MINUTES

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2014 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVD TRANSPORTATION CENTER
510 PLEASANTVIEW DR. - WESLACO, TEXAS

PRESIDING: HON. NORMA G. GARCIA, PRESIDENT

President Norma G. Garcia called the meeting to order at 12:13 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 Garcia then moved to item 2. - Consider Approval of January 29, 2014 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa 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. Julian Alvarez, CEO of the Rio Grande Valley Partnership. Mr. Alvarez informed the Board that on Sunday, March 2 from 1 to 6 p.m., Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. and Representative Eddie Lucio III, in partnership with the Texas Ethics Commission, will host an Ethics Training Symposium at Texas State Technical College’s campus in Harlingen. The President next recognized Ms. Chanel Borrego, Hidalgo County MPO, who informed the Board about the upcoming 4th Annual Walk n Roll scheduled to take place on April 12 at the UTPA Wellness and Recreation Sports Complex.

With the Board’s consent President Garcia moved to item 3.D. - Presentation RE: Meeting and Conference Facilities in McAllen and recognized Mr. Robert Lopez, Director of Sports Tourism and Convention Sales. Mr. Lopez informed the Board of the services and facilities provided by the McAllen Convention and Visitors Bureau. No action.

At 12:38 p.m. the Board went into Executive Session to consult with outside legal counsel pursuant to Tex. Gov. Code § 551.071(1) to discuss pending litigation styled: Claudia M. Wood v. Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, Case 7:14-CV-0054, in United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas. Let the record reflect that Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza abstained from Executive Session as Ms. Wood is currently employed by the City of San Juan. At 12:55 p.m. regular session resumed. No action.

President Garcia next moved to item 3.C. - Report(s) from Legislative Delegation; however no legislative representatives were available to report and the President moved to item 3.E. - Consider Sponsorship of April Regional Water Disaster Conference. Mr. Ron Whitlock was recognized and briefed the Board on the purpose of and plans for this event. Upon conclusion of discussion Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion for the LRGVDC to be a sponsor of this event. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action President Garcia moved to item 3.F. - Consider Approval RE: 2014 Annual Productivity Report. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion for approval of the 2014 Annual Productivity Report as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.
President Garcia then moved to item 4. - Regional Police Academy and Training Center Report and recognized Mr. Paul Williams. Regarding Item A. - Status Reports from Police Academy Mr. Paul Williams noted that the status report was in the 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 of the Program Agreement and Educational Experience Affiliation Agreement with the University of Texas Pan American Mr. Gonzales stated that the Advisory Council recommends approval of these agreements and noted that UTPA’s Rehabilitation Department would focus on elderly and caregiver issues and has approved the Area Agency on Aging (AAoA) and the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) as partners in this endeavor. One of the immediate projects is to conduct a survey with family caregivers. This partnership would also allow the university to offer student volunteers the opportunity to assist with projects that the AAoA and ADRC are sponsoring. Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to approve the Program Agreement and Educational Experience Affiliation Agreement with the University of Texas Pan American as presented. Commissioner Joe D. Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Garcia next moved to item 5.A.2. - Consider Approval of the Area Plan on Aging for Fiscal Years 2015-2016. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Area Plan is the blueprint by which the AAoA plans and implements services that address identified needs for the elderly and/or caregivers. It was the consensus of the Board to hear and act on this item and item 5.A.3. - Act Upon Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) Advisory Council Recommendation; a. The LRGVDC-Foster Grandparent Program changes and additions to the Advisory Council Rules of Function at the same time. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to approve the Area Plan on Aging for Fiscal Years 2015-2016, and the revisions to the Advisory Council Rules of Function as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez gave the status report on CMS allowing the LRGVDC to add another intervention to the Hospital Project.

President Garcia next moved to item 6. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Ms. Terrie Salinas. Ms. Salinas yielded the floor to Mr. Sunny Phillip to give the report on support given for the Mercedes/La Feria proposal on the location of the UT-RGV Administrative Offices. Ms. Salinas then gave the status report on the USDA Farm Bill. Ms. Salinas then turned the floor over to Mr. Robert Saenz, Half & Associates, for the status report on the TWDB Grant “Stormwater Drainage Planning Study for Colonias”.

The President then moved to item 7. - Report from Valley Metro, A.1. - Consider Approval RE: Program Management Plan for 5310 Funding McAllen Urbanized Area and recognized Mr. Tom Logan. Mr. Logan stated that the LRGVDC is the designated recipient for Federal Transit Administration 5310 program funding in the McAllen Urbanized Area for transit projects related to the elderly and disabled. A program management plan, developed with input from the region, is required of all designated recipients. A meeting was held for the interested public in January and the Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization also reviewed and approved the plan. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to approve the Program Management Plan for 5310 Funding McAllen Urbanized Area as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Logan noted that the program status reports on Ridership and the Regional Transportation Advisory Panel activity were in the Board folders for review.

President Garcia next moved to item 8. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Ms. Marcie Oviedo. Regarding item 8.A.2.a. - Consider Solid Waste Advisory Committee Recommendations for SWAC Membership, Ms. Oviedo noted that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee recommends Ms. Quina Rutledge to fill the vacancy in the Private Citizen category. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve Ms. Quina Rutledge to fill the vacancy in the Private Citizen category as recommended by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Mr. John Mendoza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Ms. Oviedo
noted that the status report on Solid Waste Program activities was in the Board folder for review.

President Garcia next moved to item 8.B.1 – Consider Recommendations from Housing Advisory Committee, item a. – Transfer of Funds in Homebuyers Assistance Program (HBA) to Housing Assistance Program (HAP). Ms. Oviedo stated that the Housing Advisory Committee submitted a recommendation to transfer funds in the amount of $4,515,084 from HBA to HAP. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to approve the transfer of $4,515,084 from HBA to HAP as recommended by the Housing Advisory Committee. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

At this point President Garcia excused herself from the meeting and turned the gavel over to Mayor Henry Hinojosa to chair the remainder of the meeting. Chairman Hinojosa next moved to item 8.B.1.b – Establish Deadline to Receive Outreach Forms. Ms. Oviedo stated that the Housing Advisory Committee recommends that February 28, 2014 be designated as the deadline to receive outreach forms. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to designate February 28, 2014 as the deadline to receive outreach forms. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Ms. Oviedo gave the program status reports on the 2nd Round of Disaster Recovery Funding.

Chairman Hinojosa next moved to item 9. – Report from Homeland Security and recognized Mr. Manuel Cruz. Regarding item 9.A.1 – Consider Approval RE: FY 2014 Homeland Security Grant Program Project. Mr. Cruz stated that the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) recommends approval to continue with the previously approved FY 2013 regional investment justification (regional projects), which are: Interoperable Communications, Regional Response Teams and Intelligence and Information Sharing/Critical Infrastructure. Mr. John Mendoza made a motion to approve the FY 2014 Homeland Security Grant Program Project as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz noted that the status reports for Homeland Security Criminal Justice and Metropolitan Medical Response System programs were in the Board folders for review.

Chairman Hinojosa next moved to item 10. – Report from 9-1-1 Department and noted that the program status reports were in the Board folders for review. The Chairman next moved to item 11. – Old or New Business; there being none Mr. John Mendoza made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion and upon a vote the meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

Hon. Norma G. Garcia, President

ATTEST

Mayor Tony Martinez, 1st Vice-President

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary