MINUTES

MEETING OF THE
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS & LRGVDC CORPORATION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS - 301 W. RAILROAD ST., WESLACO, TEXAS
BUILDING B, KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: HON. NORMA G. GARCIA, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

1st Vice President Norma Garcia called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. Roll call was taken for both the Board of Directors and the LRGVDC Corporation and a quorum was declared for both entities.

Vice President Garcia then moved to item 2: Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes (January 31, 2018 Board, General Membership & LRGVDC Corporation). Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Javier De Leon seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Garcia then moved to item 3: Public Comment and/or Report from Legislative Delegation and noted no one had signed up for Public Comment and no Legislative reports were available. She then moved to item 4: Administration and recognized Mr. Ron Garza, Executive Director to address the following items:

A. Consider Approval to Open Checking Account for Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Corporation with Executive Director, Ron Garza, and Finance Director, Crystal Balboa as Signatories.

Mayor Chris Boswell made a motion to approve opening a checking account for the LRGVDC Corporation with the Executive Director, Ron Garza and Finance Director Crystal Balboa, as signatories. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

B. Executive Director Report

- Introduction of New Staff Members
  Mr. Garza introduced Mr. Jesse Vargas, Instructor I for the Regional Police Academy; Ms. Patricia Flores, Accountant I in the Finance Department; Ms. Kimberly Lozano, Customer Service Representative I for the Regional Police Academy; Mr. Rene Garza, Program Supervisor I for Valley Metro; and Mr. Eddie Reyes, Assistant Director for Human Resources. The Board warmly welcomed our new employees to the LRGVDC.

- LRGVDC Updates & Activities
• 2018 Program Orientation Schedule
  In follow up to unanimous Board approval last month to continue Program Orientations on a quarterly basis, Mr. Garza presented the following schedule for consideration:

  **Session 1: March 28**
  Transportation
  • Valley Metro
  • Hidalgo County MPO

  **Session 2: June 27**
  Public Safety
  • Criminal Justice
  • Emergency Communications
  • Homeland Security
  • Regional Police Academy

  **Session 3: September 26**
  Community & Environmental Services, and Economic Development
  • HUD Disaster Recovery Housing Program
  • Solid Waste Management Program
  • Water Resources
  Economic Development

  **Session 4: December 5**
  Health & Human Services
  • Area Agency on Aging
  • RIO-Net ADRC

  Each session will be scheduled from 11:00 am – 12:00 noon prior to the Board of Directors meeting. *Commissioner Esmeralda Lozano made a motion to approve the Program Orientation schedule as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

• BikeShare RGV
  Mr. Garza informed the Board that a recommendation for a Valley-Wide Bike Share service should be forthcoming in about two months.

• Explore RGV

  1. Consider Approval to Procure Contractual Services.
     There has been excellent engagement from stake holders on this project, and Explore RGV will be moving to the second major phase by procuring a vendor to design and develop an interactive website and mobile app. Mr. Garza stated that in the event that this service exceeds $25,000, Board approval is sought in order to move forward with procurement services. LRGVDC’s Procurement Police requires approval from the Board of Directors to begin the purchasing process for goods and services that cost more than $25,000, and he anticipates this project may be a little over that threshold. *Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to approve the procurement of contractual services greater than $25,000 for the next phase of the Explore RGV project. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion.*
Commissioner Alex Dominguez asked if a dollar amount for the Request for Proposals will be set. Mr. Garza replied that staff will provide bidders with a scope of services and the cost will be based on the submitted proposals. Mayor Darling suggested that the Executive Committee be allowed to approve the threshold amount. Upon conclusion of discussion **Mayor Darling amended his motion to allow the Executive Committee to approve a threshold amount for the procurement of contractual services over the amount of $25,000. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the amended motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

- **RGV 2020 (CEDS)**
  Mr. Garza informed the Board that three forums were held February 14, 15, and 16 in each of the three counties in our region. Many stakeholders attended and provided great feedback. The information gleaned from these forums will be moved forward to focus groups for the next phase of this project.

- **RGV Fit 5k and Mayors’ Walk for Wellness (It’s Time Texas Community Challenge)**
  This event is scheduled for Saturday, March 3 at the LRGVDC Main Campus on Railroad Street. Mr. Garza encouraged the Board and audience to attend and earn points for their cities in the It’s Time Texas Community Challenge.

- **With the Board’s permission, Mr. Garza introduced an item of New Business out of order.**
  A federal initiative called the “Opportunity Zone Initiative” recently came to his attention through Hidalgo County Executive Director Bobby Villarreal. This little known initiative is included in the 2018 Tax Reform Law, and it is designed to encourage investment in low income communities. Even though it is a federal initiative, the program is set up so that the governor has to forward a list of recommended census tracts for inclusion in the program to the Treasury Department. Mr. Garza requested that the Board consider writing a resolution for the Rio Grande Valley to be considered in the assessment.

Mr. Villarreal was recognized and informed the Board that 25% of low income census tracts will be included for development through this initiative. The census tracts need to be identified and prioritized for submission to the governor. He emphasized that a united regional resolution will hold more weight in Washington, DC than many individual resolutions. March 21, 2018 is the deadline for submission. In order to meet the deadline, it was the consensus of the Board for the Executive Committee to review and consider a regional resolution requesting that the Valley be considered in the Opportunity Zone Initiative. Any action taken by the Executive Committee will be on the next agenda for ratification.

Upon conclusion of Administration items, Vice President Garcia moved to item 5: Department Reports.

A. **Economic Development**

Ms. Terrie Salinas, Economic Development Director was recognized and gave the status reports for the Regional Small Cities Coalition Meeting and the Kari’s Law Project. She then turned the floor over to Mr. Michael Leo, Hidalgo County Economic Development Director. Mr. Leo shared information on the Hidalgo County Small Town Economic Development Grant
Program. This project seeks to encourage entrepreneurial oriented residents to create and/or expand ideas for new or existing business.

B. Community & Environmental Services

Community Development Status Report
Director Marcie Oviedo was recognized and stated that the status report on the HUD Disaster Recovery Housing Program was in the meeting packet for review.

Environmental Resources Status Report

- Solid Waste Management Program

Ms. Oviedo reported that the SWAC met on February 6 to review and score the FY 2018-2019 Solid Waste Grant applications that were received. Nine (9) applications were reviewed, scored, and ranked as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicants</th>
<th>Funded Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Weslaco - Source Reduction &amp; Recycling</td>
<td>$30,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of South Padre Island - Source Reduction &amp; Recycling</td>
<td>$30,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of San Juan - Source Reduction &amp; Recycling</td>
<td>$11,700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Port Isabel - Education &amp; Training</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hidalgo County - Other - Technical Study</td>
<td>$30,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameron County - Education &amp; Training</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Alton - Source Reduction &amp; Recycling</td>
<td>$12,082.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of San Benito - Other - Litter &amp; Illegal Dumping Cleanup and Community Events</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of South Padre Island - Education &amp; Training</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Board approval is required to submit this ranking to TCEQ for their approval. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the FY 2018/2019 Regional Solid Waste Implementation project grant rankings as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pete Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

- Water Resources

1. Consider Approval of Resolution 2018-02 in Support of Application to US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) for WaterSmart Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP).
Ms. Oviedo informed the Board that the main goal of this project is the preliminary development of the Lower Laguna Madre Watershed Planning Group. If approved, the LRGVDC will partner with Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties, UTRGV, Cameron County Coastal Cities Task Force, and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Task Force for this project. This is a two (2) year project whose main purpose will be to partially fund a Watershed
Coordinator. This project aims to begin the preliminary assessment of sub-watersheds associated with the Raymondville Drain, the Hidalgo/Willacy Floodway and the IBWC Floodway. The Arroyo Colorado is currently managed by a watershed protection plan associated with the USEPA’s Clean Water Act. Through this project the water quality in the Lower Laguna Madre Watershed will be characterized by collecting existing data from various sources, identifying the causes of water quality impairments and issues, identification of sources of pollution, quantification of pollutant loadings from these sources and inventory of the data from the watershed. These major waterways contribute freshwater and storm water to the Lower Laguna Madre. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-02 as presented. Mr. Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action Ms. Oviedo noted that the status reports for Water Resources were in the Board packet for review.

C. Health & Human Services

**Area Agency on Aging Status Reports**

   Mr. Joe Gonzalez, Director of Area Agency on Aging, was recognized and stated that the Advisory Council recommends approval to authorize the Area Agency on Aging to respond to the Housing Bond Request for Proposals being issued by the Health and Human Services Commission. The purpose of this funding is to assist seniors with housing issues such as roof repairs. **Mayor Chris Boswell made a motion to approve the Housing Bond Request for Proposals as recommended by the Advisory Council. Mr. Arturo Ramirez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

   Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommends the appointment of Ms. Connie Garza of Mission as the new Advisory Council Member. He noted that Ms. Garza is involved in various groups in the City of Mission, is a former member of the Texas Silver Haired Legislature and represented the Valley during the last session. **Mayor Chris Boswell made a motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Connie Garza as recommended by the Advisory Council. Mr. Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez stated that the status report on Health and Human Services Office of Area Agencies on Aging was in the meeting packet for review.

D. Public Safety

Vice President Garcia next recognized Public Safety Director Manuel Cruz to address the following items:

**Criminal Justice Program Status Reports**

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the status reports on the Criminal Justice Division Grant Opportunity for FY 2018, the Regional Crime Victim Liaison Program, and the Office of the Governor’s Criminal Justice Division - Meet Your Grant Coordinator were in the meeting.
packet for review.

Emergency Communications Status Report
Mr. Cruz noted that regular status reports on the Location Validation Program, the Database Program, the Mapping Program, Systems and PSAP Operations, and Public Education were in the meeting packet for review.

Homeland Security Program Status Report

Mr. Cruz reported that in accordance with the Office of the Governor’s Homeland Security Grant Division, grant applications must include a resolution that contains specific information relevant to the FY 2018 HSGP grant funding cycle. Upon approval, the resolutions will be uploaded and included with the application on e-Grants. The resolutions are specific to projects that will be managed by the LRGVDC:
   A. LRGVDC Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) Project
   B. LRGVDC and Fire Alliance Regional Training Academy

Commissioner Danny Guzman made a motion to approve the Homeland Security Grant Program resolutions as presented. Mr. Arturo Ramirez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz announced that the South Texas 2018 All Hazard Conference will be held March 28-29 at the McAllen Convention Center.

Regional Police Academy Status Report

1. Consider Approval of Revised Basic Peace Officer Course Rules Handbook.
Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the Regional Police Academy Advisory Committee met on February 12 to review, discuss, and provide input for the Revised Basic Peace Officer Course Rules Handbook that will be in place for the upcoming BPOC Academies scheduled to begin in March.

The Board had questions on the following sections of the Rules Handbook:

"9.7 Request for Administrative Hearing
The last and final course of action would include a request for administrative hearing directly to the LRGVDC Director of Public Safety or LRGVDC Executive Director."

"10.7 Regional Police Academy Advisory Committee
LRGVDC utilizes the collective knowledge and experience of local law enforcement personnel to serve on the Regional Police Academy Advisory Committee.
   a. Committee meetings are held annually at a minimum; however, generally the committee will meet once a quarter. All members are appointed by the LRGVDC Executive Director and composition of the committee includes law enforcement agency chief executives, law enforcement instructors and at least 1/3 general public."

Mr. Garza informed the Board that the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) provided direction on these items and that to be in compliance with their regulations, these rules are required. He explained that according to TCOLE, Advisory Committees do not
have the power to determine appeals. In regard to section 10.7, he explained that all Advisory Committee members are required to attend a class in order to serve, and he assured the Board that all potential Regional Police Academy Advisory Committee appointees will be brought before the Board of Directors for final approval. Upon conclusion of discussion Mayor Chris Boswell made a motion to approve the revised Basic Peace Officer Course Rules Handbook as presented. Mr. Arturo Ramirez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz stated that the regular status reports were in the meeting packet for review, and he announced that 114 cadets will begin the next Regional Police Academy scheduled to begin on March 5, 2018.

E. Transportation

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization Status Report
Andrew Canon, Director of the HCMPO, was recognized and updated the Board on current projects. He added that the 8th Annual Walk n Rolla is scheduled for April 21 at the Edinburg City Hall courtyard. The registration fee for the event is five (5) non-perishable food items that will be donated to the UTRGV Student Food Pantry.

Valley Metro Status Report
Mr. Tom Logan was recognized and stated that for the current fiscal year, Valley Metro has had 320,000 passengers which puts the program on target for a 5% increase in ridership.

Vice President Garcia next moved to item 7. – New or Unfinished Business; there being no further new business, Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to adjourn; Mayor Pro-tem Pete Garcia seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary