MINUTES

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2016 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGBDC MAIN CAMPUS - 301 W. RAILROAD ST., WESLACO, TEXAS
KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: MAYOR TONY MARTINEZ, PRESIDENT

President Tony Martinez called the meeting to order at 12:04 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. The President then moved to item 2. – Consider Approval of August 24, 2016 Meeting Minutes. Executive Director Ron Garza stated that there was a revision to the August 24 minutes since they were distributed to the Board in September. The revision is an additional sentence on page 4, paragraph 3, at the end of line 3 and reads: “The record reflects that Mayor Chris Boswell did not participate in Executive Session”. Mayor Celeste Sanchez made a motion to approve the August 24, 2016 meeting as revised. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes President Martinez moved to item 3.A. - Report from Legislative Delegation, however no reports were provided. The President then moved to item 3.B. – Public Comment and recognized Mr. Steve Taylor, reporter for the Rio Grande Guardian who informed the Board that a forum called RGV Legislative Preview is scheduled at the Weslaco Public Library Auditorium on November 15, 2016 at 6:30 pm. LRGBDC Executive Director Ron Garza is one of five speakers scheduled for this event. Mr. Garza will highlight the 2017-2022 Regional Strategic Plan. Other speakers include: Veronica Gonzalez, Vice President of UTRGV; Michael Seifert, Network Weaver of RGVEVN; Sergio Contreras, President of RGV Partnership; and Matt Ruszczak, Executive Director of RESTEC. Mr. Taylor encouraged the Board to attend this important event.

President Martinez then moved to item 3.C. – Consider Ratification of Executive Committee Approval RE: LRGBDC 2015 Annual Audit. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to ratify Executive Committee approval of the LRGBDC 2015 Annual Audit. Mr. Ron Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

The President next moved to item 3.D. – Consider Ratification of Executive Committee Approval RE: Assisted Living Facility (ALF) Coverage Agreement. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to ratify Executive Committee approval of the Assisted Living Facility Coverage Agreement. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Martinez next moved to item 3.E. – Consider Scheduling Nominating Committee Meeting to Fill Vacancies RE: Secretary Seat and Member-at-Large (Membership). Mr. Garza informed the Board that there are currently two vacancies on the Board of Directors: one as a Board
Member and one as the Secretary on the Executive Committee and explained that the City of Edinburg has appointed Councilman Homer Jasso, Jr. in place of Councilman Richard Molina. Councilman Molina held the Secretary’s seat and the office goes with the individual, not the entity, which leaves this vacancy on the Executive Committee. Mr. Steve Brewer has resigned his seat as a Member-at-Large of the Membership reducing the Board from twenty-six members to twenty-five. Action by the Membership is required in order to fill both of these vacancies. The next regular meeting of the Membership is scheduled for January 2017 when they consider action on the Annual Work Program and Budget. In order to fill these vacancies Mr. Garza suggested combining a Nominating Committee meeting with the Annual Work Program & Budget Committee meeting in mid-January. In addition to recommendations on the Annual Work Program and Budget, the joint committee would bring recommendations to the Membership on three nomination items: 1) Appoint a new Member-at-Large to the Membership, 2) Select a Member-at-Large to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors, and 3) Nominate a Board Member as Secretary. All three of these nominations would be to complete the 2016-2017 term of each seat. Another option is to leave these positions vacant until the May Membership Meeting. President Martinez recommended filling the vacancies. **Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to take these items to a joint Nominating/Annual Work Program & Budget Committee meeting to develop a recommendation to bring before the Membership in January 2017. Mayor Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Martinez next moved to item 3.F. – Consider Appointment of Board Designees and alternates to Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) and Corporation for Texas Regionalism (CTR). **The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to appoint Mr. Javier De Leon as the designee to represent LRGVDC on the TARC Board of Directors and Mayor Jim Darling as his alternate; and to appoint Mayor Darling as the designee to represent LRGVDC on the CTR Board of Directors and for Mr. De Leon to serve as his alternate. Mayor Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

The President next moved to item 3.G. – Consider Annual Adoption of Investment Policy. Finance Director Crystal Balboa was recognized and stated that the policy had been provided to the Board and that she recommends re-adoption. **Commissioner Sofia Benavides made a motion to adopt the Annual Investment Policy as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Martinez next moved to item 3.H. – Presentation of Quarterly Investment Report. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the Quarterly Investment Report as presented. Mr. Ron Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Ms. Balboa informed the Board that she followed up on their request to look into the possibility of switching from TexPool to TexPool Prime in order to earn more interest. Ms. Balboa contacted Mr. Ed Sanchez with TexPool and he offered to give a presentation at the next Board meeting on the process of switching from TexPool to TexPool Prime. Changing would involve consideration of a resolution packet and other items that should be thoroughly vetted and considered by the Board and/or the Executive Committee prior to taking action.

The President moved next to item 3.I. – Consider Dates for November and December Board Meetings. Mr. Garza suggested scheduling the next Board meeting on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, the first week in December, which fits nicely between Thanksgiving and Christmas. **The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to schedule the next meeting on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 12:00 noon, and to not schedule a meeting in November. Mr. Ron Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
The President then moved to item 3.J. – Executive Director Report and recognized Mr. Garza to address the following items:

1. Strategic Plan/Transportation Discussion Event (October 27)
   Mr. Garza announced that the Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) will be unveiled to an event that legislators and transportation providers have been invited to. The RSP will be used as the basis for a discussion around transportation. All public transportation providers in this region are operating at capacity, and these discussions will lay the framework for additional resources. Mr. Garza invited the Board to attend the event that will begin at 2:00 p.m.

2. Conference Activities
   Mr. Garza informed the Board that on October 7 he spoke at South Texas College’s Innovation Conference. He was in San Antonio during the third week of October to attend the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Annual Training Conference. During the conference, on October 18 he attended the President’s Award Dinner at which former Executive Director Ken Jones received the President’s Award for Lifetime Achievement in Public Service. Additionally, last week Mr. Garza spoke at the governors’ small business forum in Brownsville.

3. Large Cities Coalition (Upcoming Meeting – November 1)
   Mr. Garza reminded those Board Members who are also on the Large Cities Coalition that the meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 1 and that it will be a Marketing Workshop to provide options on how to promote the Rio Grande Valley in a positive light.

4. Regional Spot Light
   a. McAllen Chamber of Commerce
      Mr. Garza turned the floor over to Mr. Steve Ahlenius, President & CEO of McAllen Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Ahlenius informed the Board that two years ago he was at an event with UTRGV, City of Edinburg and the City of McAllen and out of that event Mayor Jim Darling suggested that instead of individual cities going separately to Rio Grande Valley Day at the Capitol that the cities should go as a region to have strength in numbers. He then summarized issues that were developed over the last six months that will be discussed with legislators. The McAllen Chamber is organizing a group trip to Austin on February 7, 2016 for Rio Grande Valley Day in Austin and has invited all Valley Cities. He explained sponsorship opportunities and the cost for individuals to attend as well as various topics that will be discussed at the Capitol.

Upon conclusion of Administration items President Martinez moved to item 4. – Report from 9-1-1 Department and recognized Program Director Sergio Castro. Mr. Castro stated that the regular status reports were on the Board tablets and pointed out that the Public Education and Training Departments have been combined. He announced that the local GIS Day will be held at the McAllen Convention Center on November 18 and that Healthy Dispatcher Telecommunicator Training will be held at the 9-1-1 offices on November 21 – 23 and is open to local entities at no cost.
President Martinez next moved to item 5. – Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Program Director Joe Gonzalez. Under item A. – Act upon Area Agency on Aging (AAoA) Advisory Council Recommendations, Mr. Gonzalez addressed the following action items:

1. Consider Approval of Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with Life ElderCare (Home Delivered Meal Program)
   Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that Life ElderCare is a Meals-on-Wheels program in Fremont, California. They are in the process of applying to the MacArthur Foundation for a $100 million grant to implement a specialized home delivered meals program. Life ElderCare staff contacted the Area Agency on Aging because they want to have a cross section of the county represented in this project. The Area Agency on Aging’s participation in the hospital readmission project and partnership with the hospitals is what they are interested in and why they would like LRGVDC staff to participate in this program. The Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council recommends approval of this item.  
   Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the MOU with Life ElderCare as presented. Mayor Pro-temp Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Consider Approval to Authorize LRGVDC Executive Director to Sign all Applications and Agreements for CDBG Funding
   Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommends approval to authorize Executive Director Ron Garza to sign all Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications and contracts on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging. This action is meant to satisfy a requirement from the cities that want to know who has the signatory authority for the organization.  
   The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to authorize LRGVDC Executive Director Ron Garza to sign all CDBG applications and contracts on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging as recommended by the Advisory Council. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

3. Consider Approval to Authorize Area Agency on Aging to Submit Categorical Transfer Waiver to HHSC
   Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Older Americans Act limits the amount of funds that can be transferred from the congregate meal (Title III-C1) category to the support services (Title III-B) category to 30%. Throughout the years the need for additional support services has increased yet the appropriations have had minimal increases compared to the meal programs. Title III-B funds support programs such as: case management, ombudsman, legal assistance/awareness, information, referral, and assistance, transportation, residential modifications, homemaker, health maintenance, evidence-based interventions, and senior center operations.  
   Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to authorize the Area Agency on Aging to submit a Categorical Transfer Waiver to HHSC. Mayor Pro-temp Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez stated that the regular status report was on the Board tablets for review.

President Martinez next moved to item 6. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Program Director Terrie Salinas who addressed item 1. – Consider Request from Weslaco Economic Development Corporation to be Grant Administrator for the Center for Innovation and Commercialization. Ms. Salinas reported that last month the Weslaco EDC and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) accepted and signed the Economic Development...
Administration’s (EDA) Financial Assistance award for building and construction of the Center for Innovation and Commercialization (CIC). The CIC will provide businesses with incubator space while creating an entrepreneurial eco-system that will provide the resources for new venture candidates. It will provide students with training in entrepreneurship-related courses and the technical, financial, and entrepreneurial support to start a business. For businesses that demonstrate a strong entrepreneurial spirit and a sound understanding of the venture process the CIC will also help prepare their pitch to potential investors. The Lower Rio Grande Valley Economic Development District (LRGVEDD) has received a request from the Weslaco EDC to help them administer this grant. As per the EDA program, economic development districts are eligible to administer EDA grants and charge this cost to the grant project. The administrative assistance provided to the grantee by the LRGVEDD is an excellent opportunity for cities to save their revenue and staff time so they can plan for other developments or city projects. Staff has prepared a contract for professional services for consideration. Ms. Salinas turned the floor over to Ms. Marie McDermott, Weslaco EDC Executive Director, who stated that this is a big project and that the LRGVDC is a huge help to get the project off the ground and to see it through to completion.

Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to approve the request from Weslaco EDC for the LRGVDC to be the grant administrator for the CIC. Mr. Ron Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Ms. Salinas summarized the status report on the Regional Small Cities Coalition.

President Martinez then moved to item 7. – Report from Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO). Mr. Garza was recognized and reported that at the last Policy Committee meeting TxDOT presented framework of a proposal for possible government guidance for the MPO merger. He also informed the Board that the HCMPO staff is available for any legislative agenda items to provide technical assistance in terms of generating priority discussions.

President Martinez next moved to item 8. – Report from Homeland Security and recognized Program Director Manuel Cruz. Regarding item A.1. – Consider Approval RE: Regional Homeland Security Planning Project Resolution 09-01-2017 – 08-31-2018, Mr. Cruz stated that as required by the Homeland Security Grant Divisions (HSGD) grant guidelines, applications from non-profit organizations, local governments, and other political subdivisions must include a resolution in their eGrants application. Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the Regional Homeland Security Planning Project Resolution 09-01-2017 – 08-31-2018 as presented. Mayor Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz gave the status reports for the Homeland Security Program and the Criminal Justice Program.

The President next moved to item 9. – Regional Planning & Services and recognized Program Director Marcie Oviedo who stated that there were no action items for her programs and that the status reports for Environmental Resources and the HUD Disaster Recovery Funding programs were on the Board tablets for review.

President Martinez next moved to item 10. – Report from Regional Police Academy and Training Center and recognized Mr. Garza. He informed the Board that he sent out a press release announcing that the first Police Academy had begun, and that Mr. Cruz is the interim training coordinator. He thanked the cities of Edinburg, Mission, McAllen, and Harlingen for their support to the Regional Police Academy.

The President next moved to item 11 - Report from Valley Metro and recognized Program Director Tom Logan. Mr. Logan stated that the regular status reports were on the Board tablets for review.
and announced that there has been a 13% increase in ridership and that Valley Metro has reached a major milestone this year by surpassing 500,000 in ridership. Mr. Logan also announced that the kick off for the Regional Transportation Advisory Panel and consultants will work on it.

President Martinez then moved to item 12. – Old or New Business; there being none Mayor Celeste Sanchez made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Sofia Benavides seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 12:54 pm.

Mayor Tony Martinez, President

ATTEST:

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary