MINUTES

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2012 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER
510 PLEASANTVIEW DR. - WESLACO, TEXAS
PRESIDING: MAYOR PRO-TEM EDDY GONZALEZ, PRESIDENT

President Eddy Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and asked Mr. Ken Jones to call roll. Upon conclusion of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum was present and the President moved to item 2. – Consider Approval RE: March 29, 2012 Meeting Minutes. The Honorable Norma G. Garcia made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented; Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

The President then moved to item 3.A. - Public Comments and recognized:
- Mr. Robert Jeffrey who informed the Board of concerns regarding Valley Metro.
- Korina Barraza, Cameron County District Attorney’s Office, who informed the Board that she wished to appeal the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee’s (CJAC’s) grant ranking decision.
- Mr. Robert Garcia, City of Pharr Police Department Account Analyst, who was not in agreement with the CJAC grant ranking.
- Cynthia V. Jilote, Cameron County Crime Victims Assistance Program, who informed the Board that she wished to appeal the CJAC grant ranking decision.
- Katie Walters, Advocacy Alliance of Texas, who informed the Board of the Alliance’s efforts to increase voter awareness via public announcement.

Upon conclusion of Public Comments the President moved to item 3.B. – Appointment of 2012-2013 Nominating Committee. Mr. Jones noted that the proposed 2012 Nominating Committee members list was revised from the 2011 list and included updates to the elected officials. Mayor David Simmons recommended the inclusion of Council Member Gus Garcia, City of Edinburg; and Commissioners Jerry Tafolla, City of Weslaco and Jim Darling, City of McAllen indicated they would like to be members of the Nominating Committee. The Honorable Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the Nominating Committee with revisions. Mr. Roberto Loredo seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 3.C. – Schedule Meeting Dates
1. Nominating Committee Meeting
   Mayor Chris Boswell made a motion to hold the Nominating Committee meeting on Thursday, May 10, 2012 at 12:00 p.m. Commissioner Jerry Tafolla seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. May Membership Meeting for Board Elections
   Mayor Chris Boswell made a motion to schedule the May Membership meeting on May 24, 2012 immediately following the May Board meeting.

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Upon conclusion of action President Gonzalez moved to item 3.D. Presentation of Quarterly Investment Report. *Mr. Roberto Loredo made a motion to approve the Quarterly Investment Report as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

The President next moved to item 3.E. – Consider Approval of Resolution RE: ING Participant Retirement Plan. Mr. Joe Gonzalez was recognized and informed the Board that over the past year the LRGVDC Program Directors, as authorized by Mr. Ken Jones, had examined the Employee Retirement Plan that had been in existence since 1992. The directors requested the assistance of Group Health and Benefits Administrators (GHBA), the current plan administrators, to evaluate the retirement plan and review other options to potentially better serve LRGVDC employees. The existing plan was a Trustee Directed Profit Sharing Plan that did not allow employees an opportunity to contribute to their own retirement and staff recommended to amend the plan to a Participant Directed Profit Sharing Plan that allowed employees more flexibility in planning for their retirement. *Mayor Chris Boswell made a motion to approve the resolution for the ING Participant Directed Retirement Plan. Commissioner Gus Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

The President next moved to item 4. - Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Mr. Joe Gonzalez. Regarding item - 4.A.1. – Consider Approval to Provide Funding to the City of La Joya and Senior Community Outreach Services, Inc. RE: Purchase of Vans, Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommended approval of the request from the City of La Joya and the Senior Community Services Inc. for funding to purchase a fifteen (15) passenger van. The City of La Joya will use the van to replace an old one used by the La Joya Senior Center. Senior Community Services Inc. will use the van to provide transportation to their Senior Companion volunteers and the clients that the volunteers serve. Both organizations are to provide the match and operating costs. *The Honorable Norma G. Garcia made a motion for approval of the purchase of a fifteen (15) passenger van as recommended by the Advisory Council. Commissioner Hector “Tito” Palacios seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.* Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Area Agency on Aging status reports were in the Board folders for review.


President Gonzalez next moved to item 5.B. – Regional Economic Adjustment Plan (EAP) and Ms. Salinas gave a detailed report on the status of this project.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 5.B.2.a. – Report on Joint Steering and Technical Committee Meeting of April 5, 2012. Ms. Sharlotte Teague was recognized and reported on what transpired during that meeting.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 5.B.2.b. – Consider Approval of Regional EAP Committees’ Recommendation to Establish an Economic Development Sub-Committee. Ms. Teague stated that during the April 5 meeting the Joint Committees proposed creation of a subcommittee of economic agencies and organizations to review available data on disaster assessment. This data would provide a monetary value to the economic impact should a major structure be damaged and inoperable for a long period of time. It was proposed that the subcommittee be lead by a member from both the Steering Committee and Technical Committee. Nominated members would be
formulated from the following entities: One (1) member from the Steering Committee; One (1) member from the Technical Committee; four (4) members from an Economic Development Corporation – one from each county; two (2) members from a higher education institution; three (3) members from a chamber of commerce – small, medium and large; and one (1) member as a colonia advocate which would compose a twelve (12) member subcommittee. Ms. Teague then made a request for nominations from the Board. President Gonzalez stated that as this was the first the Board had heard of the proposed subcommittee that nominees would need to be carefully considered and recommended at a later meeting. However, Mayor Chris Boswell made a motion to approve establishment of the subcommittee and to authorize the Executive Committee to select the members. The Honorable Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action President Gonzalez moved to item 5.B.2.c. – Consider Approval of Regional EAP Committees’ Recommendation to Establish a Regional Storm Water Control District. The President recognized Mr. David Mendez who gave a presentation on the Regional Economic Adjustment Plan for Building Disaster Resilient Communities regarding “Governmental Entities to Operate, Facilitate, and Maintain the LRGV Regional EAP”. Upon conclusion of discussion on the report by Mr. Mendez, it was the consensus of the Board that the region continue to research and deliberate a method of coordination for implementation of the Regional Economic Adjustment Plan, and that creation of a new governmental entity not be recommended at this time. Mayor Chris Boswell so moved and Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Gonzalez then moved to item 6. - Report from Transportation Department and recognized Mr. Tom Logan. With the Board’s permission Mr. Logan brought forth three LRGVDC Valley Metro drivers who participated in the 2012 Texas State Bus Roadshow. Mr. Ruben Ruiz achieved 6th place, and Mr. James Salazar and Mr. Fred Castillo had respectable showings in their first Roadshow competition against large cities such as Dallas, San Antonio and Houston. Mr. Logan presented each driver with a certificate of appreciation. The President then moved to item 6.A.1. – Consider Approval RE: Interlocal Agreement with the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) for an Operations Analysis & Service Plan (Scheduled 3/29/12). The Honorable Norma G. Garcia made a motion to take this item off the table. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Logan informed the Board that the Transit Department was requesting approval to authorize the LRGVDC Executive Director, Mr. Ken Jones, to enter into negotiations and execute an Interlocal contract with the Texas Transportation Institute, a branch of the Texas A&M University system, for an operational analysis and service plan for Valley Metro. The project would include a cost allocation and funding model, an outreach strategy, a planning toolkit, and implementation workshops. The Texas Department of Transportation supports the project by fully funding a related analysis of current operations and a plan for future transit growth.

Commissioner Jerry Tafolla made a motion for approval of the Interlocal Agreement with TTI for an Operations Analysis & Service Plan as presented. The Honorable Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action the President moved to item 6.A.2. – Consider Resolution of Support RE: City of Edinburg New Freedom Project. Mr. Logan stated that the Transit Department was requesting a resolution of support on behalf of the City of Edinburg’s 2012 New Freedom project, which would improve access and mobility for disabled transit riders in Edinburg. The project would include improvements along transit routes to sidewalks and intersections that go beyond what was required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Improvements are to include renovation of sidewalks, ADA ramps, and signals near and around Closner Street. The total project cost is approximately $400,000 ($320,000 ADA and $80,000 City of Edinburg). Mr. Javier Deleon made a motion for approval of the resolution of support for the City of Edinburg New Freedom Project. Commissioner Jerry Tafolla seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion  

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carried unanimously.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 6.A.3. – Consider Resolution of Support RE: Valley Metro Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Projects. Mr. Logan stated that the Transit Department was requesting a resolution of support for its 2012 JARC projects, which would be submitted as one application for funding to the Hidalgo County MPO. The projects were designed to improve transit services to people of low-income who need access to jobs, training, school, and other destinations. The project includes the continuation of a travel training program with Migrant Health Promotion, and addition of JARC route(s) in Edinburg. Board approval was being requested to continue refinement of project descriptions and a budget of up to the total available funding amount of approximately $979,250 in order to meet the April 27 application deadline. **Commissioner Jerry Tafolla made a motion for approval of the resolution of support re: Valley Metro JARC projects as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Logan stated that the Status Reports were in the Board folders for review.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 7. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Ms. Marcie Oviedo. Ms. Oviedo noted that the status reports for 7.A.1. - Water and 7.A.2. - Solid Waste Management were in the Board folders for review.

The President next moved to item 7.B. – HUD Disaster Recovery Funding; item 1. – Consider Approval of GLO Contract for Round 2.2 CDBG Disaster Recovery Funding (Tabled 3/29/2012). Staff had not yet received the GLO contract and requested this item remain on the table.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 7.B.2. – Consider Approval of Fair Housing Resolution. **Mr. Roberto Loreda made a motion for approval of the Fair Housing Resolution as presented. Commissioner Jerry Tafolla seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action the President moved to item 7.B.3. – Consider Approval to Amend URS Budget for City of Brownsville Round 1 Disaster Recovery Housing Program. Ms. Oviedo stated that this request was the result of a decision that was made to develop the survey, elevation certificate, foundation engineering and windstorm engineering requirements by URS and not the successful bidder. The result was that the delivery of the homes would be expedited approximately 30-45 days since this work had already been performed. The deliverables would be included in the bid packages and the program would not require the builder to procure these services and provide the deliverables post award. **The Honorable Norma G. Garcia made a motion for approval to amend the URS budget for the City of Brownsville Round 1 Disaster Recovery Housing Program as presented. Commissioner Jerry Tafolla seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Ms. Oviedo stated that the status report was in the Board folders for review.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 8. – Homeland Security and recognized Mr. Manuel Cruz. Regarding item 8.A.1. – Homeland Security Advisory Committee Status Reports, Mr. Cruz stated that they were in the Board folders for review.

The President next moved to 8.B. – Criminal Justice Program. Regarding item 8.B.1. – Consider Approval RE: General Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program Priority Listing and Resolution. Mr. Cruz stated that the CJAC Convened on April 10 to recommend the General Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program grant priority listing, and applications were submitted to the Office of the Governor’s Criminal Justice Division with a total request from the region of $679,435.45. There was much debate regarding the ranking of the grants and several appeals to change the ranking. The Board heard all arguments and determined that the ranking the
CJAC recommended to the Board for approval was fair and reasonable. Upon conclusion of discussion it was the consensus of the Board to act on items 8.B.1. – Consider Approval RE: General Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program Priority Listing and Resolution, 8.B.2. – Consider Approval RE: Criminal Justice Program Priority Listing and Resolution, 8.B.3. – Consider Approval RE: General Victim Assistance Grant Priority Listing and Resolution, and 8.B.4. – Consider Approval RE: Violent Crimes Against Women Criminal Justice & Training Projects Priority Listing and Resolution all together. Mayor Chris Boswell made a motion to approve items 8.B.1. – 4. as presented. Mayor Leo "Polo" Palacios seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried, with one vote against. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz stated that item 8.B.5. - Criminal Justice Program status reports were in the Board folders along with item 8.C.1. – Metropolitan Medical Response System Status Reports.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 9. - 9-1-1 Department and recognized Mr. Juan Gomez. Regarding Item 9.A. – Consider Approval to Authorize the Executive Director to Amend Lease Agreement with City of Weslaco RE: 119 East 5th St. Mr. Gomez stated that currently the lease agreement was for a fixed rent rate of $10.00 per year. This amendment, should the Board approve, would reflect the amount the LRGVDC 9-1-1 Department would contribute to make necessary building repairs for a 12 month period. The agreement would go back to its original terms after the first year and for the remainder of the 5 year lease. Mayor Chris Boswell made a motion for approval to authorize the Executive Director to amend the Lease Agreement with the City of Weslaco for the 119 East 5th Street location. The Honorable Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gomez stated the status reports were in the Board folders for review.

The President next moved to item 10. - Regional Police Academy and Training Center and recognized Mr. Paul Williams who summarized the Status Reports from the Police Academy.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 11. - Old or New Business; there being no further business to come before the Board, President Gonzalez adjourned the meeting at 2:43 p.m.

\[Signature\]

MAYOR PRO-TEM EDDY GONZALEZ, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

\[Signature\]

HON. NORMA G. GARCIA, 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

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