



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
SEPTEMBER 9, 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:

Sally J. Andrade (Chair),
Daniel Ortiz,
Norma Tena,
Edith Zuvanich (Vice-Chair)

Absent:
Trinidad Acevedo
Carlos Veloz

Staff present:
William Lilly (Community and Human Development Director),
Isela Robison (Empowerment Zone Grant Coordinator),
Carolyn Yañez (Project Compliance Specialist),
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 24, 2009 Minutes

Motion made by Norma Tena, seconded by Daniel Ortiz, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** minutes with correction.

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

4. Presentation: City Staff Funding Recommendations regarding the Empowerment Zone 2009 Request for Proposal Awards

Sally Andrade spoke on the context of the meeting being held, described the purpose of the Empowerment Zone Advisory Board, and explained the Request for Proposal awards process.

5. Discussion and Action on the El Puente Community Development Corporation Appeal for FY 2010 Empowerment Zone Grant Funds under the Small Business Incubator Funding Category

Appeal from El Puente Community Development Corporation requested to be read for the record by Ms. Andrade.

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September 1, 2009

William Lilly, Director
Community and Human Development Department

Isela Robison, Coordinator
Empowerment Zone
City of El Paso
2 Civic Center Plaza, 2nd Floor
El Paso, TX 79901-1196

Dear Mr. Lilly and Ms. Robison:

Based on our meeting with the both of you this morning, it is our understanding that you intend to recommend to City Council that El Puente's application be funded at \$400,000, rather than the requested \$649,000 or the approximately \$615,000 funding level voted upon by the Advisory Committee on August 24, 2009.

As a result, El Puente Community Development Corporation requests a hearing before the Empowerment Zone Advisory Committee to appeal the funding recommendation that the staff is planning to present to City Council. We ask that this hearing be held prior to the submission of the Empowerment Zone item for placement on the City Council agenda.

Sincerely,

Cindy Arnold
Executive Director
915-478-0823
cazelpaso@aol.com
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In considering the appeal from El Puente Community Development Corporation, City staff and the Advisory Board reviewed and discussed eligibility of costs described in their application.

Ms. Cindy Arnold, El Puente Community Development Corporation Executive Director also presented and requested for the record, that "in no way did our organization ever intend to double-dip or in any way charge to any federal or private grant the salaries of the same position. We don't do that. It's illegal and we would never do it." For the record, El Puente Community Development Corporation is requesting funding to be reinstated of \$91,224 for a total funding recommendation of \$421,474.01. El Puente Community Development Corporation is requesting for the Advisory Board to move forward with the entire docket, with them included, at no less than the \$400,000 City staff recommended. The Advisory Board requested for City staff to review resolution presented by El Puente and discuss at next Advisory Board meeting. The Advisory Board heard public comments regarding this agenda item.

Ms. Andrade requested Ms. Arnold's following comments regarding a review of staff interpretation of federal guidelines be included in the minutes. Cindy Arnold: "And we stand here today asking for two things, (1) the reinstatement, but (2) a process by which this animal called HUD and the City's ability to interpret what HUD might do and use it in negotiations with agencies, without an independent third party process needs to be changed."

Ms. Andrade requested discussion of facility costs be included in the minutes, as summarized:

- (a) Ms. Robison explained rationale for allowing \$67,000 portion of approx. \$300,000 in facility costs being requested by El Puente Community Development Corporation's application, while citing OMB Circular A-122 (Cost Principles for Nonprofit Organizations, General Principles:

pp.6 and 7) and noting some requested EZ application costs were identified as funded with other sources as noted in the El Puente application for City Community Development Stimulus funding.

- (b) Ms. Robison and Ms. Zuvanich replied to Ms. Andrade's request confirming that each applicant's facility costs were reviewed in accordance with circular guidelines.

Motion made by Edith Zuvanich and seconded by Daniel Ortiz to **APPROVE** staff recommendation of \$400,000.00 for El Puente Community Development Corporation.

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

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6. Discussion and Action on EZ Advisory Board Recommendations regarding the Empowerment Zone 2009 Request for Proposal Awards

City staff will recommend the following budget to City Council as amended:

El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	\$150,000.00
Project Vida	\$ 97,290.00
El Puente Community Development Corp.	\$400,000.00
La Fe	\$507,031.00
Excel	\$330,000.00
YWCA	\$450,000.00

Motion made by Edith Zuvanich and seconded by Norma Tena to **APPROVE** the amended recommendations and budget, with the understanding that there is a balance on the budget that will be awarded based on the quarterly results. Allocation of remaining funds will be decided by December 31, 2009.

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

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7. Discussion by EZ Advisory Board regarding its Empowerment Zone funding award recommendation presentation at City Council meeting

The Advisory Board and City staff discussed the City Council Meeting being held on September 22, 2009. City Council will take action on a final EZ Budget.

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8. Call for Public Comments on Agenda Items

The following people commented on Agenda Items:

Rosario Alarcón, Mercado Mayapan	Guillermo Glenn, Border Workers
Ana Luisa Lopez, Comité del Barrio	Salvador Rodriguez, Excel Learning Center
Esther Perez	Alba Salazar, Mercado Mayapan
Lisa Turner	

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9. Scheduling next meeting

The next scheduled meeting is for September 30, 2009

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10. Adjournment

Motion made by Edith Zuvanich, seconded by Norma Tena, and unanimously carried to adjourn meeting at 7:50 p.m.
