MINUTES

MEETING OF THE
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2010 - 2:00 P.M.
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER
510 S. PLEASANTVIEW DR. - WESLACO, TEXAS
PRESIDING: MAYOR CHRIS BOSWELL, PRESIDENT

Mayor Chris Boswell was unable to attend this meeting and 1st Vice President Alvin Samano, presiding in his stead, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and asked Mr. Ken Jones to call roll. At the end of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum of the Board was present.

Vice President Samano then moved to agenda item 2. – Consider Approval RE: June 24, 2010 Meeting Minutes. Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion for approval of 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, Vice President Samano moved to item 3.A. – Public Comment and recognized Mr. Robert Jeffery. Mr. Jeffery brought to the Board’s attention issues regarding McAllen Express bus pick up schedules and problems with the air conditioning on some LRGVDC busses.

Upon conclusion of Public Comments Vice President Samano moved to item 3.B. – Consider Ratification of Executive Committee Action RE: Transit Services Drug & Alcohol Free Workplace Policy Amendments. Mayor Pro-tem Lupe Rodriguez made a motion to ratify this Executive Committee action. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on item 3.B., Vice President Samano moved to item 3.C. – Discussion and Consideration of Changing Board Meeting Start Time. Vice President Samano noted that at the last meeting President Chris Boswell recommended addressing this topic. Mr. Jones noted some of the reasons brought forth for potentially scheduling a start time earlier than 2:00 p.m. Upon conclusion of discussion Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to table this item until the next meeting when President Boswell could more thoroughly address it. Mayor Steve Brewer seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

The Vice President next moved to item 3.D. – Consider Annual Adoption of LRGVDC’s Investment Policy. Mr. Jones stated that this is an annual requirement and staff recommends no change to what is currently in place. Mayor David Simmons made a motion for approval of LRGVDC’s Investment Policy as presented. Mr. Arturo Ramirez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action Vice President Samano moved to item 3.E. – Presentation of Quarterly Investment Report. Mr. Jones summarized the report and at the conclusion of the summary Council Member Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion for approval of the Quarterly Investment Report as presented. Commissioner Sofia Benavides seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.
Vice President Samano next moved to item 3.F. – Consider Recommendation to member Governments RE: Texas Gas Service Company’s Rate Filing Pursuant to the Cost of Service Adjustment Tariff (COSA) and recognized Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones reported that staff recommends taking no action on the COSA filing. Mr. Kevin Pagan, City Attorney of McAllen, who has coordinated the Valley Cities’ review of and response to the TGS filing, recommends that each City served by TGS take no action and allow the proposed rates to become effective. While the Cities’ consultant does recommend several adjustments to the TGS filing, the end result would be a savings of about a dime or less on a monthly basis for the average residential customers. The insignificant financial impact of Cities’ continued efforts, if successful, does not appear to be worth the effort and expense of negotiation with the Company and passage of rate ordinances by each City. Upon conclusion of this report no action was taken.

Vice President Samano next moved to item 3.G. – Consider Approval RE: Application for Grant Funding from HUD and recognized Mr. Andrew Canon, Director of the Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization. Mr. Canon informed the Board that HUD released a $98 million planning grant opportunity. This is a regional application and not only applies to transportation planning; this is an all-encompassing opportunity for the region with an application deadline of August 23, 2010. Staff is seeking approval to authorize Mr. Ken Jones to sign on as part of the partnership agreement once all the organizations are identified. The region will have a greater chance of being awarded this funding if a consortium of organizations is created and working through the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, a regional organization, is the logical way forward as this grant includes Willacy and Cameron Counties, as well as Hidalgo County. At the conclusion of Mr. Canon’s presentation Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to authorize Mr. Ken Jones to execute the partnership agreements for the Grant Funding from HUD. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon further discussion Mr. Ramirez amended his motion to include that the Board of Directors support similar resolutions from Cameron and Willacy Counties to have pre-authorization in place should the opportunity arise prior to the next Board meeting. Mayor Pro-tem Gonzalez seconded the amended motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action, Vice President Samano moved to item 4.A. – TRACS Report from Professional Advisory Review Panel (PARP) and recognized Mr. Oscar Cuellar. Mr. Cuellar informed the Board that the PARP met on July 14, 2010 and recommends approval of applications 1-6.

1. City of Edinburg – FY 2010 Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Program  
   $1,156,964.00 .......................................................... HUD
2. The University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College – South Texas Colonia Weatherization Program  
   $2,954,240.00 .......................................................... DOE
   $2,617,012.20 .......................................................... HUD
4. Community Resources Group Inc. – Housing Preservation Grant Program in Hidalgo County  
   $100,000.00 .......................................................... USDA
5. Willacy County – Improvement: Repair/Renovation Willacy County Courthouse  
   $5,530,000.00 .......................................................... USDA
6. City of San Juan – Monte Grande Park Development
$378,810.00 ................................................................. TPWD

Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to approve applications 1 through 6 as recommended by PARP. Council Member Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on item 4, Vice President Samano moved to item 5. - Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Mr. Joe Gonzalez. Mr. Gonzalez addressed item 5.A.1. – Consider Approval RE: 2011-2013 Area Plan on Aging and informed the Board that this plan sets forth the work plan for the next three years. A draft of the plan was included in folders for review. Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the 2011-2013 Area Plan on Aging as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Samano then moved to item 5.A.2. – Consider Approval RE: Additional Funds to the Mission Housing Authority to Purchase a Fifteen (15) Passenger Van for their Senior Center Transportation Program. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommends approval to award $29,000 to the Mission Housing Authority to purchase a much needed fifteen (15) passenger van; the source of these funds will be Title III-B (Support Services). Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion for approval of the additional funds to the Mission Housing Authority to Purchase a fifteen passenger van. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Samano next moved to item 5.A.3. – Consider Approval RE: Amendment to the Amigos Del Valle Budget. Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that FY 2010 appropriations provided an increase in the meal program in the amount of $100,000. Amigos Del Valle will utilize half of these funds to purchase a generator for the central kitchen and the balance will go towards meals. The Advisory Council is recommending approval to amend the Amigos Del Valle budget. Commissioner Edward Camarillo made a motion for approval of the budget amendment as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

The Vice President then moved to item 5.A.5. – Consider Approval RE: Authorize the Area Agency on Aging to initiate Plans to Respond to Any Request for Proposals to Implement an Aging and Disability Resources Center (ADRC) for the Valley. Mr. Gonzalez explained that the purpose of an ADRC is to have a single door access for services to elderly and disabled individuals. It involves developing partnerships with local organizations in order to assure that the right information is provided to consumers regardless of which agency he/she first accesses. The acquisition of the Network of Care for the Lower Rio Grande Valley positions this area for an ADRC. The Advisory Council recommends approval to authorize Area Agency on Aging staff to plan and respond to any requests for proposals for

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an ADRC in the Valley. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion for approval to authorize staff to initiate plans to respond to any requests for proposals to implement an ADRC for the Valley. Commissioner Sofia Benavides seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action Vice President Samano moved to item 5.A.6. – Consider Approval RE: Providing Additional SSBG Funding to Six (6) Current Contractors. Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommends approval to provide additional SSBG funding to the following Contractors:

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<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Harlingen Community Development Department</td>
<td>$63,000</td>
<td>To provide roof repairs of 15 families on the waiting list.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harlingen Boys and Girls Club</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>To purchase athletic equipment, supplies, and sports league game shirts for children of the area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Posada Providencia</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>To renovate the men's dormitory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loaves and Fishes</td>
<td>$18,000</td>
<td>To purchase a digital color copier. (requested to change this to convert a storage room into an office to expand client services)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckner Family Services</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>To provide client assistance with construction material for home repairs and to provide back to school supplies and children clothing. The majority of their activities are in colonia areas in all three counties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amigos Del Valle, Inc.</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>To replace three cargo vans that are used to delivered meals to the centers. These vehicles are eight years old and require constant repairs.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$491,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
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The Area Agency on Aging’s SSBG budget is the source of these funds which, upon Board approval will be de-obligated for the Area Agency on Aging SSBG budget as follows:

1. SSBG Administration $6,600  
2. Case Management $94,000  
3. Home Modification Program $312,800  
4. Education & Training $2,800  
**Total** $416,000

Upon conclusion of discussion Commissioner Sofia Benavides made a motion to approve providing additional SSBG funding as recommended by the Advisory Council. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez stated that the program status report was in the Board folders.

Vice President Samano next moved to item 6. – Report from Economic Development and recognized Ms. Terrie Salinas. Ms. Salinas provided the status of the EDA Time Extension Approval for the B-HIT project, NADO’s Disaster Recovery Peer Learning Forum, the Regional Economic Adjustment Plan and
the 2011-2016 Lower Rio Grande Valley Regional Strategic Plan.

Upon conclusion of the EDA status reports Vice President Samano moved to item 7. – Report from Transportation Department. Regarding item 7.A.1. – Presentation RE: UTPA Rebranding Project #1 & #2, Mr. Manuel Flores was recognized and stated that during the summer semester LRGVDC Transit Services partnered in a community project with UTPA’s College of Communications to “rebrand” the Rio Metro/Rio Transit Service. Mr. Flores then gave the floor to Mr. Luis Guajardo, Transit Planner. Mr. Guajardo informed the Board that UTPA’s Creative Strategies class composed mostly of Marketing Undergraduate Seniors proposed a total of seven projects for a set of deliverables that include: new name, emblem, slogans, color scheme, mascot, media campaigns, etc. Projects #1 and #2 had elements staff felt meet the desired rebranding goal. The teams for each project presented their ideas to the Board then staff presented a recommended merge of the best aspects from each group as one proposal. Upon conclusion of the presentations Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion for approval of UTPA rebranding projects #1 & #2 as unified and presented to rebrand LRGVDC’s Public Transit System to Valley Metro. Commissioner Edward Camarillo seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action, Mr. Flores stated that the Report on Ridership was in the Board folders.

Vice President Samano next moved to item 7.B. – Consider Approval RE: Execution of Construction Contract with E-Con Group for the Expansion/Renovation of the Transit Facility and recognized Mr. Victor Morales. Mr. Morales reminded the Board that at the May meeting staff received Board approval to enter into a contract with E-Con Group, the lowest responsive bidder, for the expansion/renovation of the Transit Facility; and staff is presenting this draft contract for Board approval. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion for approval of the contract as presented. Judge Pro-tem Aurelio Guerra seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Samano then moved to item 8. - Reports from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Ms. Marcie Oviedo. Ms. Oviedo noted that the Natural Resources status reports were in the Board folders for review, then addressed item 8.B. – HUD Disaster Recovery Funding. Regarding item 8.B.1.a – Selection of Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Ms. Oviedo reported that at the Disaster Recovery Advisory Committee (DRAC) meeting held on July 14, the committee selected Judge Pro-tem Aurelio Guerra as their Committee Chair and Commissioner Sofia Benavides as their Vice Chair. Board approval is required to make this selection final. Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion for approval of Judge Pro-tem Aurelio Guerra as DRAC Chair and Commissioner Sofia Benavides as DRAC Vice Chair. Commissioner Yolanda Alexander seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action Vice President Samano moved to item 8.B.1.b. – LRGVDC’s “Draft” Phase 1/Partial Method of Distribution (MOD) for the Round Two Disaster Recovery Supplemental Allocation. Ms. Oviedo stated that the “Draft” Phase1/Partial MOD for Round Two Disaster Recovery Supplemental Allocation is essentially the same MOD approved by the Board in December 2009. Some minor revisions for partial funding from Phase I and Phase II of the total allocation were presented in this attached MOD. Mr. Jones added that this is basically what the Board approved last year, but the State is giving staff an opportunity for a head-start. What is recommended by the committee is out of the 33% released this year to focus primarily on our pre-identified drainage projects. Additionally use approximately $2.2 million for housing so staff can continue the RFP process for the management firm. Staff anticipates presenting a draft RFP for consideration by the August Board meeting. So the projects were not changed; staff will begin with drainage projects and continue working on the housing projects. Once there is a full release of the balance of the $185 million staff can quickly begin the housing improvement program. Upon conclusion of summary Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion for approval of the Phase 1/Partial Method of Distribution (MOD) for the Round Two Disaster Recovery
Supplemental Allocation as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Ms. Oviedo stated that the program status report was in the Board folders for review.


Upon conclusion of the Homeland Security status reports Vice President Samano recognized Mr. Sergio Castro who gave the status report for the 9-1-1 Department. Upon conclusion of the 9-1-1 report the Vice President recognized Mr. Paul Williams who gave the status report for the Regional Police Academy and Training Center. Upon conclusion of the status reports, and there being no other matters to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 3:01.

MAYOR CHRIS BOSWELL, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

MAYOR PRO-TEM ALVIN SAMANO, 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary