MINUTES

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019 – 12:00 PM
LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS - 301 W. RAILROAD ST., WESLACO, TEXAS
BUILDING B, KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: HON. NORMA G. GARCIA, PRESIDENT

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

The President then moved to item 2: Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes (February 27, 2019 Board Meeting). ***Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Willacy County Commissioner Eduardo "Eddy" Gonzales seconded and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

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

A. Consider Approval of 2018 Annual Productivity Report

Mr. Garza stated that the Annual Productivity Report is a statutory requirement. Traditionally this has been done in two pieces, the first is the Annual Work Program & Budget that is presented to the Board every January, and the Annual Productivity Report is the second piece. He announced that for next year staff will combine the documents into one cohesive annual report containing projections and objectives. He stated that all objectives for 2018 recorded in the 2018 Annual Productivity Report have been met. ***Mayor Tony Martinez made a motion to approve the 2018 Annual Productivity Report as presented. Mayor Rick Cavazos seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

B. Executive Director Report

1. Introduction of New Staff Members
   Mr. Garza introduced Mr. Juan Lara, Part-time Fleet Fueler/Detailer for Valley Metro, and Mr. Armando Perez, Administrative Assistant for Valley Metro. The Board warmly welcomed our new staff members to the LRGVDC.

LRGVDC Updates & Activities

2. Governor's (South Texas) Small Business Conference
   Mr. Garza informed the Board that the Governor's Small Business Conference will be hosted by the City of Edinburg on March 29, 2019 at the Edinburg Conference Center at Renaissance and will combine small business resources from the public and private sectors.

3. 86th Legislative Session
   The 86th Legislative Sessions is past the half-way point and today is the House Budget Debate. Mr. Garza stated that the Valley has had great participation in Austin with high attendance at RGV Day at the Capitol as well as many other individual Valley cities and counties representing their communities to our state legislators.

4. Regional Animal Control Initiative
   Mr. Garza informed the Board that this group will soon revise their name to something that relates more to responsible pet ownership and care. At the All Hazards Conference tomorrow, March 28, there will be a session on this topic. One action item for this group is to create a resource website that would include a listing of animal centers and shelters throughout the Valley.

5. Road-to-Recycling Regional Tire Collection Day
   Mr. Garza informed the Board that the 2019 Road-to-Recycling collection day is scheduled for Saturday, April 27. Staff is coordinating with municipalities and this year there will be three different options for disposal which he explained in detail.

6. It's Time Texas Community Challenge
   Mr. Garza recapped the activities for the It's Time Texas Community Challenge and proudly announced the 2019 Winners from the Rio Grande Valley:
   - ✓ McAllen took 1st Place, and Brownsville took 2nd Place in the Large City Category
   - ✓ Harlingen took 1st Place, and Pharr took 3rd Place in the Mid-Sized City Category
   - ✓ Los Fresnos took 1st Place, San Juan took 3rd Place, and Port Isabel took 5th Place in the Small City Category

   He has hopes to sweep more categories in the 2020 Challenge and will continue to promote and encourage participation in this event.

7. Census Day RGV: One Year and Counting!
   Mr. Garza informed the Board that the PSAP (Participant Statistical Area Program) process is wrapping up. The deadline for cities to make edits to their census tract splits is 4:00 pm on Friday, March 29. He also announced that on April 1, 2019, one year to the day prior to Census Day, April 1, 2020, two census events are scheduled: a press release is scheduled at 10:00 am at the Hidalgo County Courthouse in Edinburg for the western half of the Valley and at 2:00 pm in Brownsville at the Historic Market Square for the eastern half of the Valley. He also stated that the US Census Bureau in the Valley has many job openings that need to be filled.

Upon conclusion of Administration items, President Garcia moved to item 5: Department Reports.

A. Economic Development

<u>Economic Development Status Reports</u>
Economic Development Director Terrie Salinas was recognized and reported on the recent Regional Small Cities Coalition meeting in Rio Hondo and the Texas PACE County Workshops.

<u>Explore RGV Status Report</u>
Economic Development Assistant Director Blanca Davila was recognized and informed the Board that "Escape Itineraries" have been updated on the Explore RGV website. Different locations across the tri-county area, including urban and rural areas are featured in the six itineraries. Stakeholders can also find "Recommend a Location" on the website where they can include a destination that is currently not listed.

B. Community & Environmental Services

Community Development Status Report
Program Director Marcie Oviedo was recognized and informed the Board that the status reports on the HUD Disaster Recovery Housing Program were in the meeting packet for review.

Environmental Resources Status Report
Ms. Oviedo stated that the Solid Waste Program and Water Resources status reports were in the meeting packet for review. She reiterated that the 2019 Road to Recycling Tire Collection Project is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2019 and encouraged participation.

C. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Status Reports
Program Director Joe Gonzalez was recognized to address the following:

1. Consider Approval of Advisory Council Recommendations for Hidalgo County Representative
   Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommends Mrs. Maria Hurtado from Mission to represent Hidalgo County on the Area Agency on Aging Citizens Advisory Council. Her interest in issues regarding the elderly and her personal involvement with the elderly qualify her for this position. ***Raymondville Commissioner Edward Gonzales made a motion to approve Ms. Maria Hurtado to fill the Hidalgo County vacancy on the Area Agency on Aging Citizen's Advisory Council. Mr. Ron Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez noted that there are vacancies on the Advisory Council for representatives from the Cameron County area and asked the Board to consider nominees to fill these seats. He also gave the status report on the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) Project.

D. Public Safety
President Garcia next recognized Public Safety Director Manuel Cruz to address the following items:

Criminal Justice Program Status Reports
Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the Criminal Justice Program status report was in the meeting packet for review.

Emergency Communications Status Report
Mr. Cruz noted that the Emergency Communications Program status reports were in the meeting packet for review.

Homeland Security Status Report

1. Consider Approval of Prioritization List for LETPA/SHSP Funding
   Mr. Cruz stated that at the March Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) meeting the FY 2019-2020 Homeland Security Grant Program, State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP)/Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA) applications were reviewed and prioritized. He provided the prioritization list and stated that Board approval is required to move forward. ***Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the prioritization list for LETPA and SHSP funding as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pete Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously***.

2. Consider Approval of Revisions to Homeland Security Advisory Committee's (HSAC) Bylaws
The HSAC convened on March 7 in accordance with the Office of the Governor's – Public Safety Office Inter-Cooperative Agreement to review and update the HSAC bylaws. ***Mr. Paul Hernandez made a motion to approve the revisions to the HSAC bylaws as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pete Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz noted that the Homeland Security Program status reports were in the meeting packet for review. He announced that the South Texas All Hazard Conference which began today was off to a great start with record breaking registration.

Regional Police Academy Status Report

1. Consider Approval of Police Academy Advisory Committee Members
Mr. Cruz informed the Board that in accordance with Texas Administration Code, Title 37, Part 7, Rule 215.7, Training Academy Advisory Board and academy must maintain an Advisory Board as required by Texas Occupations Code 1701.252 which requires one-third of the members to be public members. The Advisory Committee recommends approval for Ms. Gloria Ocampo and Ms. Daisy Lopez to fill the vacancies in the Public Members category. ***Mayor Rick Cavazos made a motion to approve Ms. Ocampo and Ms. Lopez to fill the vacancies in the Public Members category as recommended by the Police Academy Advisory Committee. Member-at-Large Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

2. Consider Approval of Updated Memorandum of Understanding with Partner Agencies
These Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) have been updated for the Harlingen Police Department, Mission Police Department, Hidalgo Police Department and the San Benito Police Department. Mr. Cruz stated that these agencies assist with facilitating and instruction of the Regional Police Academy Basic Peace Officer Course, and that the documents were in the meeting packet for review. ***Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to approve the Memorandums of Understanding as presented. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

3. Consider Approval of Inter-local Agreement between LRGVDC Regional Police Academy and Regional Police Agencies Requesting Training Hours
The Regional Police Academy reports training hours to TCOLE for multiple agencies throughout the region. To maintain compliance with TCOLE and the Regional Police Academy Advisory Committee bylaws, this Inter-local Agreement will establish general guidelines for all agencies requesting that their training hours be reported by the Regional Police Academy to TCOLE. The agreement was provided to the Board in the meeting packet for review. ***Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the Inter-local Agreement between LRGVDC Regional Police Academy and regional police agencies requesting training hours.***

4. Consider Approval of Resolutions for Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy Grant Program FY 2020
Mr. Cruz stated that in accordance with the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Grant Division, the LRGVDC is required to submit a resolution for this grant application. A copy of the resolution was provided for review. ***Commissioner Julian Guevara made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz noted that the regular status reports for the Regional Police Academy were in the meeting packet for review.

E. Transportation

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization Status Report
HCMPO Assistant Director Linda De La Fuente was recognized and announced that the 9th Annual Walk-N-Rolla event is scheduled for April 27, 2019. This year the proceeds of the event will go to the Laurie P. Andrews PAWS (Pet Adoption and Wellness Services) Center. Registration is $15.00 or five cans of cat and/or dog food. The HCMPO will have an Open House at their office from 2:00 – 4:00 PM today, and another one tomorrow, March 28, and at the Pharr Library from 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

Valley Metro Status Report
Valley Metro Director Tom Logan was recognized and informed the Board that the regular status reports were in the meeting packet. He was proud to announce that year-to-date for the first six months of their fiscal year Valley Metro has transported 446,000 passengers which is a 16% increase in ridership. There have been 36,000 riders on the new Route 16, the Hidalgo County Court Circulator. Mr. Garza informed the Board that the Harlingen Terminal has been moved to the new "T" Street location and it has become a very busy terminal.

President Garcia next moved to item 6. – New or Unfinished Business. There being none, she called for a motion to adjourn. ***Raymondville Commissioner Edward Gonzales made a motion to adjourn, Mayor Jim Darling seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:39 pm.***

Norma G. Garcia
Hon. Norma G. Garcia, President

ATTEST:
Deborah Morales
Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary