

**STATE OF TEXAS §**  
**COUNTY OF CAMERON §**  
**TOWN OF LAGUNA VISTA §**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LAGUNA VISTA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD.

DATE: June 15, 2020

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: CITY HALL BUILDING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Christopher Romero, President  
Kathy Bardisbanian, Vice-President  
Cristin Howard, Member  
Terri Galloway, Member  
Sid Ramos, Member  
Victor Worrell, Council Member  
Johvonne Howard, Council Member

Alan Ozuna, Corporation Attorney  
Ed Meza, General Manager  
Ana Hernandez, Secretary  
Rendie Gonzales, Office Assistant

MEMBERS ABSENT: Eddie Galvan, Absent  
Frank Davalos, Jr., Absent

ALSO PRESENT: Janie Petty

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **Meeting was called to order by Christopher Romero at 6:08 PM.**
2. **Roll Call** – Eddie Galvan and Frank Davalos, Jr. were absent, no motion was made to excuse Mr. Galvan or Mr. Davalos.
3. **Open Forum – None**
4. **NEW BUSINESS:** Discussion, consideration, and potential action on any of the following items:
  - a) **MINUTES** – Approval of the minutes for the June 15, 2020 Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation Meeting. (Corporation Secretary)

**Member Cristen Howard made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 15, 2020 Laguna Vista Community Development Corporation meeting, Member Kathy Bardisbanian seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

**b) FINANCIAL REPORTS** – Review of monthly financial reports. (Finance Director)

Ana Hernandez reported that the current cash in bank is \$192,604.37. The sales tax received to date is \$49,883.66 of the \$60,000.00 budgeted.

Ms. Galloway asked about the money that was spent for the fireworks and would it be returned to the CDC or kept on deposit for next year; Mr. Meza confirmed the monies would be held and used for next year.

Mr. Galloway asked about the Marina ADA project and was that completed and asked for up update since not everyone has access to the marina.

Ms. Galloway asked about the Next Generation money distribution and the Firehall projects and were those projects completed; Mr. Meza advised that Next Generation was for the Library it was completed as is the Fire Department renovation.

**c) ART INITIATIVE IN ROLOFF PARK** – Update. (General Manager)

Mr. Meza advised the board that this was an item that had been previously approved by the board last year and that we were instructed that we need to follow-up on the 60 day reading since the project was never done. The artist is still interested in completing the process.

Kathy B asked what the process is moving forward.

Mr. Ozuna confirmed with A. Hernadnez that we had proof of publication of this item; Ms. Hernandez confirmed that we do. Mr. Ozuna said we can now move forward under the statutory process and if we don't get any objection we can move forward.

Ms. Johvonne Howard inquired that since the parks aren't even open yet can it be considered to not go forward with?

Mr. Ozuna advised that it hasn't been finalized and its just been approved for notice; when it comes back to be concidered and when it goes in front of the Town

Council they can decide at that point if this is something still worth while considering the current situation.

Kathy B advised that she thinks that given all that is going on that she thinks this is something that should just wait.

Mr. Ozuna advised that essentially that is its current status, its tabled and waiting for action.

Ms. Galloway said that she thinks we should bring it back at the end of Summer – maybe September. The timing would work out with all that is going on.

Mr. Ramos - The purpose of the project was to bring more of a curb appeal and having one person out there doing the Art wouldn't be a problem.

Mr. Ozuna clarified the action that this board took was is the first step, we can't take further action until we complete that procedural step.

Mr. Ramos – if this is considered he wants the different art pieces to be considered by the board ... different sections with different pieces.

General discussion regarding the type and location of the art by various members.

Mr. Ramos asked if they needed to make 60 day motion and Mr. Ozuna advised that the board has already done this.

d) **STRATEGIC PLANNING** – Consideration regarding policies on economic development (Town Attorney).

Mr. Ozuna provided presentation with different economic plans / strategies from Rockwall, Lago Vista, Forney, Travis and Harlingen.

Dr. Romero discussed different resources for self-assessment for the CDC regarding planning and other related improvements. He advised that the Town's charge is to be good stewards of their finances. Dr. Romero also suggested that there should be an in person presentation.

Mr. Ramos remarked that the CDC needs to get in line with the Town's strategic planning and have a boiler plate for projects that have a good ROI.

Mr. Meza advised that the Eco Tourism Center is going to bring in new business opportunities and we should have goals for what we want to do.

Ms. Howard advised that 13 acres was approved to the Water District to add development opportunities and suggested having a working workshop.

Ms. Galloway requested that the CDC needs more details in the plans and see the bigger picture of proposals that are presented.

Dr. Romero likes how the “HELP” program that Harlingen implemented puts a CAP on the money and has time limites.

J. Howard commented that the CDC board needs to think of themselves like a bank.

Dr. Romero asked if the CDC can apply for grants and Mr. Ozuna said that they could.

Mr. Meza discussed a revolving loan program they have in Port Isabel.

Dr. Romero reported that the Federal Department of Health and Human Services has grants option and the Town of Laguna Vista falls within the guidelines.

General discussion about potentially hiring a grant writer.

Dr. Romero wants the CDC to work on “us” (the CDC board) and focus on what the Citing planning ... its not the CDC responsibility to make the vision rather to finance what the town council has already decided. He also suggested that there be some sort of rubric for an application to help follow the city vision.

Kathy B inquired to know how hurt are our local business and suggested that we take some sort of survey.

General discussion regarding how citizens are going to access the new ECO center and Mr. Meza reported on TX.DOT singage on how it will be laid out.

Board set the date of the next workshop for the Application for CDC funds to be at the next regularly scheduled meeting, July 20, 2020 @ 6pm.

Mr. Ramos requested a copy of the comprehensive plan of the Town.

5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Executive closed session in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, regarding any matter listed on the agenda pursuant to Section 551.071 – consultation with Corporation Attorney; 551.072 – deliberation regarding real property; and 551.087 – deliberation regarding economic development negotiations.

**Board did not go into Executive Session.**

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

**Member Sid Ramos made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:11 PM, Member Cristin Howard seconded the motion. All voted “aye” to approve, motion carried.**

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Christopher Romero, President

Attest:

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Rendie R. Gonzales, Corporation Secretary