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

12:00 PM WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019
LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS - 301 W. RAILROAD STREET, WESLACO, TEXAS
BUILDING B, KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: MAYOR DAVID SUAREZ, PRESIDENT

- DRAFT -

President David Suarez called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared.

He then moved to item 2: Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes (October 30, 2019). Ms. Celeste Sanchez made a motion to approve the October 30, 2019 Board Meeting minutes as presented. Judge Aurelio Guerra seconded, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

President Suarez then moved to item 3: Public Comment and/or Report from Legislative Delegation. There being none, he moved to item 4: Administration and recognized Executive Director Ron Garza to address the following:

A. Consideration and Action on Date and Time for Annual Work Program & Budget Committee Meeting

Mr. Garza informed the Board that this is an annual meeting and that the committee is comprised of all Board Members and there is no quorum requirement. This year, in addition to reviewing the Annual Work Program and Budget, the committee will be presented with the draft revised Personnel Policy Manual for review. He suggested scheduling the meeting on Wednesday, January 22, 2020. Ms. Celeste Sanchez made a motion to schedule the Annual Work Program & Budget Committee meeting on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 12:00 noon at the LRGVDC Main Campus, Building B in the Ken Jones Executive Board Room. Commissioner David Garza seconded, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

B. Executive Director Report

LRGVDC Updates & Activities

1. Introduction of New Staff Members
   Mr. Garza announced that the following individuals have recently joined the LRGVDC staff:
   - Ms. Aleida Gonzalez, Vehicle Driver for Valley Metro
   - Mr. Elias Lopez, Vehicle Driver for Valley Metro
   - Mr. Roberto Salinas, Vehicle Driver for Valley Metro
   - Mr. Feliciano Arreazola, Vehicle Driver for Valley Metro
   - Mr. Cristian Leal, Vehicle Technician for Valley Metro
   - Ms. Lorena Gonzalez, Case Manager for Area Agency on Aging
   The Board warmly welcomed our new staff members.

2. 2020 Board Meeting Calendar/Schedule
   Mr. Garza stated that the 2020 Meeting Calendar follows the same schedule as the 2019 calendar. Board meetings will be scheduled on the last Wednesday of the month, no meetings in July or November, and the December meeting will be on the second Wednesday to accommodate the holidays. Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the 2020 Board Meeting
3. GLO Mitigation Action Plan

Mr. Garza informed the Board that there are two funding opportunities through the Texas General Land Office (GLO).

**#1 - Disaster Mitigation** which is primarily tied to damage from Hurricane Harvey. There is a $4.2 billion allocation, the bulk of which will be allocated for Hurricane Harvey. However, Cameron County, Hidalgo County, and Willacy County are eligible for certain allocations based on impact from the 2015 and 2016 disasters. Mr. Garza stated that the 45-day comment period for the Disaster Mitigation Action plan is currently open and will close at 5:00 pm on January 6, 2020. The Rio Grande Valley area is eligible for approximately $42 million of the $4.2 billion allocation. LRGVDC staff is in close communication with GLO staff and will keep the Board informed as these programs develop.

**#2 - Disaster Recovery Funding** is for recovery efforts from the 2018 floods. The counties eligible for the $46 Million in Disaster Recovery funds are Cameron, Hidalgo, and Jim Wells. The GLO has created an online survey through SurveyMonkey.com to receive feedback from affected entities. To date, only 12 entities have responded, and Mr. Garza strongly encouraged those present to take the survey as well as encourage others to also do so.

4. Census 2020

Mr. Garza thanked those who attended the November 18, 2019 Census Forum for its success. Currently, Census staff are focusing on staff recruitment. The Census Self-Response Operation begins on March 12, 2020 and is fast approaching.

Mr. Garza informed the Board that the State of Texas does not have an official complete count committee. So, the Center for Public Policies and Community Foundation of Texas has created one called “Texas Counts”. Texas Counts is a state-wide collaborative effort working to engage cross sector leaders and organizations to leverage and share resources to promote the 2020 Census. They serve as a partner, connector, and hub for “get out the count” efforts in Texas, and they are providing grant opportunities to support census efforts.

Mr. Garza next recognized members of the US Census Bureau who informed the Board on the status of their successful recruitment efforts throughout the three-county area.

5. Explore RGV

Mr. Garza reminded the Board that a few months ago the Explore RGV project won the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) “Impact Award” that honors significant advances in community and economic development. He was pleased to announce that in November, at the Southwest Region Economic Development Association (SWREDA) Annual Conference, the LRGVDC was awarded the “Star of the Southwest” for this project. This award recognizes projects funded by the Austin EDA Regional Office that demonstrate significant economic impact for the community, a meaningful commitment by the private sector, and a return on investment for EDA. Mr. Garza stated that this accolade is exciting because the project is still in the development stage. Through collaboration with our partner cities, staff will be able to see the actual marketing efforts and marketing campaign that will be driven by the Explore RGV Advisory Committee. The advisory committee will begin meeting in early 2020. He thanked the Explore RGV partner cities, Ms. Blanca Davila, Assistant Director of Economic Development, and Ms. Leticia Pantoja, Economic Development VISTA, for their work in developing this program.
6. RGV B-Cycle

Mr. Garza thanked the City of Harlingen and the City of Brownsville for becoming the first two partners that expand McAllen BCycle into RGV B-Cycle. The bikes and stations should be installed in these two cities within 60-90 days and their service will be launched simultaneously. The bikes and docking stations in these locations will create a network to ride between Brownsville, Harlingen, and McAllen. In addition, Mr. Garza announced that BCycle has developed a smaller dock they are calling the “Connected Dock” which is a dock for a single unit (bicycle) and could be placed strategically across the valley in smaller cities that might not have the funds for a 10-unit dock. Staff is excited to finalize plans and launch RGV B-Cycle in the next few months.

7. 2020 Mayors’ Walk for Wellness (It’s Time Texas Community Challenge)

Mr. Garza informed the Board that the 3rd Annual It’s Time Texas (ITT) Mayors’ Walk for Wellness and RGV Fit 5K is scheduled for Saturday, January 25, 2020. This time the 5K will offer an “Urban Adventure” that will incorporate obstacles using existing infrastructure along the racecourse. He reminded the Board that the Mayors’ Walk is a state-wide challenge to mayors to inspire their communities to become healthier. The LRGVDC organizes the Mayors’ Walk for Wellness to provide Valley mayors with the opportunity to earn bonus points for the ITT challenge. He reminded the Board of how well the Rio Grande Valley ranked in 2019:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>CITY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Areas - 300,000+</td>
<td>Austin 1st (Valley does not qualify)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Cities of 100,000 - 300,000</td>
<td>McAllen 1st, Brownsville 2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Size Cities of 40,000 - 100,000</td>
<td>Harlingen 1st, Pharr 3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Cities of 5,001 - 40,000</td>
<td>Los Fresnos 1st, San Juan 3rd, Port Isabel 5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Small Cities of 1 – 5,000</td>
<td>Laguna Vista 4th</td>
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Mr. Garza added that ITT is in the process of printing the giant Mayors’ Pledge signature board for 2020, and because of input from the LRGVDC, ITT will also include a category for counties.

President Suarez next moved to item 5: Department Reports.

A. Community & Economic Development

Assistant Director Blanca Davila was recognized to address the following:

Program Action Items:

1. Consideration and Action to Approve the Professional Services Agreement for Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant Administration by and between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) and City of Weslaco and Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation

Ms. Davila stated that Board approval is needed for the LRGVDC to execute the Grant Administration Professional Agreements for:

- Weslaco Mid Valley Airport Hangar Expansion & Infrastructure Development: EDA Grant No. 08-79-05334
- eBridge: Center for Business & Commercialization: EDA Grant No. 08-79-05333

Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the Professional Services Agreement for EDA grant administration by and between the LRGVDC and the City of Weslaco and the Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation as presented. Ms. Veronica Gonzales seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.
2. Consideration and Action to Approve Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC) Officers for Year 2020

Ms. Davila stated that the officer nominees are:
- Chair: City of Palm Valley – Mayor George Rivera
- Vice Chair: City of Primera – Mayor R. Dave Kusch
- Secretary: City of Lyford – Mayor Pro-tem Rick Salinas

*Judge Aurelio Guerra made a motion to approve the nominees as presented. Ms. Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

3. Consideration and Action to Appoint Member to the Regional Water Resources Advisory Committee (RWRAC)

Ms. Davila stated that Mr. Paul Greenhill from Willacy County has been nominated to fill the vacancy in the Special Purpose District category on the RWRAC. She added that the City of Brownsville has requested that Mr. David Licon, Jr. be appointed to the RWRAC and that Mr. Doroteo Garcia, Jr. be appointed as his alternate. *Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve Mr. Greenhill to fill the Special Purpose District Category, to appoint Mr. David Licon, Jr. to represent the City of Brownsville and appoint Mr. Doroteo Garcia, Jr. as his alternate to the RWRAC. Mr. Javier Deleon seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

Program Status Reports
Upon conclusion of action, Ms. Davila stated that the status reports were provided in the meeting packet for review.

B. Health & Human Services

Program Status Report
Program Director Joe Gonzalez was recognized and gave the status reports on the Medicare Open Enrollment and the Opioid Awareness and Prevention Project.

C. Public Safety

Program Action Items:
Public Safety Director Manuel Cruz was recognized to report on the following:

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Revisions to LRGVDC 9-1-1 Regional Advisory Committee Bylaws and Committee Name Change

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that staff and the 9-1-1 Bylaws Subcommittee convened in September to review the bylaws and make revisions. The 9-1-1 RAC convened in November to review the committee structure and bylaws. The bylaws revisions were made in order to be in compliance with changes made by the Office of the Governor.

The Advisory Committee also recommends approval to change its name from the “LRGVDC 9-1-1 Regional Advisory Committee” to the “LRGVDC 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Advisory Committee (LRGVDC 9-1-1 ECAC). *Mr. Paul Hernandez made a motion to approve the revisions to the Advisory Committee bylaws and the advisory committee name change as presented. Mayor Prot- tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

2. Consideration and Action to Nominate an LRGVDC Board Director to Serve as Ex-Officio Liaison Member to the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC)
Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the CJAC bylaws indicate the option for a current LRGVDC Board Director to be appointed as an Ex-Officio (Non-Voting) member to this advisory committee. Upon conclusion of discussion Commissioner David Garza made a motion to appoint Ms. Christina Patino Houle as the Board Ex-Officio (Non-Voting) Member to the CJAC. Commissioner Rick Guerra seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

3. Consideration and Action to Approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee’s (HSAC) Scorecard and Updates to the Policy Manual for FY 2020-21 HSGD Funding Cycle

Mr. Cruz stated that the HSAC reviewed and updated the Application Scorecard and Policy Manual for FY 2020-2021 funding cycle. These documents were developed by LRGVDC staff to provide committee members with scoring parameters and guidance for grantees applying for funding. The deadline to submit is December 31, 2019. Mr. Javier Deleon made a motion to approve the updated HSAC Scorecard and Policy Manual for FY 2020-2021 HSGD funding cycle as presented. Commissioner Rick Salinas seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration and Action to Approve the Regional Animal Care Coalition (RACC) Nominations for Officers

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that at their October meeting the RACC nominated Mr. Eddie Olivarez, Hidalgo County Health and Human Services, as Chair and Mr. Gustavo Olivarez, Cameron County Health and Human Services as Vice Chair. These nominations require Board approval. Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve Mr. Eddie Olivarez as RACC Chair, and Mr. Gustavo Olivarez as Vice Chair. Ms. Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Program Status Reports:
Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the department status reports were provided in the meeting packet for review.

D. Transportation

Program Status Reports:
Valley Metro Director Tom Logan informed the Board that year to date Valley Metro transported 190,000 passengers. This is a 12% increase, 35% of which is due to routes serving South Texas College, Texas State Technical College and University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

President Suarez next moved to item 6. – Executive Session

A. Consultation with Attorney: (advice of counsel concerning pending, potential and/or contemplated litigation, settlement offers, and/or legal matters subject to the attorney-client privilege): in accordance with Texas government code, Section 551.071, the Board reserves the right to retire into executive session for consultation with attorney.

Commissioner David Garza made a motion to go into executive session; Judge Aurelio Guerra seconded, and upon a vote executive session began at 12:36 pm.

B. Reconvene into Open Session to Consider Action on Items Related to Executive Session as Described above

At 12:57 President Suarez reconvened open session. Commissioner David Garza made a motion to acknowledge the report given during executive session. Commissioner Marco Villegas seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.
President Suarez next moved to item 7 – New or Unfinished Business.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Rick Salinas made a motion to adjourn; Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 12:57 pm.

Mayor David Suarez, President

ATTEST:

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary