

**HARLINGEN COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT BOARD
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MAY 12, 2009**

A meeting of the Harlingen Community Improvement Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in Town Hall, City Hall, 118 E. Tyler Street, Harlingen, Texas. Those in attendance were:

Eddie Medrano
Jesse Robles
Kori Marra
Paul Durant

Not present:
Luis Perez

City Commission present:
Bobby Farris
Robert Leftwich

City Staff present:
Craig Lonon, City Manager
Gabriel Gonzalez, Asst. City Manager
Rick Bilbie, Assistant City Attorney
Roel Gutierrez, Director of Finance
Sylvia R. Trevino, City Secretary

E. Medrano called the meeting to order.

ITEM NO. 1 – MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – MARCH 31, 2008

The minutes were approved as presented upon a motion made by K. Marra and seconded by P. Durant. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM NO. 2 – PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATUS AS OF APRIL 30, 2009

Roel Gutierrez pointed out that total assets were \$1,876,311 and total liabilities and fund balance were \$1,876,311. The fund balance at the beginning of the year was \$1,115,208 and the fund balance year to date was \$1,876,311. The budgeted amount available from last year was \$2,226,651

Craig Lonon indicated that the Board authorized \$3.2 million in expenditures but no decision has been made to issue debt.

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E. Medrano asked for an explanation on the expenditures. R. Gutierrez explained that the expenditures were for advertisements on projects. He requested an addendum reflecting a recap of what the Board committed to fund and anticipated reimbursements. He reminded the Board that there had been previous discussion on the life expectancy of various projects that would justify whether or not to issue debt. He noted it would be important to have a timeline on the projects and a breakdown to track the flow of money being spent on the projects. He recalled that the Board talked about limiting its annual debt payments to no more than 50% of its annual revenue.

ITEM NO. 3 – THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED LATER IN THE MEETING.

ITEM NO. 4 – PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED VETERANS MEMORIAL PROJECT

Carlos Lugo, Vice President of the Committee, and in absence of Joe Garza stated that the Committee retained the services of Roberto Ruiz as the architect and the Committee was present to seek support from the 4B Board. The following committee members were present: Fred Rendon, Ellie Barbee, Carl Weber, Frank Hale and Roger Youngblood.

Roberto Ruiz, the architect, distributed additional information on the Memorial and explained the schematic design, which was prepared, based on the idea of locating in Pendleton Park. Mr. Ruiz presented a preliminary cost estimate. He explained that their estimate was prepared according to phases. The emphasis is to at least get started. The overall three-phase estimate is \$898,912.00

Fred Rendon proceeded to explain how this endeavor came about and it was through the death of Spc. Darrell Shipp. It is about veterans who put their lives on the line. A little memorial can mean a lot to veterans and he asked that the Board remember the reason they are here.

Frank Hale stated that this committee is a committee of citizens---not only veterans. It is not a city, state or military project. As citizens they are coming before the Board for support.

When asked if the committee has considered other forms of funding, Mr. Hale explained that they already began with cursory donations and they have received voluntary contributions but they have not launched a full fledged funding project.

Fred Rendon further stated that they have had a dance, a golf tournament is forthcoming and they are working on a motorcycle/car show.

C. Lugo commented that the Committee knew they could not do it themselves and that they raised the money to come up with the design before the Board at this time to the tune of about \$7-\$8,000 (for the schematic design).

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K. Marra's concern was how this project would qualify for 4B funding. C. Lonon replied that as a park it could qualify, however, a legal opinion had not been requested.

K. Marra stated she would support the project if it helps to kick off the fund raising efforts but she wants to make sure that 4B monies can be used.

J. Robles commented that it is probable that the Board cannot fund the entire project. He explained to the Committee that in funding projects the Board also looks at what contributions the Committee could come up with. He also felt that the project needs to fit within the parameters of the 4B regulations for funding projects.

E. Medrano asked that the Committee agree on an amount that they can commit to assuming the citizens of the community contribute to the cause in order to show that the Committee is doing its part in coming up with an amount of funding to contribute.

C. Lugo reminded the Board that there have been other committees in the past trying to get a memorial park but have failed and he does not want to be the committee that failed and that is why this committee is putting as much effort into the project as they can. He explained that this would be a way of educating future generations that right now don't know anything about the wars that have been fought.

K. Marra pointed out that there are items in Phase I that could be paid by contributions, donations, and/or sponsorships.

In summary, the Committee was asked to come back with a refined list that would give the Board a better idea of how much funding the Committee could get through sponsorships, donations and other contributions. K. Marra also suggested that the Committee could do something in conjunction with the Centennial Celebration to acquire more funds.

J. Robles informed the Committee that they have the Board's support at this time. Obviously, the park is there already. A legal opinion will be sought regarding the use of 4B monies for this project. Focus will be on Phase I of the project and see what we can do to get more 'bang for the buck'.

ITEM NO. 5 – PRESENTATION ON STATUS OF APPROVED PROJECTS

Craig Lonon went over his report, which was included in the agenda packet and tried to project costs. He stated that in addition to the current request the City would be asking for an additional reimbursement of \$889,400 at the end of the summer.

E. Medrano again stated that it is important to show the life expectancy of the projects to know how long funding will be required.

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R. Leftwich commented that he was not opposed to taking on debt and suggested determining the percentage amount that can be encumbered. Currently, the City is paying over \$1 million in interest on capital improvement bonds.

ITEM NO. 6 – PRESENTATION OF FUNDING REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST

Craig Lonon explained that the 4B Board, on April 8, 2008, approved 14 city-initiated projects estimated to cost \$3,259,000. The City funded the projects with its General Fund Reserve. Now the City needs to replenish the fund to continue constructing the remaining projects.

The project reimbursement requests were for **Project 2008-01**, Athletic Field Lighting at the Wilson Sports Complex. The City requested reimbursement of \$230,000.

Project 2008-05 Parking Lot Improvements for Arroyo and Wilson Sports Complex. The City requested reimbursement of \$219,442.

Project 2008-11 Picnic Table Project. The City requested reimbursement of \$166,880.

Project 2008-18 Pendleton Park Acquisition Project. The City requested reimbursement of \$419,162.

Project 2008-19 Swimming Pool Renovations at Victor and Lon C. Hill Parks. The City requested reimbursement of \$230,000.

Mr. Lonon explained that the total budget for these projects was \$1,489,880 and the City was seeking reimbursement of \$1,265,484. He pointed out that funding for Project 2008-05 that is being requested at this time is for the Wilson Sports Complex parking lot only.

Mr. Lonon stated that the City anticipates requesting additional reimbursements later this summer in the amount of \$889,400.

E. Medrano stated that it was important to note that the 4A Corporation entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with TSTC for an articulation center for the cost of the structure only. The initial projected costs for the computers for the facility is approximately \$750,000, which could come from 4B revenues, and he asked that the Board keep this in mind.

Commissioner Leftwich also pointed out that right now we also don't know what the general master plan will produce.

ITEM NO. 7 – ACTION TAKEN TO REIMBURSE THE CITY FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

E. Medrano stated that the Board needs to keep in mind that the EDC Board entered into an MOU for the articulation center but this amount encompasses the cost of the structure only. The initial cost for computers at the center is \$750,000 and 4B revenues will need to be used for the purchase of those computers.

- A. Project 2008-01 (\$230,000) – motion made by K. Marra and it was seconded by J. Robles to approve reimbursement.
- B. Project 2008-02 (\$219,442) – motion made by J. Robles and it was seconded by K. Marra to approve reimbursement for only the Wilson Sports Complex. (parking lot).
- C. Project 2008-11 (\$166,880) – motion made by J. Robles and it was seconded by P. Durant to approve reimbursement.
- D. Project 2008-18 (\$419,162) – motion made by J. Robles and it was seconded by P. Durant to approve reimbursement. K. Marra questioned the excessive amount of \$7,024 for the appraisal of the Sharboneau property. G. Gonzalez explained that there were several parcels that had to be appraised separately.
- E. Project 2008-19 (\$230,000) – K. Marra made a motion and it was seconded by P. Durant to approve the reimbursement.

All motions passed unanimously.

ITEM NO. 3 – SELECTION OF OFFICERS

E. Medrano suggested that the current officers remain in office until September. K. Marra made a motion to keep the same officers until September because there are three new Commissioners. P. Durant seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ITEM NO. 8 – SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES APPROVED

There was some discussion regarding the restrooms at Pendleton Park and the restrooms at McKelvey Park. A comment was made that the Board needs to start looking for money for the McKelvey Park restrooms instead of going through fund raising efforts as was originally discussed.

The second Tuesday of every other month was recommended as the meeting dates for the Board. A motion was made by J. Robles and seconded by P. Durant to approve the schedule. The dates are:

- July 14, 2009
- September 8, 2009
- November 10, 2009
- January 12, 2010
- March 9, 2010

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J. Robles made a motion to approve the schedule of meeting dates. P. Durant seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Heriberto "Eddie" Medrano, President

Attest:

Sylvia R. Trevino, City Secretary