



EMPOWERMENT ZONE ADVISORY BOARD

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
BURLESON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 4440 BLANCO AVE.
EL PASO, TEXAS
NOVEMBER 4, 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 5:30 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)

Absent:
Norma Tena,
Carlos Veloz

Staff present:
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 October 1, 2009 Minutes

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

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

Sally Andrade, Chair, recommended Agenda Item #8 (Quarterly Presentations) precede Agenda Item #7 (Unencumbered EZ Funds).

4. Quarterly Presentations:

- a. Excel Learning Center – Bilingual Workforce Development (G3.C1.P24)
Presenter: Salvador Rodriguez, Jr.
- b. La Fe Preparatory School, Inc. – Small Business & Job Incubator (G3.C2.P14)
Presenter: Amy O'Rourke

C. YWCA – Childcare (G4.C7.P27)
Presenter: Eli Pabon (YWCA)

Excel Learning Center, La Fe Preparatory School, and YWCA presented their quarterly reports and answered questions from the Advisory Board.

5. Updates:

- a. Commercial Façade Improvement Program Guidelines
- b. EZ Advisory Board Subcommittee - EZ Lending Guidelines
- c. EZ Staff Monthly Report (Sep 22 – Sept 30)
- d. Empowerment Zone Advisory Board - Vacancies

The subcommittee will be meeting next week to discuss the EZ lending guidelines. City staff presented the monthly report to the Advisory Board. There are three vacancies on the Advisory Board. Interested applicants must be an employee of or own a for-profit business.

6. Discussion and Action on EZ Advisory Board Recommendation Regarding \$400,679 Unencumbered EZ Funds

City staff and Advisory Board discussed different options for the unencumbered funds. Advisory Board requested for City staff to email the different options that are available: reallocate to the projects, recommend for the amount to be transferred to the revolving loan fund, or be retained.

Motion made by Daniel Ortiz, seconded by Trinidad Acevedo, and unanimously carried to **DEFER** the item until November 18, 2009 meeting.

7. Nomination and Election of 2009 Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Motion made by Daniel Ortiz, seconded by Trinidad Acevedo, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** nomination of Edith Zuvanich as Chairperson.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Norma Tena, Carlos Veloz

Motion made by Trinidad Acevedo, seconded by Edith Zuvanich, and unanimously carried to **APPROVE** nomination of Daniel Ortiz as Vice-Chairperson.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Norma Tena, Carlos Veloz

8. Call for Public Comments on Agenda Items

Mike Chambers

9. Scheduling next meeting

The next scheduled meeting is for November 18, 2009

10. Adjournment

Motion made by Edith Zuvanich, seconded by Trinidad Acevedo, and unanimously carried to adjourn meeting at 7:10 p.m.