

MINUTES

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2017 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVDC 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 roll call; 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 February 22, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes. **Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the February 22, 2017 Board Meeting minutes as presented. Mayor David Suarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

The President then moved to item 3.A. - Report from Legislative Delegation; however no reports were available at this time. He then moved to item 3.B. – Public Comment and recognized Mr. Donato Medina, Jr. who informed the Board that he was supporting HB 1598 by State Representative Armando Martinez. Mr. Juan Cienfuegos was recognized next and also spoke on HB 1598 noting that it relates to the establishment of a color-coded identification system to be used during a state of disaster. An illuminated color display would be implemented on a mobile device to identify different types of victims, i.e. child, disabled person, adult, or pet.

President Martinez next moved to item 3.C. – Consider Approval of 2016 Annual Productivity Report. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the 2016 Annual Productivity Report as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action President Martinez moved to item 3.D. – Presentation from One Gas on Energy Efficiency Program and recognized Ms. Julie Hatfield. Ms. Hatfield gave a presentation that provided a brief overview of the RGV Energy Efficiency Program, its benefits regarding gas appliance rebates, its Low-Income/Free Equipment Program, and education and outreach. Ms. Hatfield also invited two participants of the Energy Efficiency Program to testify as to their satisfaction with the program. No action needed.

The President then moved to item 3.E. – Executive Director Report and recognized Mr. Ron Garza to address the following items:

1. LRGVDC Updates & Activities

- a. Washington DC Visit

Mr. Garza informed the Board that he was in Washington, DC from March 15 - 22 and attended the NADO (National Association of Development Organizations) Policy Conference. The America First Blue Print Budget draft was reviewed and of note to the Valley is that the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding are eliminated. According to Washington,

CDBG does not directly benefit those in poverty; but Valley leaders know that this funding has directly benefited many Valley residents in need. Mayor Jim Darling suggested writing a letter with real life examples of how the proposed budget would negatively affect real people and to have it as an item on the April agenda.

b. United Borders (Press Conference & Luncheon)

Mr. Garza announced that on April 10 Congressman Filemon Vela has scheduled a "United Borders Congressional Border Caucus Press Conference" and luncheon sponsored by the RGV Partnership, and encouraged Board Members to attend.

c. Leadership & Innovation in City Government (Professional Development Program)

Mr. Garza reminded the Board that UTSA and UTRGV have created this free training series that began yesterday here at the LRGVDC facilities. The topic for the next session, scheduled for April 25, is called "Empowering Local Leaders and Rebuilding Healthy, Livable, and Sustainable Rural Communities in Texas". These free resources can benefit all Valley communities and staff members.

d. LRGVDC Program Orientation (Proposed 2017 Schedule)

Mr. Garza recommended holding Program Orientation sessions at 11:00 a.m. on the following dates, which coincide with regular Board Meeting dates:

- April 26 - Homeland Security/Criminal Justice, Police Academy, and 9-1-1
- June 28 - Area Agency on Aging, and Regional Planning & Services
- October 25 - Valley Metro, Hidalgo County MPO, and EDA

Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the Program Orientation schedule as presented. Mayor Jim Darling seconded, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of Administration items, President Martinez moved to item 4. – Report from 9-1-1 Department and recognized Program Supervisor Juan Chapa to address item 4.A. – Consider Approval to Create and Develop 9-1-1 Regional Public Safety Communications Committee. Mr. Chapa informed the Board that as a result of recent outages to the 9-1-1 system, stakeholders, including Hidalgo County Emergency Management, DPS, and 9-1-1 authorities have requested the creation of this committee. The purpose of the committee will be to proactively coordinate procedures in the event of 9-1-1 outages throughout the LRGVDC region. **Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to approve the creation and development of a 9-1-1 Regional Public Safety Communications Committee. Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Chapa stated that the regular program status reports were available in the online information packet for review.

President Martinez next moved to item 5. – Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Program Director Joe Gonzalez who addressed item A.1. – Consider Approval to Not Hold Silver Haired Legislature Elections. Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that there are five slots for the Silver Haired Legislature, but only three applications were received. Staff requests approval to appoint these three applicants. **Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to approve not holding Silver Haired Legislature Elections as recommended by the Advisory Council. Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez gave the program status reports noting that the LRGVDC Area Agency on Aging Department has recently been redesigned so that now the program is based on function of staff versus the funding source.

President Martinez next moved to item 6. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Director Terrie Salinas who addressed the following items:

A. Economic Development Administration (EDA)

1. Consider Approval to Submit an EDA Grant Amendment for Economic Development District's (EDD) Partnership Planning Grant
Ms. Salinas informed the Board that the EDA Regional Office notified staff that they planned to increase the Planning Grant by \$10,000 for FY 2017. The Lower Rio Grande Valley EDD is in the last year of its three-year grant (2015-2017). In order to obtain these funds, the EDA has requested that staff prepare a Grant Amendment package and an SF-424A Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs. Staff requests Board approval to submit the Grant Amendment to the EDA. **Mayor Chris Boswell made a motion to approve submitting an EDA Grant Amendment for the Economic Development District's Partnership Planning Grant as presented. Mayor Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
2. Consider Approval of Resolution for Matching Funds for the EDD Partnership Planning Grant Amendment
Ms. Salinas explained that in order to receive the \$10,000 grant increase approved in the previous item, the Board must also approve a local match amount. The match is based on the economic distress data for this region's respective counties and is normally a 50:50 match ratio. But because the Valley is an economically distressed area the LRGV EDD qualifies for a 75:25 match ratio. A resolution requesting approval for \$2,500 (25% of \$10,000) in matching funds is presented for approval. The total budget increase is \$10,000 from the EDA + \$2,500 matching funds from LRGVDC for a total of \$12,500. **Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve the resolution for matching funds for the EDD Partnership Planning Grant Amendment as presented. Commissioner Pete Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
3. Consider Approval of Nominations for Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC) Executive Committee Officers
Ms. Salina reported that during their meeting in early March the RSCC nominated a slate of officers for 2017. The nominees are as follows:
 - Chair – Rolando Vela, Laguna Vista City Manager
 - Vice Chair – Javier Mendez, Primera City Manager
 - Secretary/Treasurer – Lydia Moreno, Lyford City Secretary
 - Member-at-Large #1 – Lyle Garza, Donna EDC Executive Director
 - Member-at-Large #2 – Arnie Amaro, La Villa City ManagerThese nominations require Board Approval. **Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the nominations for the RSCC Executive Committee as presented. Mayor David Suarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
4. Consider Approval of Amendments to RSCC's Committee Bylaws
Ms. Salinas stated that during the March meeting, staff presented the RSCC bylaws for review. The revisions the committee recommended were minor, and a copy of the bylaws with the changes noted in red was presented to the Board for consideration. **Mayor Celeste Sanchez made a motion to approve the amendments to the RSCC's Committee bylaws as presented. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
5. Building PACE in the Valley Status Report
Upon conclusion of action Ms. Salinas gave a status report on the Service Provider Training Workshop held on February 24 by the Texas PACE Authority and the LRGVDC.

Upon conclusion of Economic Development items President Martinez moved to item 7. – Report from Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO). HCMPO Assistant Director Linda De La Fuente was recognized and announced that staff is planning the 7th Annual Walk-N-Rolla event scheduled for April 22 at the Edinburg City Hall; the fun theme for this year's event is "Capes and Tiaras" and participants are encouraged to dress like super heroes and princesses.

President Martinez next moved to item 8. – Report from Homeland Security and recognized Program Director Manuel Cruz who addressed item A.1. – Consider Approval of Amendments to FY 2017/2018 LRGVDC Homeland Security Grant Program Conditionally Approved Jurisdictions and Funding Allocations. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) met in March to conduct a final screening to ensure all jurisdictions that were selected submitted their eGrants applications to the Homeland Security Grant Division and met local and state eligibility criteria. Upon review of the final batch of submitted eGrant applications, amendments were required due to applications that were unaccounted for and funding adjustments and/or reallocations that were necessary. The rankings will remain as previously approved. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the amendments to FY 2017/2018 LRGVDC Homeland Security Grant Program Conditionally Approved Jurisdictions and Funding Allocations 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 gave the Homeland Security Program status reports.

President Martinez next moved to item 8.B. – Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Recommendation and Mr. Cruz addressed the following items:

1. Consider Approval of Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Nominations for Parliamentarian/Secretary

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the CJAC recommends Police Chief Ruben Villescás to fill the vacant Parliamentarian/Secretary seat. **Commissioner Danny Guzman made a motion to approve Chief Ruben Villescás' nomination as CJAC Parliamentarian/Secretary. Commissioner Pete Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

2. Consider Approval of Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Nominations for Vacant Disciplines

Mr. Cruz informed the board that at their recent meeting the CJAC nominated the following individuals as committee members under the specific disciplines noted:

Hidalgo County – Citizen/Parent (Faith Based)

Ms. Carla M. Rodriguez

Hidalgo County – Law Enforcement

Mr. Robert Dominguez, City of Mission Police Chief

Hidalgo County – Prosecution/Courts

Mr. Patrick Kelley McCormick, Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office

Willacy County – Victim Services

Ms. Annette C. Hinojosa, Willacy County District Attorney

Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve the nominations from the CJAC as presented. Commissioner Danny Guzman seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz gave the Criminal Justice Program Status Reports.


The President next moved to item 9. – Regional Planning & Services and recognized Program Director Marcie Oviedo. Ms. Oviedo stated that the status report for Water Resources was available in the online meeting packet for review, and addressed item 9.A.2. - Consider Recommendation from Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) RE: Resolution on Proposed Rio Grande Valley Regional Tire “Road to Recycling” Project. Ms. Oviedo stated that LRGVDC staff has submitted a proposal to the SWAC to implement a Regional Tire Recycling Project with the creative double entendre title “Road to Recycling”. This project will use approximately \$36,517.00 of unexpended funds from Regional Solid Waste Implementation Projects. Staff has met with both Cameron and Hidalgo County staff to coordinate efforts for this project and will also invite Willacy County and all cities within the region to maximize efforts for the project. The SWAC unanimously approved this project and staff requests approval from the Board. **The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the resolution on the proposed regional implementation project as presented. Commissioner Pete Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Ms. Oviedo noted that Solid Waste program status reports were available in the online meeting packet for review.

The President next moved to item 9.B. - HUD Disaster Recovery Funding. Regarding item 1. - Consider Approval of National Fair Housing Month Proclamation. **The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the National Fair Housing Month Proclamation as presented. Mayor Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Ms. Oviedo noted that the HUD Disaster Recovery Funding program status reports were available in the online meeting packet for review.

President Martinez next moved to item 10. - Report from Regional Police Academy and Training Center and recognized Assistant Director David Briales. Mr. Briales gave the Regional Police Academy status reports and announced that there are 45 potential graduates from the current academies. Staff is considering recognizing these graduates at the May Board meeting.

The President next moved to item 11 - Report from Valley Metro. Mr. Logan was out of town for training and Mr. Garza was recognized to provide the regular status reports.

President Martinez next move to item 12. – Old or New Business; there being none **Mayor Celeste Sanchez made a motion to adjourn; The Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 1:26 pm.**



Mayor Tony Martinez, President

ATTEST:



Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary