

# MINUTES

## Community Development Steering Committee Meeting

Two Civic Center Plaza  
2nd Floor – City Council Chambers  
Wednesday, March 26, 2008

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There being a quorum, Jim Welshimer called the meeting to order at 5:47 p.m.

### Members Present

John Doering  
Ana Dueñez  
Billie Brown  
Jessie Sustaita  
Miguel Grijalva  
Jim Welshimer

### Member Absent

Rocio Hinojosa  
Annette Stone

### Staff Present

Bill Lilly, Director  
Tom Serrano, Senior Grant Planner  
Judy Sarabia, Senior Grant Planner  
Kevin Pitts, Grant Planner  
Susie Morales, Recording Secretary

### Agenda

1. **Discussion and Action on Steering Committee Absences – Jim Welshimer, Chairperson**

Motion made by Billie Brown and seconded by Jessie Sustaita to excuse the absences of Rocio Hinojosa and Annette Stone. Motion passes unanimously.

2. **Approval of the Steering Committee Minutes of March 6, 2008 and March 12, 2008 – Jim Welshimer, Chairperson**

Motion made by John Doering and seconded by Jessie Sustaita to approve the Minutes of March 6, 2008 and March 12, 2008. Motion passes unanimously.

3. **Review of the Following 34<sup>th</sup> Year (2008-2009) City Department Public Facilities Projects:**

Based on requests to move projects up on the agenda, Jim Welshimer states that some projects will be taken earlier than listed on the agenda.

Comments are made regarding projects by person(s) listed next to the items. Steering Committee members ask questions, comment, and fill out individual evaluation forms for all presented projects.

Item 5 is taken first.

5. **Discussion and Recommendation on Adding the Following Economic Development Activity to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Year (2007-2008) CDBG Program:**

**Development of Centro Mayapan Festival Marketplace as a Community Economic Development Incubator – El Puente Community Development Corporation - \$150,000 – Bill Lilly, Community Development Director**

Cindy Arnold, Executive Director of El Puente Community Development Corporation, discusses the importance of adding the Centro Mayapan Festival Marketplace project to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Year CDBG budget.

Motion made by Billie Brown to add the economic development activity to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Year CDBG program as presented; Jessie Sustaita seconds the motion. The vote is taken and results in a tie vote, 3-3. Bill Lilly advises the committee that City Council will be advised of the committee's split vote recommendation when it is presented to City Council for a decision.

Item 3G is taken next.

**G. Crime Victims Memorial Reading Garden at Yucca Park – 610 Yarbrough Drive -** Tomas Cabeza de Baca, Assistant to City Representative Steve Ortega, and Richard Garcia, Parks Operation Manager (City Representative Steve Ortega is also present)

Patrick Turley, President of the Crime Victims' Rights Council, Raquel Granados, Hillcrest Middle School Student, Carmen Chafino, victim of crime, Paul Cutting, Hillcrest Middle School Principal, and Ralph Cloud, Yucca Neighborhood Association Member, speak in support of the Crime Victims Memorial Reading Garden.

**A. Armijo Branch Library Computer Lab Addition – 620 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue –** Norice Lee, El Paso Public Library Regional Branch Manager, and Martha Andrade, Armijo Library Branch Manager

Kris Martell, Friends of the Library Foundation Treasurer, speaks in support of the computer lab addition.

Items 3B through 3F are taken together.

- B. Pueblo Viejo Park Improvements – Old Middle Drain from Davis Drive to Presa Place** – Richard Garcia, Parks Operation Manager
- C. Grace Chope Park Improvements – 525 W. Missouri Avenue** - Richard Garcia, Parks Operation Manager
- D. Hidden Valley Park Improvements – 200 Coconut Tree Lane** - Richard Garcia, Parks Operation Manager
- E. Percy Gurrola (Pera Luna) Park Improvements – 3300 Pera Avenue** - Richard Garcia, Parks Operation Manager
- F. Franklin Park Improvements – 6050 Quail Avenue** - Richard Garcia, Parks Operation Manager

Items 3H and 3I are taken together.

- H. Memorial Park Playground Area Improvements – 1701 Copia Street** - Richard Garcia, Parks Operation Manager
- I. Memorial Park Tennis Courts Improvements – 1701 Copia Street** - Richard Garcia, Parks Operation Manager

Judy Gutierrez, Assistant to City Representative Susie Byrd, speaks in support of the Memorial Park improvements (Items H and I).

- J. Chihuahuita Community Center Remodeling, HVAC Rehab, and Park Improvements – 400 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the Vacant Lot at Zikio Chacon Place and Charles Road** - Cruz Garcia, Parks and Recreation Project Coordinator

Miguel Rodriguez, Chihuahuita Neighborhood Association President, and Manuela Rodriguez, Chihuahuita Neighborhood Association member, speak in support of the community center remodeling, HVAC rehab, and other park improvements.

- K. Father Martinez Senior Center Addition of Exercise Room and Dance Studio, and Expansion of Main Hall and Restrooms – 9301 Alameda** - Richard Garcia, Parks Operation Manager, and Richard Lujan, Community Center Director

Father Martinez Senior Center members Jaime Gonzalez, Vicente Ordonez, Elisa Lara, and Ramon Gonzalez speak in support of the senior center additions and expansion.

4. **Citizen Comments on Item #3**

None.

6. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.