MINUTES
MEETING OF THE
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2014 - 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 12:11 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 February 26, 2014 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Pilar Garza made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Arturo Ramirez 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. - Presentation of Proclamation Recognizing the Accomplishments and Public Service of Anne Cynthia Leon. President Garcia presented a framed proclamation to Ms. Leon that honors her service to the Texas Public Safety Commission, U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Navy Reserve among others. Accompanying Ms. Leon to celebrate this honor was Major Sean Palmer, Texas Ranger; Captain Juan Rodriguez, Texas Ranger; Lieutenant Richard Rivera, Texas DPS, and Captain Fred Whisenant, Texas DPS.

President Garcia next moved to item 3.B. - Report(s) from Legislative Delegation; however reports were not available at this time.

The President next moved to item 3.C. - Public Comment and recognized Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza who announced the "¡Si Se Puede!" 5K Run/Walk will take place on April 5, 2014 at the Amigos del Valle Building in San Juan. Mr. Manuel Cruz was recognized next and informed the Board that staff has begun work on the 2015-2020 LRGV Regional Strategic Plan. This 5-year plan is updated every two years in order to coincide with the state legislative session.

Upon conclusion of Public Comments President Garcia moved to item 3.D. - Consider Ratification of Executive Committee Action RE: Resolution of Support for Delta Region to Seek Partners to Utilize the Mercado Delta Facility. Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to ratify this Executive Committee action. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action the President moved to item 3.E. - Presentation RE: One Day on Earth Documentary Film Project and recognized Ms. Aarin Hartwell. Ms. Hartwell gave a video presentation on what they have planned for this film and asked the Board’s permission to use the LRGVDC logo to promote this film project. Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to allow the One Day on Earth Documentary Film Project to use the LRGVDC logo to promote the project. Mr. John Mendoza seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Garcia next moved to item 3.F. - Consider Approval RE: Land Lease Agreement and recognized Mr. Victor Morales. Mr. Morales stated that with plans to expand the LRGVDC Main
Office facility there is a need for more parking facilities. This lease agreement is for a paved lot the size of one city block directly across from the main office on Railroad Street. If approved, this lot is large enough to also be utilized by Valley Metro. Commissioner Pilar Garza made a motion to approve the land lease agreement as presented and for the LRGVDC Executive Director to execute said lease agreement. 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 noted that Mr. Paul Williams was not able to attend due to training, but 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 RE: Changes in the Vendor Agreements with Palomita Primary Home Care and Med Team Inc. Mr. Joe Gonzalez was recognized and informed the board that the reason for this change is that Palomita Primary Home Care was acquired by Med Team, Inc. and the provider identification and license numbers are not the same; if approved this change will be effective April 1, 2014. Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the changes in the vendor agreements with Palomita Primary Home Care and Med Team, Inc. as recommended by the Advisory Council. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Garcia next moved to item 5.A.2. – Program Status Reports. Mr. Gonzalez noted that the 17th Annual Centenarian Recognition is scheduled for May 9, 2014. The Social Security Administration has identified over 90 centenarians in the South Texas four-county area.

President Garcia next moved to item 6. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Mr. Ken Jones for Ms. Terrie Sainas. Regarding item 6.A.1. – Consider Approval RE: City of Alton’s Membership Nomination to the Regional Small Cities Coalition, Mr. Jones stated that the Coalition unanimously approved membership of the City of Alton. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza made a motion to approve the City of Alton’s Membership Nomination to the Regional Small Cities Coalition. Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

The President then moved to item 7. - Report from Valley Metro Program Status Report and recognized Mr. Tom Logan. Mr. Logan stated that the regular status report was in the Board folders and mentioned that Valley Metro added Route 12 to the Delta Area, Edinburg and Weslaco.

President Garcia next moved to item 8. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Ms. Marcie Oviedo. Regarding item 8.A.2.a. – Consider Recommendation from the Solid Waste Advisory Committee RE: Solid Waste Implementation Project Ranking. Ms. Oviedo turned the floor over to Mr. Ramiro Gomez, SWAC Chairman. Mr. Gomez stated that the SWAC met on February 13 to review and rank FY 2014-2015 Solid Waste Implementation Projects. TCEQ funding available for 2014 projects is $220,235. A total of twenty-six applications were received, eleven were deemed ineligible and fifteen were scored and ranked. The SWAC recommends approval of the scoring and ranking as presented. Commissioner Pilar Garza made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Implementation Project Ranking as presented. Mayor Victor Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Ms. Oviedo noted that the status report was in the folders for review.

President Garcia next moved to item 8.B.1. – HUD Disaster Recovering Funding, 1. Program Status Report on 2nd Round Disaster Recovery Funding and Ms. Oviedo noted that report was also in the Board folders for review.
1. Consider Approval RE: HSAC Recommendations of the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan – LRGVDC Implementation Plan for 2014. Mr. Cruz stated that the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan directs agencies with homeland security responsibilities to develop annual homeland security implementation plans that delineate specific actions and deadlines for the forthcoming fiscal year to implement the priority actions of the State’s strategic plan. Implementation plans will include actions that are linked to performance measures and implication milestones. Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the HSAC recommendations of the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan – LRGVDC Implementation Plan for 2014 as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion was passed unanimously.

2. Consider Approval RE: Reallocation of $50,000 from LRGVDC Planning funds to the City of Brownsville. Mr. Cruz stated that due to the impending April 30 deadline of the FY 2012 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), the HSAC recommends approval for the reallocation of FY 2012 SHSP planning Funds. The LRGVDC’s goal is to be able to maximize funding by requesting a grant extension for the purpose of reallocating funding to the City of Brownsville for the purchase of additional equipment that will be used to fully outfit their Urban Search and Rescue Trailer that will be purchased with FY 2013 SHSP funding. Mayor Chris Boswell made a motion to approve the reallocation of $50,000 from LRGVDC planning funds to the City of Brownsville as recommended by the HSAC. Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

3. Consider Approval for Executive Committee to Act RE: FY 2014 LRGVDC Homeland Security Grant Program Applications and Allocations. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the guidelines for the application cycle of the FY 2014 HSGP were released on March 14, 2014 and is expected to close on April 11, 2014. The HSAC is scheduled to meet on April 4, 2014 to review and prioritize grant applications. Due to the State’s stringent deadlines for FY 2014 HSGP, staff is requesting Board approval to obtain Executive Committee approval on the HSAC recommendation that will be decided after the HSAC Subcommittee conducts their review. Commissioner Pilar Garza made a motion to authorize the Executive Committee to act on the FY 2014 LRGVDC Homeland Security Grant Program applications and allocations. Mayor Victor Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

4. Consider Approval RE: Resolution Requesting Percentage Increase to the FY 2014 LRGVDC Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Planning Statement of Work. Mr. Cruz stated that in March staff received guidance from the State Administrative Agency (SAA) regarding the FY 2014 HSGP which includes COG Planning and M & A projects caps. Of the total awarded for the region, M & A expenditures are limited to five percent (5%). The LRGVDC must also submit an application for planning activities which cannot exceed 15%. Additional funding above the 15% for staff planning activities may be requested by the LRGVDC, but must be approved by the LRGVDC Board of Directors. In total, the maximum of 25% from the previous year’s minimum regional allocation of $432,075.00 is being requested with an additional 10% above the 25% cap will be submitted for SAA consideration. This will continue funding up to three staff members to conduct homeland security regional planning activities. Mr. Don Medina made a motion to approve the resolution requesting percentage increase to the FY 2014 LRGVDC Homeland Security Grant Program Planning Statement of Work as
presented. Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

5. Status Report, Mr. Cruz noted that the Homeland Security Status Reports are in the Binders for review.

Upon conclusion of action on the Homeland Security Program President Garcia moved to item 9.B. – Criminal Justice Program.

1. Consider Approval RE: LRGVDC Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan & Executive Summary. Mr. Cruz stated that in accordance with the Governor’s Criminal Justice Division Interagency Contract deliverables, staff created a strategic plan for prioritizing the criminal Justice needs in the COG region. The criminal justice needs relevant to this plan include, but are not limited to, criminal justice system improvements, juvenile justice system improvements, direct victim services, and mental health/substance abuse treatment. Staff’s strategy for this process, with pre-approval from the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC), is to utilize existing documents such as the three-county community plans that were last updated in FY 2011 for the development of the Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan. Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the LRGVDC Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan & Executive Summary as presented. Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Consider Approval RE: FY 2014-2015 Criminal Justice Program Prioritization Scoring Tool. Mr. Cruz stated that in accordance with the Governor’s Criminal Justice Division Interagency Contract the CJAC reviewed and included additional scoring criteria to the State’s Scoring tool. The additional scoring criteria include the local priorities and LRGVDC’s goals and objectives related to criminal justice issues within the region. Mr. Don Medina made a motion to approve the 2014-2015 Criminal Justice Program Prioritization Scoring tool as presented. Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

3. Program Status Report. Mr. Cruz noted that the program status reports were in the Board folder for review.

President Garcia next moved to item 9.C. – Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)

1. Consider Approval RE: Proposal and Statement of Work from the Litaker Group for the Development of the FY 2013 Regional Mass Fatality Plan. Mr. Cruz stated that the MMRS meet on March 6 to review and approve the Mass Fatality Preparedness Grant Statement of Work (SOW) submitted by The Litaker Group in the total amount of $100,000. The project will address the need for a Regional Mass Fatality Plan that will help maximize first responder capabilities in fatality management to support multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional response in recovery efforts for all-hazards including terrorist attacks, CBRNE events, urban search and rescue, and those events that require a regional response. Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to approve the Proposal and Statement of Work from the Litaker Group for the development of the FY 2013 Regional Mass Fatality Plan. Council Member Richard Molina seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Status Report. Mr. Cruz noted that the MMRS status report was in the Board binders for review.
Upon conclusion of action of the Homeland Security items President Garcia moved to item 10. Report from 9-1-1 Department and recognized Mr. Juan Gomez. Mr. Gomez noted that the standard status reports were in the folders. The President next moved to item 11. – Old or New Business; there being none Mr. Gale Armstrong made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Hon. Norma G. Garcia, President

[Signature]
Mayor Tony Martinez, 1st Vice-President

[Signature]
Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

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