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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2013 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER
510 PLEASANTVIEW DR. - WESLACO, TEXAS

PRESIDING: HON. NORMA G. GARCIA, PRESIDENT

President Norma G. Garcia called the meeting to order at 12:14 p.m. and asked Ms. Debby Morales to call roll. Upon conclusion of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum of the Board was present. President Garcia then moved to item 2. - Consider Approval RE: September 25, 2013 Meeting Minutes. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Mayor Steve Brewer seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes President Garcia moved to item 3.A. - Public Comments and recognized:

- Mr. Josue Ramirez and Ms. Julia Reyna, Texas Low Income Housing Information Service and ARISE, who thanked the Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) for consideration of their comments regarding the applicants on the inactive list from the Disaster Recovery Program. At a recent HAC meeting they requested that those applications be revisited so they could be re-engaged in this program, and they have been informed that this will take place. They expressed appreciation for Mr. Ken Jones and the HAC taking their comments to heart.
- Mr. Robert Jeffrey, who voiced concerns regarding the bus schedule.

With no objection from the Board, President Garcia moved ahead on the agenda to item 8.B.1. - Consider Approval of Housing Advisory Committee Recommendation, item a. - Rapid Housing Recovery Program Contract with Community Development Corp. (CDC) Brownsville and recognized Mr. Victor Morales. Mr. Morales informed the Board that the Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) reviewed this contract and recommended approval then turned the podium over to Mr. Nick Mitchell, CDC Brownsville who gave a brief explanation of the program. Mayor David Simmons made a motion for approval of the contract with the CDC Brownsville as presented. Council Member Homer Jasso seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

The President then moved to item 8.B.1.b. - Request to GLO RE: Consideration to Extend Multi-Family & Single Family Rental Benchmarks. Ms. Marcie Oviedo was recognized and informed the Board that the HAC recommended approval to send a letter requesting GLO's consideration to extend Multi-Family & Single Family Rental Benchmarks and noted that a draft letter was in the Board folders for review. Mayor Steve Brewer made a motion to approve sending the letter as presented. Mayor Leo “Polo” Palacios seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action President Garcia moved to item 8.B.1.c. - Outreach & Target Policy. Mr. Jones was recognized and stated that after discussion at the HAC meeting on October 9, consideration was given to the potential expansion of a two (2) mile radius outside the designated fifty-eight (58) target areas. After due consideration the HAC unanimously recommended the Board of Directors approve processing of applications that are already on file for homes located within two (2) miles outside the designated target areas and to include Santa Rosa and the Delta areas. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza raised objections to expanding the radius of the target areas due to the fact that 2,500 applications have already been received and only 815
houses can be built. Upon conclusion of discussion Mayor Steve Brewer made a motion to allow processing of applications within an extended two (2) mile radius of the designated target areas including the Santa Rosa and the Delta areas as recommended by the HAC. Mayor Pro-temp Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried with one vote against by Mayor Pro-temp Armando Garza.

Upon conclusion of discussion and action President Garcia noted that item 8.B.2. - Program Status Report on 2nd Round Disaster Recovery Funding was in the binders for review and moved back on the agenda to item 3.B. - Report(s) from Legislative Delegation; however no legislative representatives were in attendance.

President Garcia then moved to item 3.C. - Presentation RE: Affordable Care Act and recognized Ms. Krista Garcia from the office of Congressman Ruben Hinojosa. Ms. Garcia introduced her co-workers Mr. Robert Sada and Ms. Veronica Martinez. They began a presentation entitled Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) that included an explanation of the ACA, essential health benefits of the program, eligibility requirements, summary of the application process, hardship exemption qualifications, penalties, and the Small Business Health Option Program (SHOP). At the end of the presentation the Board requested each member receive a copy of the presentation to disseminate to their respective communities. No action taken.

Upon conclusion of action President Garcia moved to item 3.D. - Presentation of Quarterly Investment Report. Mayor Pro-temp Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to approve the quarterly investment report as presented. Mr. John Mendoza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Garcia next moved to item 3.E. - Schedule Dates RE: November and December Board Meetings. Mr. John Mendoza made a motion to move the November meeting date to the third Wednesday, November 20, due to the Thanksgiving holiday, and to not schedule a meeting in December due to the Christmas holiday. Mayor Pro-temp Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of Administration items President Garcia moved to item 4. - Regional Police Academy and Training Center Report, Item A. - Status Reports from Police Academy. Due to a pre-scheduled Academy class, Mr. Paul Williams was unable to attend and the President noted that the status report was in the Board folders for review.

President Garcia next moved to item 5. - Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Mr. Joe Gonzalez. Regarding item 5.A.1. - Consider Approval RE: Reduction of FY 2014 Funding Recommendations for Area Agency on Aging Services Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommended approval to reduce the amounts that were approved regarding the Fiscal Year 2014 funding of Older American's Act services. The Area Agency on Aging has received the planning amounts for FY 2014 and the amounts compared to FY 2013 represent a $338,432 reduction. The reductions will not affect both nutrition services because of the amounts that will be carried over from the recent fiscal year. However, the reduction will affect support services with a reduction of $138,974. This is in addition to the amount that cannot be transferred through the categorical transfer. The recommendation is to reduce support services by 5% and caregiver services by 10%. Support services had already been reduced by 5% and caregiver services had not been reduced. The majority of the reduction for support services is being absorbed by Area Agency on Aging direct services and direct purchased services. Mayor Steve Brewer made a motion to approve the reduction of FY 2014 funding recommendations for Area Agency on Aging services. Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez gave the status report on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' site visit.

President Garcia next moved to item 6. - Report from Economic Development Department and noted that Ms. Terrie Salinas was not in attendance and that the status report on the City of Hidalgo's EDA Grant Administration project was in the Board folders for review.
The President then moved to item 7. - Report from Transportation Department and noted that the status report on Ridership and the Regional Transportation Advisory Panel were in the Board folders for review.

President Garcia next moved to item 8. - Report from Regional Planning & Services, regarding item 8.A. - Natural Resources, the President noted that those status reports were in the Board folders for review. Item 8.B. - HUD Disaster Recovery Funding had already been addressed and the President moved to item 9.A. - Act upon Homeland Security Program.

President Garcia noted that item 9.A. - Homeland Security status reports were in the Board folders for review and moved to item 9.B. - Criminal Justice Program. Mayor David Simmons made a motion for approval for all three Criminal Justice Program Action items as presented:

1. Consider Approval RE: Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Revised Policy Manual
2. Consider Approval RE: Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Revised By-laws
3. Consider Approval RE: Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Membership

Council Member Homer Jasso seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Garcia noted that item 9.C. - Metropolitan Medical Response System status report, and item 10. - 9-1-1 Program status reports were also in the Board folders for review and moved to item 11. - Old or New Business. There being no new business to discuss was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

Hon. Norma G. Garcia, President

ATTEST:

Mayor Tony Martinez, 1st Vice-President

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary