

**HARLINGEN COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT BOARD
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING
MARCH 31, 2011**

A meeting of the Harlingen Community Improvement Board of Directors was held on Thursday, March 31, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in Town Hall, City Hall, 118 E. Tyler Street, Harlingen, Texas. Those in attendance were:

Present:

Jesse Robles – President
Dean LaFever - Treasurer
Daniel Araiza -
Joe Rubio
Rick Caballero

Absent:

Paul J. Durant
Gina Cano-Monreal

City Commission present:

Mayor Boswell
Gus Ruiz, Commissioner District 1

Staff Present:

Carlos Yerena, City Manager
Gabriel Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager
Roel Gutierrez, Director of Finance
Elena Garza, Interim City Secretary

J. Robles called the meeting to order and stated the agenda had been posted accordingly.

ITEM NO. 1 - CITIZENS COMMENTS

Gus Ruiz, City Commissioner spoke in reference to the Veterans Memorial Project and asked the Commission to support this very important project. This project is way of thanking all our veterans who have served this country.

He asked the Commission to support the Water Park Project. He stated this would be a great asset to the City of Harlingen. It would be something small and affordable and with quite a few of water activities for the community.

He continued with the K-Mart field at Pendleton Park and stated that he was contacted by the President of the baseball association. The association is concerned the fence is a danger to everyone that uses the baseball field.

Ken Jaegar spoke in reference to the K-Mart field and stated it was a safety hazard. The fence is old and rusted; if someone kicks any part of the fence it would actually create a hole. He has been working on the fence by patching up some of the holes. His concerns are when the smaller group of girls play they have run into the fence and have actually hurt themselves. It seems the tennis courts at Pendleton Park take up most of the funding. He asked the Board to please consider the K-Mart field for funding.

ITEM NO. 2 – MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 25, 2010 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2011.

Gabriel Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager mentioned that the minutes of February 25, 2010 had been tabled at the last meeting so staff could determine if minutes were correct. There was a question whether a certain item had been discussed at that meeting. After conducting a review it was determined that they were correct with the item as presented.

Joe Rubio made a motion to approve the February 25, 2010 minutes. Dean LaFever seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Dean LaFever made a motion to approve the February 28, 2011 minutes. Joe Rubio seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ITEM NO. 3 – PRESENTATION ON THE TRAIL MASTER PLAN

Jeff Lyssy, Parks Superintendent gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the Trail Master Plan. He stated the plan was approved back in 2008 by the Harlingen Community Improvement Board. The City Commission approved the plan the early part of last year.

He mentioned some of the goals on the plan:

1. Create a trail system that provides recreation and alternative modes of transportation.
2. Maintain a high quality trail system that promotes an identity in the City of Harlingen.
3. Maintain a safe environment.
4. Develop tools to facilitate the development of trails and implement through the plan.
5. Incorporate citizen participation in the whole process of this plan.

He state the total cost on the project is \$2.6 million with 80% of the funding which is approximately \$2.1 million coming from TxDOT and the other 20% coming from the Harlingen Community Improvement Board which is a total of \$525,000.

Carlos Yerena mentioned TxDOT will have complete control of this project beginning with RFQ's (Request for Qualifications) through the whole construction process.

Mr. Lyssy gave a projected completion date of fifteen (15) years.

He stated there are other optional ordinances that need to be considered, one of those being a mandatory Trail Development ordinance which requires trails in new development.

Jesse Robles stated one concern that has come up is the lighting along the 25th Pedestrian Street corridor.

Mr. Lyssy replied there is plenty of lightning from the street lights along the 25th Street corridor.

Mr. Yerena pointed out that lighting issues would be a concern to direct to TX DOT was the project gets started.

Gabriel Gonzalez stated the Board has to make a decision on whether to help light those corridors or maintain them closed during dusk.

Mr. Yerena asked if the lightning is been provided under the \$2.8 million budget?

Paul Menzies, Director of Parks and Recreation stated once the preliminary design was completed it was to be brought before the 4B Board (which we are here tonight) and also before the City Commission for comments. Depending on what bids TxDOT has brought in; the City could go in and add solar lighting to the plan.

ITEM NO. 4 – PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATUS FOR MONTH ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2011.

Roel Gutierrez, Finance Director reported the February 2011 cash assets to be \$1,783,247. Accounts receivable from sales tax are at \$82,324. Total assets are \$1,865,571 which is also the Fund Balance. Total Revenues that came in are at \$83,185 and year to date totals are at \$494,602. With the year to date Fund Balance was \$1,865,571.

Joe Rubio mentioned that he was aware that the 4A Board was going to be provided with some type of system on how to monitor the Articulation Center expenses. He proceeded to volunteer Gabriel Gonzalez to look into this.

Mr. Gonzalez stated the Finance Department reviews the 4A invoices. The Articulation Center has a list of items that were purchased and that is provided to the Finance Department and they will match the invoices with the list. It will then be reimbursed.

No action required.

ITEM NO. 5 – PRESENTATION ON THE VETERANS MEMORIAL.

Frank Hale thanked the Board for allowing him to speak at the meeting. He stated he was very proud of this Veterans Committee, which is a group of volunteers that are

independent from the City. He stated the Committee has over \$15,000 in the bank and \$47,000 clear after the expenses on the sale of the memorial pavers. This pavers have been an excellent source of funding.

He stated the Veterans Committee is here tonight to ask the Harlingen Community Improvement Board for assistance in financing so they can get started on the project.

At this time, he introduced Robert Ruiz, Architect for the project and who is recognized for his excellent projects such as the remodeling of the Dancy Building and the Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville, Texas.

Robert Ruiz stated he has been working with this Committee on the project for the past two years. He then proceeded with the Power Point presentation on the Veterans Memorial.

Dean LaFever asked what action is being requested of the 4B Board.

Mr. Ruiz answered the Committee is here to get financial assistance for the Veteran's Park. They are looking at \$600,000 to accomplish this project.

Carlos Yerena, City Manager asked out of this \$600,000 how much is being requested from the 4B Board.

Frank Hale replied the Committee doesn't have a figure, so we are here to get guidance from the Board. He is asking the Board to help them with a commitment to start the bid contracting process. They are also hoping the Veterans Advisory Board will provide guidance on this project. He stated to ask for all the \$600,000 might not be very reasonable, but it is worth asking. He questioned whether the Veterans Committee would be required to go out for public bids or work freely as they have been doing.

Mr. Yerena replied the Committee will be required to go through the bidding process since you will be using public funds.

Mayor Boswell stated since the Committee has proposed the design. The City will then take over the bid process since the improvements will be sitting on City property. The City will also come before the 4B Board for funding assistance.

Jesse Robles thanked Mr. Hale and stated the Board fully supports the Veterans Memorial Project.

Mr. Yerena stated the item will be brought back at the next 4B Board meeting as an action item.

Mayor Boswell suggested the Committee bring forward everything they have accomplished. The Commission will instruct staff to get the project started through the 4B Board.

Frank Hale stated the Committee would like this project completed by Veteran's Day which is on November 11, 2011.

ITEM NO. 6 – ACTION TAKEN TO PRIORITIZE AND FUND THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS.

a. Water Parks at Rangerville Park and Lon C. Hill Park	\$150,000
b. Completion of baseball field at Lon C. Hill Park	\$ 15,000
c. Boys and Girls Club outfield fencing	\$ 5,000
d. Resurfacing all 6 Victor Park Tennis Courts	\$ 90,000
e. K-Mart field Fencing at Pendleton Park	\$ 15,000
f. New Pro Shop at Tennis Center	\$125,000
g. Sunshades at 10 playgrounds	\$200,000
h. Sunshades for bleachers at Sports Complex, Victor	\$ 30,000

Jesse Robles stated the figure the Board will be working on this project funding is \$653,095. Additional revenues between now and September 30, 2011 are about \$604,000.

Gabriel Gonzalez informed the Board they will be going over all the Projects and give a brief overview on the cost of each one. Then if the Board agrees to pursue certain projects, a notice of public hearing will have to be published in the newspaper so the projects can be approved for funding. The only action to be taken tonight is to prioritize the projects.

Dean LaFever questioned whether these projects have been presented to the Parks and Recreation Board.

Paul Menzies, Parks & Recreation Director replied yes, and the Board had just discussed funding the 25th Street Pedestrian corridor. The Board is supportive of all this projects.

Carlos Yerena, City Manager stated some of these projects are critical and some of these projects can wait. For example the last three projects can wait.

Gabriel Gonzalez explained the new pro shop at the Tennis Center is critical and needs funding. He will meet with the Parks staff to verify if the cost identified on the project will cover the whole project.

Mr. Yerena stated another critical project is the Park Master Plan, but that will be presented at a later meeting for the Board's consideration.

Paul Menzies pointed out that the Parks Board had prioritized the Projects that fall under their department.

Mr. Gonzalez explained to the 4B Board they have the right to go back to the Board that is requesting the funds and have them bring more figures if they are not in agreement with what is being presented tonight. He stated the 4B Board could also consider having

the City's Financial Advisor attend one of the 4B meetings and address some type of a long-term debt to tackle some of these projects.

At this time Desi Martinez, a Representative for Water Splash gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Water Park Project.

After the presentation a brief discussion followed on the maintenance; security issues; and the type of equipment on the park.

Mr. Gonzalez informed the Chair that staff had one item to present which is the re-surfacing of the tennis courts. He mentioned that the three smaller projects which are the baseball field at Lon C. Hill for \$15,000; Boys & Girls Club fencing for \$5,000 and K-Mart field fencing for \$15,000 are going to come before a public hearing at the next meeting.

Jeff Lyssy, Parks Superintendent stated there are six (6) tennis courts at Victor Park that are free to the public. They have been there for more then twelve (12) years and they have never been resurfaced. The estimated cost for each court is \$15,000 that comes to a total of \$90,000.

Mr. Robles continued with the prioritizing of the projects. He stated since the three (3) smaller projects are already on the top of the list, he wanted the consensus from the Board and which projects will come in next. Again, he informed the Board the only action being taken tonight is to prioritize.

Mr. Yerena stated the Board needs to recommend staff to move forward with the projects and to conduct public hearings so action can be taken on the funding process.

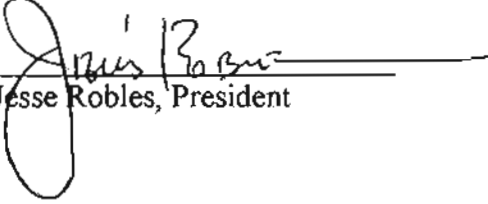
Dean LaFaver made a motion to move forward and place Items B, C, and E as the highest priority projects. Rick Caballero seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Joe Rubio made a motion to prioritize the resurfacing of all six (6) tennis courts at Victor Park. Dean LaFever seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

At this time, Mr. Robles mentioned that staff is recommending that it Project Items F, G, and H not be considered at this time. That leaves only Project Item A, the Water Parks as a pending project.

Dean LaFever made a motion that City staff review the Water Park Project and bring back to the 4B Board for consideration. Joe Rubio seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.


Jesse Robles, President

Attest:


Elena Garza, Interim City Secretary