

COMMITTEE ON BORDER RELATIONS
MEETING MINUTES
MAYORS BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, 10TH FLOOR
TUESDAY, January 11, 2011 4:00 PM.

The Committee on Border Relations met at the above place and date.

AGENDA

1. Establish Quorum and Call to Order
 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes for October 5, 2010 – [Chair Kathleen Walker]
 3. Discussion and action regarding actions the City should undertake to assist establishment of businesses by new residents who have relocated from Mexico – [Sylvia Firth, Mayor’s Office]
 4. Discussion and action regarding state vehicle registrations for new residents who have relocated from Mexico – [Sylvia Firth, Mayor’s Office]
 5. Discussion and action regarding pending legislation concerning sales tax manifestos – [Sylvia Firth, Mayor’s Office]
 6. Bridge Management Report – [IBD, Said Larbi-Cherif, P.E.]:
 - a. Traffic, Toll Revenue and Parking Meters Report
 - b. Stanton and Paso Del Norte Project
 - c. Trip to Mexico City to discuss El Paso border issues with SRE, SCT and US Embassy officials
 - d. CBP Commissioner Bersin visit to El Paso of January 5, 2011
 - e. Report on the Status of the El Paso Regional Ports of Entry Operations Plan
 - f. Memorandum of Understanding between City of El Paso, Ciudad Juarez, REDCO and Freight Shuttle Partners to advance the development of the Universal Freight Shuttle Project.
 7. **OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:** At the conclusion of all other agenda items, the Committee will allow an open comment period not to exceed thirty minutes, to receive public comment on any matter under the jurisdiction of the Committee. No action will be taken. Speakers in the audience will be allowed a maximum of three minutes and must be signed up prior to the beginning of the open comment period.
 8. Adjournment.
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Item 1: Call to Order

Vice-Chair Laird Carmichael called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm. Those present were:

Kathleen Walker – Mayor
Laird Carmichael – D-7
Stephanie Caviness – D-1
Gerald Smola – D-4
Irasema Coronado – D-2
Fernando Quintana – D-5

ABSENT:

Thomas Fullerton, Jr. – D-3

OTHERS PRESENT

Mayor John Cook
Said Larbi-Cherif – International Bridges
Bill Molaski – CBP
Mayra De La Canal – Economic Development
Guillermo Reyes – Mexican Consulate
Sergio Garcia – County of El Paso, Tax Office
Siria Rocha – County of El Paso, Tax Office
Barbara Banks – County of El Paso, Tax Office
Ana Gonzalez – CPHCC
Sylvia Firth, COEP Mayor's office

All present introduced themselves to the board.

Item 2: Approval Of Meeting Minutes for October 5, 2010

Motion made by Mr. Smola, seconded by Ms. Caviness and carried to approve the minutes of October 5, 2010.

AYES Mr. Carmichael, Ms. Caviness, Ms. Coronado, Mr. Quintana, Mr. Smola,

NAYS: None

Ms. Walker was not present for the vote.

Items 3, 4 and 5 were skipped over as Ms. Sylvia Firth was not present at the meeting at this time.

Item 6: Bridge Management Report

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif presented reports on Traffic, Toll Revenue, Parking Meters, Stanton and Paso Del Norte Project, and the trip to Mexico City to discuss El Paso border issues. He also spoke about CBP Commissioner Bersin's visit to El Paso and reported on the status of the El Paso Regional Ports of Entry Operational Plan and the memorandum of Understanding between the City of El Paso, Juarez, REDCO and Freight Shuttle partners to advance the development of the Universal Freight Shuttle Project. Discussion followed.

Item 3: Discussion and action regarding actions the City should undertake to assist establishment of businesses by new residents who have relocated from Mexico.

Ms. Sylvia Firth from the Mayor's Office spoke about the actions the city should take to assist business owners from Mexico who have relocated to El Paso. Suggestions were made by board members on how to advertise information about available resources available for businesses, to contact the chambers of commerce and perhaps creating a business welcome package to present to new businesses coming into El Paso. Ms. Mayra De La Canal of Economic Development also discussed resources that are available from Economic Development such as the Economic Business Development Calendar where community economic development events are listed. Discussion followed. Everyone was asked to check what resources are available such as the Economic Development Calendar and to bring ideas to the next meeting.

Ms. Firth requested that Item 3 be kept on the CBR agenda for the next meeting.

Item 4: Discussion and action regarding state vehicle registrations for new residents who have relocated from Mexico.

Ms. Sylvia Firth of the Mayor's office, Mr. Sergio Garcia, Ms. Barbara Banks and Ms. Siria Rocha of the El Paso County tax office spoke about the requirements for state vehicle registration for new residents who have relocated from Mexico. Mr. Molaski spoke about vehicle importation requirements. Mr. Garcia spoke about the program at the county regarding registration violations. Ms. Walker asked about the objective of this item. Mayor Cook reiterated that CBR board should submit recommendations to City Council about fixes and changes to the State Law. Discussion followed.

The Mayor recommended that the Committee should develop recommendations on how it should work and forward the recommendations to City Council.

Item 5: Discussion and action regarding pending legislation concerning sales tax manifestos.

Sylvia Firth of the Mayor's Office spoke about pending legislation regarding the sales tax manifestos. Discussion followed.

Ms. Firth promised to keep the Committee updated on proposed legislation.

Item 7: Open Comment Period

There were no open comments.

Item 8: Adjournment

Motion made by Ms. Coronado, seconded by Ms. Caviness and carried to adjourn meeting.

AYES Ms. Walker, Mr. Carmichael, Ms. Caviness, Ms. Coronado, Mr. Quintana, Mr. Smola,

NAYS: None

Meeting adjourned at 5:26 pm.

Approved as to form:

Said Larbi-Cherif, P.E., Board Secretary