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The following are summary minutes for the meeting of the **Las Cruces Economic Recovery Ad Hoc Board** on July 23, 2020 at 1:30 pm. The meeting was held via Zoom.

Members Present:

- Chris Schaljo, Chairman
- Debbi Moore, Vice Chair
- Michael Harris, Member
- Doug Cowan, Member
- Sharon Thomas, Member (joined approximately 1:39 p.m.)
- Veronica Archuleta, Member
- George Miller, Member
- Brooke Montgomery, Member
- Ron Fitzherbert, Member (joined approximately 2:25 p.m.)
- Susan Greenwald, Member
- Darleen Lopez (joined approximately 1:33 p.m.)

Members Absent:

- Jolene Martinez, Member

Staff Present:

- Griselda Martinez, Economic Development Director
- Francisco Pallares, Economic Development Deputy Director

Others Present:

- Steve Duran, South Central Council of Governments

- I. Call to Order:** Chair Schaljo called the meeting to order at 1:30.
- 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 Miller. Motion passes.
- IV. Minutes for Approval:**
 - 1. Minutes for Meeting on July 9, 2020:** Motion to accept the minutes from July 9, 2020 by Board Member Harris, seconded by Board Member Moore. Motion passes, Board Member Greenwald abstained.
- V. Discussion:**
 - 1. COVID-19 Update for Public Health Data:** Approximately 15 minute video that had also been presented to the New Mexico Tourism Task

1 **Force.**([https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/89fc2842f8f57e0e4fce8992a80f3f37c](https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/89fc2842f8f57e0e4fce8992a80f3f37cf09b9fb0c1f540c8fb14c94c909780b)
2 [f09b9fb0c1f540c8fb14c94c909780b](https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/89fc2842f8f57e0e4fce8992a80f3f37cf09b9fb0c1f540c8fb14c94c909780b)). As of May, New Mexico was one of three
3 states that were deemed ready to open. As of today 45 of 50 states are
4 seeing increase and we are trending positive. Testing volumes and
5 Statewide health care system capacity are still in the green, but the spread
6 of COVID-19 and contact tracing and isolation are not doing as well. Chart
7 of framework for assessing risk from a model from John Hopkins University
8 with various public locations and ranking of few to many number of contacts,
9 low to high contact intensity. A snapshot of the reopening.

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11 Mr. Pallares stated that tomorrow there will be a Special City Council
12 Meeting that will also include health officials to relate further comments.
13 Board Member Cowan he would have liked to have seen an overlay of how
14 many tests to see a comparison with tests and positives. Wondering if the
15 Board could request some of their questions to be answered tomorrow.
16 Also the rate of spread seemed to have a slight downturn. On the gating
17 criteria talked about hospitalizations, the governor has allowed neighboring
18 states to have some of their patients be admitted into our hospitals, and how
19 many of those that are in our hospital are not actually from New Mexico but
20 transferred patients and how that may be affecting our data on the gating
21 information. Ms. Martinez stated e-mailing City Councilors and Mayor
22 would be the best way to get questions to the meeting tomorrow. Mr. Harris
23 asked for the link for this video. Board Member Moore pulled up information
24 44,404 tests in Doña Ana County as of yesterday, on NMH modeling, 1,838
25 cases, 14 deaths, 684 recovered as of 3:32 p.m. yesterday. Chairman
26 Schaljo asked how many of the tests are actually individual by person or
27 how many are multiple by an individual. Board Member Cowan stated who
28 is in the hospital beds truly counts due to the effect that has on reopening,
29 and the gating data is assuming the hospital beds are occupied by New
30 Mexicans. Chairman Schaljo asked Board Members to get all questions to
31 him by 4:00 p.m. and he would pass those to staff for the Council meeting
32 tomorrow.

- 33
34 **2. Possible Actionable Items from Workforce Connections:** Ms. Lopez
35 stated the easiest and most beneficial system that the City could do is to
36 set up something to the effect of a scholarship. To be accepted would
37 depend on what that person has already applied for, exhausted other
38 resources. A local program can have the ability to help specific groups,
39 whereas Workforce Connections cannot do that. For that she would need
40 key people from this Board, the administrator from her Board. Helping
41 people per term, not full graduation.

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43 Ms. Martinez asked about funding, what type of figure would she see as
44 impactful and beneficial for the volume Ms. Lopez is seeing in their office.
45 Ms. Lopez she will get a report from their providers. Board Member Moore
46 asked about the accountability for completing programs to be sure taxpayer
47 money is being utilized to put someone to work. Ms. Lopez stated an official
48 MOU between her Board and the City, as they follow these individual's

1 employment for a year following their education. There is a case manager
2 that follows up with the student. Board Member Moore asked if this was
3 open for someone to increase their skill set as well or people totally out of
4 a job right now. Also people wanting to start a business. Board Member
5 Moore as this as an actionable item, this would have to be a
6 recommendation to City Council. We can also look at what other cities have
7 done, look at the fee structure, things being paid, how to work with the City
8 to physically help them in various ways. Ms. Martinez stated as the City
9 and Workforce Connections are both governmental entities, an MOU (with
10 deliverables) is possible and as long as it is open to anyone seeking the
11 services and not limited. For starting a business, invite the Community
12 Development Director to the meeting. Board Member Harris asked what
13 the estimated impact of the scholarship fund would be in terms of how many
14 people don't have jobs today would be able to get them, what the rough ROI
15 would be on the amount of funding and what amount of money would be
16 impactful. Ms. Lopez stated she will get some information and metrics they
17 have. Chairman Schaljo asked if the Board had the ability to set an amount.
18 Ms. Martinez recommended the Board do the recommendation and then
19 the City work with Ms. Lopez (Workforce Connections) and define an
20 amount, the metrics behind that, and define the process on how that money
21 would be channeled to Workforce Connections. Figures would be based on
22 availability of funds, number of people that need to be served, a bulk
23 number worked out between staff and Workforce Connections. Chairman
24 Schaljo asked if there was any way to see how many jobs are not returnable
25 or displaced. Ms. Lopez stated that they would be able to get a report on
26 employers in the region that are permanently closed. Board Member Miller
27 stated that we don't want to leave anyone behind so the number of
28 displaced workers would be helpful, but does the City have a direction as
29 far as certain types of positions. Ms. Martinez stated the City does not have
30 specific occupations; however they want to make sure that people that are
31 being retrained, upskilled, able to get positions to move toward self-
32 sustainability, and in demand, in the market. They would work with their
33 partners, Workforce Connections and Dona Ana Community College, to
34 make sure the training they receive translates to a job that moves them
35 forward. Ms. Lopez stated that they don't want to limit it to a certain sector,
36 this way they don't leave anyone out. Board Member Thomas stated there
37 are several lists of industries that are likely to need workers, and she has
38 consolidated many of the lists. Board Member Moore would like more
39 presentations, perhaps Tracey Bryan. Ms. Martinez stated they could bring
40 a proposal with more of a structure. Chairman Schaljo stated they want to
41 get more information on this, and also check with City Legal on anti-
42 donation clause.

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44 **VI. Future Discussion:**

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46 **1. Inclusive Economic Recovery Framework:** Chairman Schaljo stated
47 Board Member Miller has found a person to discuss this item, and it will be
48 on the next meeting agenda. Also have the scholarship as an item on the

1 agenda and if Legal verifies then discuss and talk about and keep going. If
2 not legal, then just do the Inclusive Economic Recovery Framework and go
3 into future discussions. Board Member Harris stated at the City Council
4 work session there was a presentation on Inclusive Economic Recovery,
5 and there were a few items in there that the Council specifically said this
6 should be on the forefront of certain boards, including this Board. Probably
7 need to keep this in mind for possibly a future meeting. He also mentioned
8 that a community land trust was brought up and other kinds of zoning and
9 policy changes that might be useful to promote different kinds of businesses
10 or different mix going forward as some places re-open. Board Member
11 Thomas stated to define economic development and what it is and where
12 we are going. Ms. Martinez stated they will have a follow-up conversation
13 with Mr. Shuman to see what elements would be actionable items that he
14 could assist with based on his experience and other information that he
15 shared during that conversation.

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17 **VII. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m.**
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22 Christopher Schaljo
23 Chairperson
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27 Approved: Christopher Schaljo