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The following are summary minutes for the meeting of the **Las Cruces Economic Recovery Ad Hoc Board** on January 7, 2021 at 10:00 am. The meeting was held via Zoom.

Members Present:

- Chris Schaljo, Chairman
- Debbi Moore, Vice Chair
- Michael Harris, Member
- George Miller, Member
- Ron Fitzherbert, Member
- Darleen Lopez, Member (arrived 11:09 a.m.)
- Sharon Thomas, Member
- Jolene Martinez, Member (arrived 10:05 a.m.)
- Susan Greenwald, Member
- Brooke Montgomery, Member

Members Absent:

- Veronica Archuleta, Member

Staff Present:

- Francisco Pallares, Economic Development Deputy Director
- Cynthia Villanueva, Administrative Assistant
- Dominic Aragon, Digital Media Coordinator (10:14 a.m. - 11:04 a.m.)
- Mandy Guss, Communications Director
- Rochelle Miller Hernandez, Director of Visit Las Cruces

Others Present:

- Daniel Burke, Bureau Chief - Infectious Disease Bureau (departed 10:58 a.m.)
- Dawn Sanchez (departed 10:58 a.m.)

- I. Call to Order:** Chair Schaljo called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.
- II. Conflict of Interest:** There was none.
- III. Acceptance of the Agenda:** Motion to accept the agenda by Board Member Harris, seconded by Board Member Thomas. Motion passes.
- IV. Minutes for Approval:**
 - 1. Minutes for Meeting on December 17, 2020:** Motion to accept the minutes from December 17, 2020 by Board Member Fitzherbert, seconded by Board Member Thomas. Motion passes. Board Member Harris abstained.

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3 **V. Discussion:**
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5 **1. COVID-19 Vaccine Schedule:** Daniel Burke gave a PowerPoint
6 presentation about the COVID-19 vaccine. We are presently in Phase 1A
7 which is frontline healthcare workers, long-term care, EMS, and first
8 responders. Two vaccines, Pfizer and Moderna, both require two doses.
9 Pfizer dosage is 21 days apart and Moderna is a month, 4 weeks, apart.
10 There's a give and take of a few days either way, but there is no end date.
11 If someone goes back 2, 4 or 6 months later, they would get the second
12 dose, not start all over. Although people are encouraged to get vaccinated
13 more quickly. These are messenger RNA vaccines which tell our bodies to
14 make a harmless piece of the spike protein found on the COVID-19 virus.
15 The vaccine cannot give you COVID-19, as it does not contain the virus and
16 the protein cannot cause infection. One big question people have is how
17 was this done so quickly? One factor is that researchers used existing
18 clinical trial networks to begin conducting the COVID-19 trials. Another is
19 that manufacturing started while the clinical trials were underway. It was
20 also a priority for the FDA and CDC. Two ways to monitor adverse events,
21 VAERS and V-Safe phone app. After the vaccine given, person observed
22 for 15 minutes and possibly some other side effects for one to two days.
23 The second dose is more likely to have side effects. Individuals who got a
24 first dose from Pfizer should get second from Pfizer as well, same for
25 Moderna, don't mix. It does take a few weeks for the body to build immunity
26 after the second vaccine. But again, it will not cause someone to get the
27 virus. If they test positive, it's because they contracted it just before or just
28 after the vaccine. People still have to wear masks and social distance even
29 after being vaccinated. He stated that we will pretty much follow the federal
30 lead with the vaccine rollout. 1A is listed above, 1B is 75 and over and
31 frontline essential workers, and 1C is 65-74 and people with underlying
32 conditions, and the rest of the essential workers. The phases will overlap.
33 Board Member Martinez asked about the community groups that work with
34 vulnerable populations, but also businesses with front line workers, how to
35 encourage to connect/preregister to coordinate in a more organized
36 fashion. Also is there any forecasting for mandate for certain businesses or
37 professions. Daniel Burke stated the government, state or federal, is not
38 putting any mandates, but he has heard of private businesses doing that.
39 Dawn Sanchez recommends that everyone preregister on the COVID
40 vaccine at nmhealth.org website. You will then receive a confirmation code
41 to go back into the website and fill out more information, followed by an
42 event code on where to go when it is your turn. People can register for other
43 people as well. There is also a call center to preregister (855) 600-3453.
44 There are still multiple sites in the City and county for testing.

45
46 Board Member Harris asked if there is an official stance on how distribution
47 will be once the vaccine is set out for each day. Daniel Burke stated the
48 official is "thou shalt not waste vaccine." Pfizer has five days, one shipping,

1 with the vaccine. There is leeway with the distribution in order to not waste.
2 Board Member Thomas asked about how soon more locations to give the
3 vaccine and would there be enough to increase how they do this. Dawn
4 Sanchez stated they are working with NMSU and having a pod every week
5 there, they do have about 500 vaccines for this Friday. Also working on
6 getting the Convention Center for an indoor pod site. There are also other
7 providers in the City that have their own vaccine with their own system.
8 Also, the public health office on Solano is a site. Trying to get more pods up
9 and running. Mr. Burke stated the biggest factor is staffing to do all this.
10 They are doing testing and trying to administer vaccines. Moderna supply
11 is tight as it is being dedicated mostly to the long-term care facilities, a little
12 bit to pharmacies and federally qualified health centers. There is a fair
13 amount of Pfizer vaccine. Dawn Sanchez mentioned that if there are known
14 people that want to help support the effort to sign up through the medical
15 reserve corps. Chair Schaljo stated his mother-in-law is in charge of the
16 LCPS STEM group and that there are no places taking medical students
17 right now in medical offices and wondered if these students could be helpful.
18 Dawn Sanchez she will get the information and reach out to them. Board
19 Member Martinez stated there are 15-20 AmeriCorps Vista volunteers
20 available to help.
21

22 Board Member Miller stated with the vaccine coming we need more solid
23 information on mask wearing, distancing, etc. Daniel Burke stated first
24 need to know how long the vaccine will protect and that information is not
25 available yet. Will a booster be needed? And when? A vaccine gives two
26 kinds of protections; one, if I get vaccinated, I won't get infected and the
27 second, better protection is if you vaccinated you don't get sick and you
28 cannot pass it on, and I would not be an asymptomatic carrier. Don't know
29 if these vaccines are going to give that type of better protection. Also, right
30 now only 60% of people are saying they will get the vaccine. Over the next
31 year hopefully some of these questions will be answered and more people
32 will want to take the vaccine. Board Member Harris asked Daniel Burke and
33 Dawn Sanchez what policy or resources would they recommend for help.
34 Dawn Sanchez stated for people to still follow the COVID safe practices and
35 continue to message that.
36

- 37 **2. COVID-19 Signage on City Las Cruces Webpage:** Mandy Guss stated
38 they did not get much sent to them. She was wondering if there were a few,
39 maybe one to three people to be on a smaller working group to help look at
40 the page, the layout, sight map, and make recommendations for easier
41 readability and navigation, as well as information that businesses and the
42 community need. Chair Schaljo asked for volunteers for this and offered
43 himself. Board Member Harris stated he has thoughts and would be willing.
44 Board Member Thomas also offered herself. Mandy will get together with
45 staff to get their contact info to hopefully have a meeting before the next
46 LCERB meeting.
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48 **VI. Future Discussion:**

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2 **1. Topics to be discussed:** Chair Schaljo stated they will discuss the COVID-
3 19 vaccine schedule again, because there is now a task force for COVID
4 from the City Council and he would like to have more information. Board
5 Member Martinez asked if the City could open the Convention Center for
6 free. Chair Schaljo suggested a program that could be put together quickly
7 to help get business owners to be the umbrella of getting people registered
8 for the vaccine. Rochelle Miller Hernandez stated they have spoken to
9 people about the use of the Convention Center for vaccines, testing and
10 someone already did tour the center for that type of usage. Board Member
11 Harris mentioned the City being the largest employer in town and possibly
12 some employees are unable to go into the office and so there may be some
13 workers available for helping out.

14
15 **VII. General Announcements:** Mr. Pallares stated on Monday the City Council
16 approved the third proposed recommendation from this Board in the distribution of
17 face masks for businesses. E-blasts have been sent and businesses that are
18 picking up their checks from the Small Business Continuity Grant at Visit Las
19 Cruces are also able to get a box of masks. Ms. Moore has received boxes and
20 businesses can pick up a box of 50 masks at the Greater Chamber. They are
21 working with the Green and Hispanic Chambers and the Green Chamber will
22 receive boxes of masks soon. They are awaiting response from the Hispanic
23 Chamber. Twenty businesses have picked up masks so far.

24
25 Rochelle Miller Hernandez stated the first week of December Albert Herrera the
26 Convention sale manager met with a couple people from the Department of Health.
27 An MOU is being drawn up with the City through the Fire Department. DHO wants
28 the space for Phase 3 or possibly Phase 2.

29
30 Board Member Martinez mentioned Meerscheidt, Benavidez Center, street
31 outreach event, and fliers to help registering the vaccine. Board Member Thomas
32 seconded getting people to help with registering for the vaccine.

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34 **VIII. Adjournment: Board Member Thomas moved adjournment; Board Member**
35 **Martinez seconded. The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:26 a.m.**

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40 Christopher Schaljo
41 Chairperson

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44 Approved: Christopher Schaljo
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