

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



AGENDA
ANNUAL ELECTIONS MEETING
LRGVDC Main Campus, Building B
301 W. Railroad Street
Weslaco, TX 78596

Wednesday, May 30, 2018

12:00 pm

Ken Jones Executive Board Room

Presiding: Mayor Ambrosio "Amos" Hernandez, President

Item #1: Call to Order

- A. Roll Call

Item #2: Consider Approval of January 31, 2018 Meeting Minutes President

ACTION ITEM

Item #3: Caucus to Seat New Board Members..... President

- A. Three (3) Directors Representing Member Cities with Population from 10,000-24,999
- B. Three (3) Directors Representing Member Cities with Population under 10,000
- C. Two (2) Directors Representing Educational Institutions
- D. Two (2) Directors Representing Special Governmental Units

Item #4: Act on Recommendations of Nominating Committee..... President

A. Election of Five Members-at-Large to Serve on General Membership for the 2018-2019 Term

ACTION ITEM

B. Election of Officers for the 2018-2019 Term

ACTION ITEM

Item #5: Confirmation of Representation of the Poor and Underprivileged Citizens of the Region President

ACTION ITEM

Item #6: New or Unfinished Business..... President

Item #7: Adjourn President

ITEM #2.

MINUTES

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS, GENERAL MEMBERSHIP, & CORPORATION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS - 301 W. RAILROAD ST., WESLACO, TEXAS
BUILDING B, KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: MAYOR AMBROSIO "AMOS" HERNANDEZ, PRESIDENT

President Ambrosio "Amos" Hernandez called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. Roll call was taken for both the Board of Directors and the General Membership and a quorum was declared for both entities.

The President then moved to item 2: Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes

- A. September 27, 2017 General Membership Meeting
Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve the September 27, 2017 General Membership Meeting Minutes as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.
- B. December 6, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting
Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the December 6, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Hernandez then moved to item 3: Public Comment and/or Report from Legislative Delegation. Mr. Ron Whitlock, Shephard Group, was recognized and shared his successful promotion of the Rio Grande Valley in Washington DC by gifting red grapefruit to points of contact in the Nation's Capital.

Upon conclusion of Public Comments the President moved to item 4: Administration and recognized Executive Director Ron Garza to address the following items:

- A. Act on Recommendations from Annual Work Program and Budget Committee Regarding Adoption of FY 2018 Annual Work Program & Budget
Mr. Garza stated that the Annual Work Program (AWP) & Budget Committee meeting was held on January 23 with Mayor David Suarez presiding. The Committee reviewed the newly revised and streamlined AWP & Budget document which was posted on lrgvdc.org for review and comment. Mr. Garza stated that the AWP section of the document is the service program that outlines LRGVDC's goals, objectives, and performance measures and that no substantive comments have been received. He then summarized the changes from the 2017 Budget to the 2018 Budget as presented to the Committee and noted that no revisions were recommended. Committee Chair Suarez stated that the committee unanimously recommends approval of the 2018 AWP & Budget. *Mr. Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to adopt the 2018 Annual Work*

Program & Budget as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

B. Consider Approval of Quarterly and Annual Investment Reports

Mayor Chris Boswell made a motion to approve the Quarterly and Annual Investment Reports as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

C. Executive Director Report

▪ Introduction of New Staff Members

Mr. Garza stated that this will be a standing agenda item moving forward. He would like to invite and encourage all new staff members, at all levels, during their first month of employment to attend a Board of Directors meeting. He considers it important for staff to have this experience to help them understand the scope of what the LRGVDC does. Mr. Garza announced that the LRGVDC has two new employees: Mr. Jesse Vargas came on board as an Instructor for the Regional Police Academy and has already been sent to training, so he was unable to attend. Next he introduced Mr. Fernando Zapata, Vehicle Technician with Valley Metro who was warmly welcomed by the Board.

▪ Internet Sales Tax Collection Discussion

Mr. Garza introduced Draft Resolution 2018-01 Supporting the Ability of Municipalities to Collect Online Sales Tax. He stated that McAllen Mayor Jim Darling brought this to his attention and that it is a critical topic for this region. The City of Harlingen adopted a similar resolution which was used as a template for this draft. Mr. Garza explained that the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to revisit a 25-year-old ruling; they will review it and consider allowing state and local governments to collect sales tax from online retailers. Mayor Darling added that 25 years ago the internet was less robust and the technology to keep track of where buyers live did not exist, so the original arguments are no longer supported. Upon conclusion of discussion ***Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to approve Resolution 2018 - 01 as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

▪ LRGVDC Updates & Activities

Mr. Garza announced that yesterday the LRGVDC hosted the U.S. Census Bureau for a 2020 Census Workshop and noted that the deadline to submit comments to the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Program was yesterday, but this region has been allowed a short extension until the end of today to update any entities that are not listed. He stated that the LRGVDC was in the process of creating a network of individuals from Valley municipalities that will be working on census planning to ensure that the best practices from across the region will be used in 2020.

Ms. Erica Reyna from the Hidalgo County Judge's Office was recognized and expressed appreciation for the LUCA training received yesterday. She stated that the 2020 Census will be conducted differently than in the past in that online responses will be available and encouraged; and she expressed concern that with this new technology, underserved populations may not be properly counted. She stated that Hidalgo County has started a committee and they will strive for a regional approach in order to send a unified message. She stated that Hidalgo County seeks a partnership with the LRGVDC to utilize resources

the COG specializes in, such as the 9-1-1 Program, to help with address locations.

Ms. Reyna informed the Board that for the 2020 Census, the Valley will have its first local area Census Office, which is a major milestone. The County is being asked by the U.S. Census Bureau to create a complete Census Committee. This committee will have sub-committees in categories such as: Business, Education, Local Leadership, and Non-Profit Organizations to name a few. The first meeting of the Census Committee is scheduled for March 8 and staff from the Regional Office in Denver will be in the Valley to assist in its establishment and explain what is expected.

- **Road-to-Recycling**
Mr. Garza announced that the Tire Recycling Tour to Arkansas has been rescheduled to March due to an unexpected medical situation in Arkansas.
- **2018 Program Orientations**
Mr. Garza suggested continuing LRGVDC Program Orientations each quarter in 2018. ***Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to continue having Program Orientations once a quarter in 2018 at 11:00 am prior to the Board Meetings. Mr. Ron Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***
- **BikeShare RGV**
Mr. Garza informed the Board that this committee has great regional participation, and that each month a different bike rental company is invited to present their bicycles and rental systems. He anticipates a recommendation will be made in the late spring for a seamless bike share system across the Valley.
- **Explore RGV**
Mr. Garza reminded the Board that this is a regional tourism project funded by a grant through the EDA. The first stakeholder forum is scheduled for February 8, and that this project will be a compilation of all fixed assets in the Valley. He informed the Board that the RGV Partnership has agreed to contribute resources to this project and will publish a hard copy when the project is finalized. He then presented the logo for the project which is very colorful and has a retro look. The project's website is www.goexplorergv.com; the twitter page is #ExploreRGV; and the Facebook and Instagram pages are GoexploreRGV. Staff is working to attain the uniform handle of "goexplorergv" and have had difficulty with this due to domain rights issues.
- **RGV 2020 (CEDs)**
Mr. Garza encouraged the Board to share information on the RGV 2020 project which is a special edition of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs). Public input is needed to complete this regional plan and can be given via an online survey and/or at three different forums scheduled in the middle of February at different locations throughout the Valley.
- **It's Time Texas Community Challenge**
Mr. Garza stated that he brought this before the Board because of the amazing results achieved so far by Valley cities on a statewide level through this wonderful initiative. He thanked the cities that are participating in the challenge, and turned the floor over to Ms. Cindy Salazar-Collier, It's Time Texas Regional Coordinator.

Ms. Salazar-Collier gave a brief summary of the organization and stated that the It's Time Texas Community Challenge will run from January 8 – March 4, 2018. This is a one-of-a-kind statewide competition that challenges communities of all sizes to demonstrate their commitment to healthy living.

Mr. Garza asked the Board if they would like to consider hosting a “Mayors’ March” event that could include a 1-mile Fun Run and a 5K Race that would serve as a demonstration of wellness across the region. He suggested holding the event during the last weekend of the challenge at a central location such as Weslaco. Should this become an annual event, the location could move around to other cities each year. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve holding a Mayors’ March in Weslaco on March 3 as suggested by Mr. Garza. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

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

A. Economic Development

1. Consider Approval of Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC) Officers

Ms. Terrie Salinas was recognized and informed the Board that the RSCC nominated the following officers:

- Chairman - Rolando Vela, Laguna Vista City Manager
- Secretary/Treasurer - Lydia Moreno, Lyford City Secretary
- Member-at-Large 2 - Pete de la Cruz, Edcouch Planning Director

Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the RSCC officers as presented. Mr. Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Ms. Salinas gave the status report on the December 2017 RSCC meeting.

Mr. Matt Ruszczak, Rio South Texas Economic Council Executive Director, was recognized and announced that the next session in the Building Blocks series will be held on February 7 from 8:00 am to 11:30 am at LRGVDC’s Ken Jones Executive Board Room. He encouraged the Board Members to come and hear the main speaker, Ms. Jordan Robinson, Strategic Business Development Manager of the Office of Governor Greg Abbot, Economic Development & Tourism.

B. Community & Environmental Services

Director Marcie Oviedo was recognized and stated that the status reports on the HUD Disaster Recovery Housing Program, Solid Waste Management, and Water Resources were available for review in the meeting packet.

C. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Assistant Director Richard Flores was recognized and stated that the status reports on Age Well Live Well VISTA Project and the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) were in meeting packet for review.

D. Public Safety

President Hernandez next recognized Public Safety Director Manuel Cruz to address the following:

Criminal Justice Program Status Reports

1. Consider Approval of FY 2018 Criminal Justice Division – Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Project Resolution

Mr. Cruz stated that in accordance with the Office of the Governor’s – Criminal Justice Division, grant applications must include a resolution that contains specific information relevant to the FY 2018 CJD grant funding cycle. Upon approval, the resolution will be uploaded and included with the application on e-Grants. Staff requested support and approval to apply for a two year VOCA grant to continue with the Regional Crime Victim Liaison Project. If approved, this project will continue to benefit the region by providing assistance directly to victims of crime in order to speed their recovery and aid them through the criminal justice process. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the VOCA Grant Project Resolution as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz gave the status reports on Criminal Justice Division Grant Opportunity for FY 2018 and the Regional Crime Victim Liaison Program.

Emergency Communications Status Report

1. Consider Approval to Purchase KV Switches for 9-1-1 PSAP Workstations

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that due to the increase in 9-1-1 calls, there is a need for additional technology such as computers and monitors at each workstation. Instead of having three or four separate keyboard and mouse combinations at each workstation, a KV switch gives the Telecommunicator the ability to have a single keyboard and mouse for up to four different computers and monitors. This will assist call takers by increasing response time during emergencies. Staff requested Board approval to begin the procurement process to purchase KV switches for 48 workstations for a total cost of \$33,360.00. **Commissioner Danny Guzman made a motion to approve the purchase of KV switches for 9-1-1 PSAP Workstations as requested. Mayor Pro-tem Pete Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz gave the program departmental status updates highlighting the efforts the 9-1-1 Department staff is making to assist in the 2020 Census.

Homeland Security Program Status Report

1. Consider Approval of Homeland Security Advisory Committee Recommendations for FY 2018 Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Cruz reported that in accordance with the HSAC bylaws the committee held elections for officers on January 4 for FY 2018 and elected the following:

- Chair - Ms. Odee Leal, City of Brownsville Emergency Management Coordinator
- Vice Chair - Mr. Tony Lopez, City of Weslaco Fire Chief/Emergency Management Coordinator

Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee’s recommendations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair as presented. Commissioner David Fuentes seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Consider Approval of Homeland Security Advisory Committee Scoring Instruments

Mr. Cruz reported that in accordance with the FY 2017/2018 LRGVDC Intercooperative

Agreement with the Office of the Governor's Homeland Security Grant Division (HSGD), staff recommends Board review and approval of the Homeland Security Advisory Committee's Scoring Instruments for the FY 2018 HSGD Grant funding cycle. The two scoring instruments for the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA) funding categories are to be used for the HSAC's application review and prioritization process. Scoring instruments are reviewed annually to align with regional and state guidelines and priorities. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the HSAC Scoring Instruments as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pete Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

3. Consider Approval of FY 2018 Homeland Security Grant Program Resolutions
Mr. Cruz reported that in accordance with the Office of the Governor's Homeland Security Grant Division, grant applications must include a resolution that contains specific information relevant to the FY 2018 HSGP grant funding cycle. Upon approval, the resolutions will be uploaded and included with the application on eGrants. These resolutions are specifically for the LRGVDC Regional Planning Services Grant and the Texas Task Force RGV Type 3 Team Enhancement Grant. **Commissioner Danny Guzman made a motion to approve both the LRGVDC Regional Planning Services Grant Resolution and the Texas Task Force RGV Type 3 Team Enhancement Grant Resolution as presented. Mr. Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Regional Police Academy Status Report

Mr. Cruz was again recognized and gave the status report for the Regional Police Academy.

E. Transportation

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization Status Report

Andrew Canon, Director of the HCMPO, was recognized and reported that the Expressway Illumination Project is moving forward with the installation of brighter LED lights and is scheduled for completion in November 2018. He also announced that May is Motorcycle and Bicycle Awareness Month and that there is a Motorcycle Awareness Ride scheduled for May 5, 2018.

Valley Metro Status Report

1. Consider Approval of Revisions to Drug and Alcohol Policy
Mr. Tom Logan, Valley Metro Director, was recognized and stated that the revisions to the Drug and Alcohol Policy are minor in nature and are intended to reflect changes in the Federal Transit Administration guidelines in order to maintain compliance. **Mr. Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to approve the revisions to the Drug and Alcohol Policy as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pete Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Logan gave the current Ridership Report noting that there has been a 35% year-to-date increase in Valley Metro's ridership.

President Hernandez next move to item 6: Executive Session

- A. Personnel Matters pursuant to Section 551-074 (1) to deliberate the appointment, employment,

evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee RE: Executive Director Annual Performance Evaluation.

At 1:13 pm Mr. Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to go into Executive Session; Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

At 1:20 pm Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to return to regular session; Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jim Darling then made a motion to approve a 2% salary increase for Mr. Ron Garza, Executive Director. Mr. Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Hernandez next moved to item 13. – New or Unfinished Business; there being none, *Mr. Eddy Gonzalez a motion to adjourn; Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 1:22 pm.*

Mayor Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez, President

ATTEST:

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

ITEM #3.

**CAUCUS TO SEAT
NEW BOARD
MEMBERS**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Annual Elections Meeting

May 30, 2018

**Item #3: Caucus to Seat New Board Members..... Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez
Committee Chair**

- A. Three (3) Directors Representing Member Cities with Population from 10,000-24,999
- B. Three (3) Directors Representing Member Cities with Population under 10,000
- C. Two (2) Directors Representing Educational Institutions
- D. Two (2) Directors Representing Special Government Units

As per LRGVDC Bylaws, composition categories of the Board shall be selected from and by those members representing those categories.

One (1) member of each composition category will vote on behalf of that category.

City categories shall be selected by one (1) elected official per representing city.

Members are subject to suspension of voting privileges (board eligibility) with past due membership fees.

ITEM #4.

**RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM
NOMINATING
COMMITTEE**

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Annual Elections Meeting**

May 30, 2018

**Item #4: Act on Recommendations from
Nominating Committee.....Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez
Committee Chair**

- A. Election of Five (5) Members-at-Large to Serve on General Membership for the 2018-2019 Term

The Nominating Committee met on Wednesday, May 16, 2018 in Weslaco and nominated individuals to be considered as At-large Members to the LRGVDC General Membership.

The nominees are as follows:

NAME	CITY	COUNTY
Ms. Ann Cass	McAllen	Hidalgo
Hon. Norma G. Garcia	Donna	Hidalgo
Mr. Eddy Gonzalez	Edcouch	Hidalgo
Commissioner Ben Neese	Brownsville	Cameron
Ms. Celeste Sanchez	San Benito	Cameron

ACTION ITEM

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Annual Elections Meeting**

May 30, 2018

**Item #4: Act on Recommendations from
Nominating Committee.....Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez
Committee Chair**

B. Election of Officers for 2018-2019 Term

The Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of officers for the 2018-2019 term:

OFFICE	NAME	COUNTY
President	Hon. Norma G. Garcia	Hidalgo
1st Vice President	Mayor David Suarez	Hidalgo
2nd Vice President	Mayor Jim Darling	Hidalgo
Secretary	Judge Aurelio Guerra	Willacy
Treasurer	Mayor Tony Martinez	Cameron
Immediate Past President	Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez	Hidalgo

ACTION ITEM

ITEM #5.

**CONFIRM
REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE POOR &
UNDERPRIVILEGED**



THE CENTER FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES, INC.

5/9/2018

Ron Garza, Executive Director
Lower Rio Grande Development Council
301 West Railroad Street
Westlaco, Texas 78596

Mr. Garza,

This is to advise you the grassroot organizations that participate with LRGVDC in its operations in three county areas has recently conducted election for the representative and its alternate.

The participants elected Mr. Arturo Ramirez as its representative in the LRGVDC Board of Directors and Mr. Gilbert Ortiz as the alternative.

The grass root organizations are made up of participating agencies such as; South Texas Immigration Council, Harlingen Housing Corporation, Border Issues of Texas, Senior Companionship Program, Colonias Economics, Inc and Colonias del Valle.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 956-783-7730

Respectfully,

Arturo Ramirez
Grassroots Organization
5617 E. Trenton Road
Edinburg, Texas 78542



Border Issues of Texas Research Center

A public policy regional independent think tank initiative

Advising Committee

Dr. Miguel A. Nevárez Sister Norma Pimentel
Mr. Alonzo Cantú Mr. Mario Reyna

Emphasizing Education!

Date May10, 2018

Mr. Ron Garza
LRGVDC / Executive Director
301 W Railroad
Weslaco, TX 78596

Dear Mr. Garza:

This letter is to inform you about the Grassroots Organization which participates with the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council.

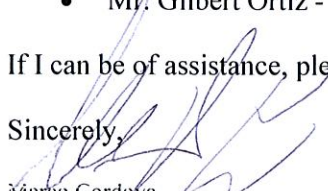
The Grassroots Organizations has recently conducted election for the "Representative" and the "Alternative" positions.

The following participants were elected to represent the Grassroots Organizations in the LRGVDC Board of Directors:

- Mr. Arturo Ramirez – The Representative.
- Mr. Gilbert Ortiz - The Alternative.

If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Marco Cordova
Executive Director