

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF CAMERON §
TOWN OF LAGUNA VISTA §

MINUTES OF A JOINT WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA TOWN
COUNCIL AND THE LAGUNA VISTA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(CDC)

DATE: May 14, 2019
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
PLACE: City Hall Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susie Houston, Mayor
Frank Davalos, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem
Michael Carter, Councilmember Place 1
Rolando Gonzalez, Councilmember Place 4
Victor Worrell, Councilmember Place 5
Nadine Smith, Councilmember Place 6

CDC

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathy Bardisbanian, Vice President
Cristin Howard, Member
Michael Reams, Member
Christopher Romero, Member
Terri Galloway, Member

Rolando Vela, City Manager
Alan Ozuna, City Attorney
Tony David, Police Chief
Alma Deckard, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: Johvonne Howard, Councilmember Place 2
Sid Ramos, CDC President
Eddie Galvan, CDC Member

ALSO PRESENT: Scott Megill, Fire Chief
David Lohse, LVRA President

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1. Call to Order – Mayor Houston called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.**
- 2. Roll Call/Excused Absences – Council Member Howard was absent.**

Mayor Houston made a motion to excuse Council Member Howard from tonight's meeting due to illness, Council Member Gonzalez seconded the motion. Mayor Houston, Council Members Carter, Davalos, Gonzalez, Worrell and Smith voted "aye" to approve, motion carried.

3. CDC PROJECTS – Discussion of potential projects to fund with CDC funds.

Rolando Vela reviewed pending projects for the marina improvements, the fire station project, and the basketball court lights.

Kathy Bardisbanian stated that she did some research concerning the improvements needed at the fire station. She stated that Sutherlands has agreed to donate the tile for the floor and provide a discount for the windows and any electrical supplies.

Scott Megill stated that the improvements total \$5,100.

Council Member Worrell stated that he is interested in knowing what projects qualify for CDC funding.

Alan Ozuna reviewed a list of qualified projects from CDC and stated he would provide a more complete list to the Council and the CDC members.

Council Member Carter inquired about the fund balance for the CDC account. There is a balance of \$265,364 in the fund balance.

Council Member Gonzalez asked if the marina ADA compliance project qualified under the CDC. Alan Ozuna stated that this project would qualify.

Kathy Bardisbanian stated that neither South Padre Island nor City of Port Isabel marinas are ADA compliant.

David Lohse stated that the Laguna Vista Recreational Association (LVRA) has spent \$18,000 on the marina ramp and fishing table. He met with the people from Megamorphosis Design and they stated that it is too expensive to be completely ADA compliant. The gate alone cost between \$12-15,000. If the City or CDC put in \$25,000 the LVRA will make up the difference to begin the process to upgrade.

Council Member Smith asked what the priorities for the marina improvements are. Why fix the docks when the dredging needs to be done to keep boats from getting stuck? I feel doing the dredging is more important.

David Lohse stated that the dredging is very expensive, and we've got a 50-year-old marina. We need the docks and ramp repaired to make them safe. We'll have to do improvements as best we can every year.

Council Member Gonzalez stated that there's no way we can do the dredging because of the expense.

Kathy Bardisbanian stated that she is also interested in a dog park. There are elderly people with dogs that need an area to let them run loose.

Council Member Smith stated that we first need the land for any park.

Council Member Carter asked Alan Ozuna if there is a possible liability to the City if the marina is not ADA compliant.

Alan Ozuna stated that federal law has authority to initiate process for ADA compliance. Someone can come along and report the non-compliance issue.

Council Member Worrell asked if the person filing a complaint must be a legitimate member of the LVRA or a resident of the town.

Alan Ozuna stated that it would be any person that legitimately can be in the marina.

Mayor Houston asked if any Council Member had suggestions for the CDC members.

Council Member Davalos stated that he would like to see the funding for the police vehicle carport. This was presented to the CDC a few years ago and the CDC denied the request.

Council Member Smith stated that the CDC should become familiar with what projects are allowed for funding.

Alan Ozuna stated that he will provide a list of projects to both the Council and the CDC members.

Council Member Gonzalez asked if funding for beautification of the butterfly gardens is permitted.

Alan Ozuna stated that anything under beautification would qualify as a project.

Council Member Smith stated that the Council recently adopted a resolution making the dwarf poinciana the official town plant/shrub.

Terri Galloway stated that she would like to see some beautification and lighting done to the entrance of Mesquite Drive and Palm Blvd.

Council Member Worrell stated that the walking trail needs some improvements. This area gets a lot of use for birding.

Council Member Smith stated that the Council is working on an overlay district ordinance. This will enhance the layout of the areas with the official town plant.

Cristin Howard stated that she has been working with Bill Beaty concerning the walking trail on Palo Blanco.

Rolando Vela encouraged everyone to complete the master park survey plan. When we apply for grants, we become eligible for parks that the survey supports.

Christopher Romero stated that the community should integrate with the Cameron County biking and walking trail that is being built. We want our activities to link with larger systems.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Smith made a motion to adjourn meeting at 8:25 pm, Council Member Davalos seconded the motion.

Attest:

Frank Davalos, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem

Alma Deckard, City Secretary