



EMPOWERMENT ZONE ADVISORY BOARD

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
KENNEDY ESTATES COMPLEX, 400 S. ZARAGOSA
EL PASO, TEXAS
OCTOBER 1, 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 5:43 p.m. Sally J. Andrade was present and presiding.

The following Advisory Board members answered roll call:

Sally J. Andrade (Chair),
Norma Tena,
Carlos Veloz,
Edith Zuvanich (Vice-Chair)

Absent:
Trinidad Acevedo
Daniel Ortiz

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 September 9, 2009 Minutes

Motion made by Carlos Veloz, seconded by Edith Zuvanich, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** minutes.

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

4. Update: Empowerment Zone 2009 Request for Proposal Awards

A copy of the Resolution was given to the Advisory Board describing funding awards approved by City Council. City staff and Advisory Board discussed.

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5. Presentation: Announcement of Small Business Assistance, Job Training, and Childcare Services now available to Empowerment Zone Community

The El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Project Vida, the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, and Excel Learning Center discussed their program and answered questions from the Advisory Board.

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6. Discussion and Action on EZ Advisory Board recommendation regarding \$400,679 unencumbered EZ funds

Item was tabled for next meeting scheduled for October 21, 2009.

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7. Discussion and Action on Microenterprise Forgivable Loans ^(G3.C3.P12)

City staff and the Advisory Board discussed creating a subcommittee to review loan guidelines for both loan programs. A subcommittee was created with Edith Zuvanich and Norma Tena to work on the microenterprise loan guidelines with City staff for recommendations by next month.

Motion made by Edith Zuvanich, seconded by Carlos Veloz, and unanimously carried to reduce the funding for the microenterprise forgivable loan category from \$400,000 to \$200,000 and the outcomes from 80 small loans to a minimum of 40 small loans. The reduction of \$200,000 will be moved into the larger category of small business loans to increase the availability amount.

AYES: Sally J. Andrade, Norma Tena, Carlos Veloz, Edith Zuvanich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trinidad Acevedo, Daniel Ortiz

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8. Call for Public Comments on Agenda Items

Terri Reed (El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce)
Rosario Fernandez (Project Vida)
Melodya Salaices (Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce)
Salvador Rodriguez, Jr. (Excel Learning Center)

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9. Scheduling next meeting

The next scheduled meeting is for October 21, 2009

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10. Adjournment

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