section at a later date. Upon conclusion of discussion Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the Advisory Committee By-laws update with the exception of the Advisory Committee Membership section, and for a recommendation on this section to be brought forth for consideration at the next meeting. Mayor Henry
Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Consider Approval RE: LRGVDC Regional Police Academy Standard Operating Procedures Update
   Mr. Williams stated that the Police Advisory Committee recommends approval of the revised Standard Operating Procedures for the LRGVDC Regional Police Academy to meet the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards as presented. Mayor Pro-temp Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve the LRGVDC Regional Police Academy Standard Operating Procedures update as presented. Council Member Richard Molina seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

   b. Status Report from Regional Police Academy
   Upon conclusion of action Mr. Williams noted that the regular status reports were in the Board folders for review, and then began a presentation entitled “Texas Concealed Handgun Law and Open Handgun Carry”. Mr. Williams explained the specific ways, according to this new law, that weapons can be openly carried, and that open carry is not permitted in a room where a governmental meeting that is properly posted as an Open Meeting is being held, however a person openly carrying a handgun can be right outside the door of said meeting. He expounded further on details of the law and noted that some questions were posed to law makers that require further deliberation. Mr. Williams’ presentation is available upon request.

President Darling next moved to item 5. - Report from Area Agency on Aging, item A. – Act upon Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council Recommendation and recognized Program Director Joe Gonzalez who requested action on the following items:

1. Consider Approval RE: Amigos Del Valle Budget Amendment
   Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the Department on Aging and Disability Services (DADS) has approved the Area Agency on Aging Working budget which incorporates all the funding year-to-date. Additional nutrition funds have been allocated to the Area Agency on Aging that is restricted to nutrition services. The recommendation for applying the additional funds are: $651,376 for congregate meals and $115,009 for home delivered meals. Mayor Celeste Sanchez made a motion to approve the Amigos Del Valle Budget Amendment as presented. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez stated that the status reports on the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Annual Information Sharing conference was 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 Willacy County had passed the Resolution of Intent and that Hidalgo County will consider it at their next regular meeting. Ms. Salinas then gave the status report on the “Building PACE in the Valley” Conference that was held August 19-21.

President Darling then moved to item 7. - Report from Valley Metro and recognized Program Director Tom Logan. Regarding item A. 1. – Consider Approval RE: Revisions to Drug & Alcohol Free Workplace Policy
   Mr. Logan stated that the revisions that were made will allow Valley Metro to be in compliance with the Federal Drug & Alcohol Testing Program that addresses all the requirements of 49 CFR part 655 and Part 40 of its guidelines. Mayor Tony Martinez made a motion to approve the revisions to the Drug & Alcohol Free Workplace Policy as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Logan gave the status reports on the Rural and Urban Systems.

President Darling next moved to item 8. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Program Director Marcie Oviedo. Regarding item A. - Environmental Resources Ms. Oviedo noted that those status reports were in the Board folders for review and moved to item 8.B. - HUD Disaster Recovery Funding and addressed the following items:
1. LRGVDC Non-Housing Disaster Recovery Funds

a. Consider Method of Distribution for Disaster Recovery Funding (Tabled 7/22/2015)  
   **Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to remove this item from the table. Commissioner Eduardo Cantu seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** By way of background information on this item Ms. Oviedo stated that in 2010 when Disaster Recovery funds were allocated to the Region by the Texas General Land Office (GLO), the LRGVDC was assigned with developing a Regional Method of Distribution (MOD) for allocation of these funds. Staff developed an MOD for Round 1 funds and then again for Round 2 funds as per GLO guidelines. For the Round 2 allocation several meetings and public hearings were held to receive input on how to allocate the funds. As a result, the LRGVDC Phase 2.1 MOD was developed and submitted to the GLO. The MOD had to meet the State of Texas Plan for Disaster Recovery Amendment #1 and Conciliation Agreement executed between the Governor’s Office and the Texas Low Income Housing Information Services Group to ensure that all projects affirmatively furthered fair housing as per HUD requirements. Ms. Oviedo referred to a list of all projects submitted for additional funds in the same order as originally prioritized by this Board as part of the Phase 2.1 MOD, and some projects that were not included in the Phase 2.1 MOD. Staff also indicated which projects have been approved by the Housing Advocates as meeting HUD’s Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing requirements, the amount requested, match amount, and cost per beneficiary ratio consistent with the comments received at the public meeting held on June 25, 2015. Staff recommends submittal of this list as a part of the Update to the MOD to the GLO. The GLO will perform a final eligibility review and make a final determination on awarding funds. **Commissioner Danny Guzman made a motion to approve the Method of Distribution for Disaster Recovery Funding as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

2. Multi-Family Rental Program

a. Consider HAC Recommendation RE: Revision of Willacy County Housing Authority (WCHA) White House Reconstruction Project  
   Ms. Oviedo stated that the Housing Advisory Committee recommends that the Board rescind the previous amendment request to reallocate unencumbered rental funds from the Rental Program to the Non-Rental Program and that these funds, in the amount of $916,007 be awarded to WCHA to reconstruct as many units as the funding allows on this 49 unit site. After conducting site visits of all the Rental Program projects, the General Land Office and LRGVDC staff agreed that WCHA had not only requested insufficient funding to thoroughly mitigate damage caused by Hurricane Dolly, but also demonstrated that they had the most need for decent, safe, and sanitary housing. **Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to approve the revision of the WCHA White House Reconstruction Project as recommended by the Housing Advisory Committee. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

b. Consider HAC Recommendation RE: Submittal of 2nd Waiver Request to GLO reference LURA (Land Use Restriction Agreement) for Raymondville Northstar Apartment Project  
   **Ms. Amy Lynch made a motion to table this item. Council Member Richard Molina seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Ms. Oviedo noted that the status reports were in the folders for review.

President Darling next moved to item 9. A. - Homeland Security Program and recognized Program Director Manuel Cruz who gave the status reports on the Homeland Security program and the Criminal Justice Program.

President Darling next moved to item 10. - 9-1-1 Program and recognized Program Director Sergio Castro. Mr. Castro stated that the regular status reports were in the Board folders for review and informed the Board that the Interlocal agreements for all Public Safety Answer Points were in place and that peace officer licenses for 9-1-1 call takers were being renewed or attained.

Minutes, LRGVDC Board Meeting, August 26, 2015 - Pg. 3 of 4
Upon conclusion of the 9-1-1 status report, President Darling moved to item 11. — Executive Session, A. Personnel. Executive session began at 1:11 p.m. and the regular meeting was resumed at 1:26 p.m. at which time President Darling announced that in one year Executive Director Ken Jones would retire from the LRGVDC. In the next 30 days staff will place advertisements for the position of Deputy Executive Director, a position that will eventually transition to Executive Director.

President Darling then moved to item 12. - Old or New Business, A. - Reservoir Levels and noted that the reservoir system was 55% full. There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

ATTEST:

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

Mayor Jim Darling, President