



EMPOWERMENT ZONE ADVISORY BOARD

City of El Paso – Community and Human Development Department – Empowerment Zone Grant (EZ)

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EL PASO, 2 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
EL PASO, TEXAS
AUGUST 12, 2009
5:30 p.m.

The Empowerment Zone Advisory Board met in regular session at the above place and date. Meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. Sally J. Andrade was present and presiding.

The following Advisory Board members answered roll call:

Trinidad Acevedo,
Sally J. Andrade (Chair),
Daniel Ortiz,
Edith Zuvanich (Vice-Chair)

Late Arrival:

Carlos Veloz at 5:42 p.m. during review of proposals

Absent:

Soledad Muniz
Norma Tena

Staff present:

William Lilly (Community & Human Development Director)
Isela Robison (Empowerment Zone Grant Coordinator),
Priscilla Arellano (Recording Secretary),

1. Advisory Board Members' Introductions

Each Board member introduced themselves.

2. Call for General Public Comments

None

3. Approval of August 11, 2009 Minutes

Motion made by Edith Zuvanich, seconded by Trinidad Acevedo, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** minutes.

AYES: Trinidad Acevedo, Sally J. Andrade, Daniel Ortiz, Carlos Veloz, Edith Zuvanich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

4. Staff Update: Request for Proposal (RFP) Process

City staff and the Advisory Board discussed the process of funding recommendations

- 1) Advisory Board and City staff thanked agencies for their applications
- 2) City staff thanked agencies for a successful bus tour
- 3) City staff explained the Advisory Board had been instructed not to direct questions to the applicants in the audience as the opportunity to all applicants was provided in the meetings of August 10 and August 11.
- 4) The role of the applicants and public members in attendance would be to observe the advisory board's discussion and deliberation regarding the funding recommendations.
- 5) With the Outreach and Education funding category not having received applicants, the funds will be able to be used in the funding decision related to the other 4 funding categories (Small Business Technical Assistance, Small Business Incubator, Bilingual Workforce Development and Childcare).

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5. Discussion and Recommendation by EZ Advisory Board regarding the funding for the following funding categories

The following was recommended by the EZ Advisory Board for funding:

- a. Small Business Technical Assistance ^(G3.C2.P13)
 - El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce \$150,000
 - Project Vida \$100,290
- b. Small Business Incubator ^(G3.C2.P14)
 - El Puente Community Development Corporation \$649,008
 - La Fe Preparatory School, Inc. \$339,478
- c. Bilingual Workforce Development ^(G3.C1.P24)
 - La Fe Preparatory School, Inc. \$195,000
 - Excel Learning Center \$330,000
- d. Childcare ^(G4.C7.P27)
 - Young Women's Christian Association of El Paso \$450,000
- e. Outreach and Education of Economic Opportunities ^(G2.C2.P11)
 - Applications were not submitted for this category

Motion made for the recommended funding to be approved and the overage of \$63,776.00 to be assessed by City staff and worked with the two La Fe proposals and El Puente proposals to allocate those cost savings in order to bring recommendation under the budget.

AYES: Trinidad Acevedo, Sally J. Andrade, Carlos Veloz, Edith Zuvanich
 NAYS: Daniel Ortiz
 ABSENT: None

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6. Call for Public Comments on Agenda Items

Cindy Arnold, El Puente Community Development Corporation, commented

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7. Discussion and Recommendation on Commercial Façade Improvement Guidelines ^(G3.C3.P13)

Isela Robison presented the Commercial Façade Improvement Guidelines to the Advisory Board. City staff and Advisory Board discussed the guidelines.

Motion made by Daniel Ortiz, seconded by Carlos Veloz, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE RECOMMENDATION** of the Commercial Façade Improvement Guidelines to City Council.

AYES: Trinidad Acevedo, Sally J. Andrade, Daniel Ortiz, Carlos Veloz, Edith Zuvanich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

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8. Discussion and Recommendation on Publicizing Tax Incentives to Businesses Program Guidelines
(G3.C4.P1)

Isela Robison presented the proposal on publicizing Tax Incentives to Businesses Program Guidelines. City staff and Advisory Board discussed the guidelines.

Motion made by Daniel Ortiz, seconded by Trinidad Acevedo, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE RECOMMENDATION** to HUD of the proposed Publicizing Tax Incentives to Businesses Program Guidelines.

AYES: Trinidad Acevedo, Sally J. Andrade, Daniel Ortiz, Carlos Veloz, Edith Zuvanich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

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9. Scheduling next meeting

August 19, 2009, Tuesday, City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

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10. Adjournment

Motion made by Carlos Veloz, seconded by Daniel Ortiz, and unanimously carried to adjourn meeting at 8:13 p.m.
