

Committee on Border Relations

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Main Conference Room (City Hall)
May 28, 2019
4:00 P.M.

Board Members in Attendance:

Arturo Barrio
Kathleen Staudt
Mario Porras
Valeria Contreras
Fabiola Campos Lopez

Staff Members Present:

Lydia Nesbitt-Arronte
Eduardo Garcia

MINUTES

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Establishment of a Quorum:

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm.

2. Administrative Items:

a. Reappointments and Appointments

The committee was informed of the reappointment for Mr. Porras, Mr. Barrio, Ms. Contreras, and Ms. Campos. Representatives for District 5 and 6 are still vacant. Staff will follow up and Mr. Barrio will also be sending an email to remind the representatives of the importance of assigning someone to the committee during the next council meeting.

b. By Laws Discussion

The Bylaws were reviewed by committee to assure that suggested changes had been done. An additional change was suggested in the time allotted to public speaking, from 5 to 3 minutes. The change will be reflected next meeting. A vote will also be taken during the next meeting to approve the bylaws.

3. Presentation on other Border Models

Staff presented two border models to the committee that could be used as reference for goals to be established. The two models presented were: Cali Baja in the Californias and Arizona Sonora Commission. The committee discussed the models and opportunities they provide to the areas they serve as well as funding sources.

4. Identification of El Paso/Juarez Initiatives

A matrix of all the current Juarez/ El Paso initiatives was presented. A total of eight initiatives were on the matrix and the chair asked that members of the committee augment the list to assure we are covering all items across the metroplex.

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Each initiative was presented by diverse members.

Sister Cities: The Annual Conference will be held in Huston July 17-19 where a mini summit will be held by our delegation. Two panels will be presented one on trade and the other on Education & Innovation. The idea is to promote the 2020 Mayor's conference that will be held in February of next year.

Border Conference: Several entities will be leading the effort. The idea is to convene various events in to one and leverage resources and attendance. The events currently listed are: Reset, Borderplex annual Binational Summit, US-Mexico 10K run.

Paseo de las Luces: the Mexican side will be continuing the integration of El Paso Street. Money has been set aside to continue the project.

The Bridge: An effort to brand the whole region as one entity. The Foundation is the collecting agency for all donations across the three sub regions. The idea is to have one electronic location where individuals, site selectors, investors, and other can go to access information about the region.

County Binational effort report: Commissioner Stout brought together individuals from both sides of the border to share information regarding both cities governmental entities and organizational charts. A report was published as a reference document.

Chihuahua EDC; an entity being created to attract foreign investment to the area. It is currently being led by Desarrollo Economico and the State Government.

BorderTEch: an initiative to promote binational entrepreneurship and showcase new technologies. This will be the second year and it will continue to be a binational effort.

The idea of building a matrix is for the committee to be aware of all items being discussed at an international level and promote them. The committee would interact as a catalyst or umbrella to promote and assure through diverse relationships that the events are carried out in a binational environment.

The members of the committee requested criteria to be placed in to assure we are not extending the list too much. Some of the questions brought up where if we should include all projects that non for profits were doing, sport related activities, cultural activities and others.

Members of the committee will send their input on what criteria should be utilized to expand the matrix in an orderly way.

5. Discussion on Future Mission and Vision of the Committee

The committee was posed the following question of: *What would you like this committee to accomplish in a two year span?*

Committee members participated and stated the following points:

- Need of listing of priorities to guide committee. Do we concentrate on economic sectors such as healthcare or others?

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- Promote a Friendship park where people from both sides of the border can touch each other. Maybe somewhere in the Chamizal area.
- Binational neutral zone where kids could come together to share something.
- Paseo de las LUCes – would trigger our architectural and promote our downtown areas
- Creation of a mirror committee through the Juarez Municipality who could align with projects

6. Other Items

The following were brought up as additional items:

- New Mexico is building a wall on funded by the private sector. It was suggested that we be active in these events and see the possibility of writing a resolution to support our stand against building walls
- A resolution was going to be presented in 2017 regarding the wall but it did not go through. We might want to revisit the issue.
- We might want to take a stance in the advocacy area for binational affairs

Follow up items

- Address pending members from district 5 and 6
- The committee will be meeting on a monthly basis to assure we are covering all of the items to get it going
- Ask for clarity on procedures to convene the committee. See if the attorney would like to state what committee members can and can't do
- The committee will be inviting Mr. Juan Acereto and the new Council during the month of July or August to present
- Add items to the agenda: approval of the minutes, new business and other items

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Approved: _____

Recording Secretary