



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45

The following are summary minutes for the meeting of the **Las Cruces Economic Recovery Ad Hoc Board** on August 6, 2020 10:02 am. The meeting was held via Zoom.

Members Present:

- Chris Schaljo, Chairman
- Debbi Moore, Vice Chair
- Michael Harris, Member
- Doug Cowan, Member
- Veronica Archuleta, Member
- George Miller, Member
- Brooke Montgomery, Member
- Ron Fitzherbert, Member
- Susan Greenwald, Member
- Darleen Lopez
- Jolene Martinez, Member (joined approximately 10:07 a.m.)

Members Absent:

- Sharon Thomas, Member

Staff Present:

- Francisco Pallares, Economic Development Deputy Director
- Griselda Martinez, Economic Development Director (approx. 11:41 am)
- Natalie Green, Housing Neighborhood Services Manager
- Dania Soto, Executive Administrative Assistant
- Cynthia Villanueva, Administrative Assistant
- Dominic Aragon, Digital media Coordinator

Others Present:

- Cullen Combs, Emergency Manager- Dona Ana County

- I. Call to Order:** Chair Schaljo called the meeting to order at 10:02 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 Moore. Motion passes.
- IV. Minutes for Approval:**
 - 1. Minutes for Meeting on July 30, 2020:** Motion to accept the minutes from July 30, 2020 by Board Member Moore, seconded by Board Member Miller. Motion passes, Board Members Fitzherbert and Cowan abstained.

1
2 **V. Discussion:**
3

4 **1. Increased Effort in the Distribution of PPE:** Mr. Combs stated the State
5 was sending out through the strategic national stockpile PPE. A lot has
6 been distributed and now the State is looking for individuals and
7 organizations to start to look at procuring PPE through commercial means.
8 FEMA has determined that the supply chains which were very frustrated at
9 the beginning, have been reestablished. He is presently trying to get
10 clarification back from the State through logistics to where they are going to
11 as far as issuing PPE, and then also the means by which we can look at
12 that. Business, particularly on the medical side, have received PPE. The
13 current effort is for individual/private organizations to seek that on their own.
14 There are a lot of first responders that have needs, Department of Health
15 and the hospitals. Presently waiting for information on how the State wants
16 to do this and working with Board Member Moore on what the status is with
17 the local businesses.
18

19 Board Member Harris states he sees that the State and FEMA feel there is
20 enough PPE and do not need to help people at the State Emergency
21 Management level. The question is, does the City need to help private
22 businesses obtain PPE, as businesses are being told to have this to open
23 so it is an undue burden maybe on the businesses. Chairman Schaljo
24 asked if it was more accessible than three to four months ago, and has Mr.
25 Combs seen a large need for the City to step in and get it more accessible.
26 Mr. Combs stated they had a decrease in requests. He stated if there were
27 unknown needs he is willing to facilitate. Board Member Harris asked if
28 there was much demand from private citizens for masks. Mr. Combs states
29 they have not directly distributed in that fashion, but they have worked with
30 the Las Cruces Police Department, Las Cruces Fire Department, County
31 Fire, and Sheriff's Office and provided masks for them so they can then offer
32 education and provide a mask. Board Member Moore stated they are
33 working with the City to be sure that they have masks for citizens with some
34 giveaways. The Chamber has been giving away free masks throughout the
35 State. Also helping with thermometers, especially for schools. Board
36 Member Harris is with Las Cruces Creatives, the Makers Space and they
37 have distributed thousands of facemasks and face shields. Recently there
38 has been an uptick for medical providers.
39

40 Chairman Schaljo stated he is purchasing disposable masks for guests and
41 those get expensive. He was wondering if the Board needs to look at this
42 to help boost the economy. Board Member Cowan suggested encouraging
43 businesses to incorporate those costs in their business model rather than a
44 mandate. Board Member Moore stated it is a mandate from the State and
45 it might be to promote where people can get free masks. She will get some
46 sources for disposable masks to give away and look for a reduced rate for
47 bulk purchase. Board Member Harris suggested more emphasis might be
48 on reusable cloth masks. Mr. Combs mentioned that the masks to law

1 enforcement were durable cloth, double layer mask produced by the Hanes
2 Corporation. On cv.nmhealth.org there is a button to order masks which
3 are the durable, double layer, cloth mask.
4

5 Chairman Schaljo asked if there any actionable items to bring forward.
6 Board Member Cowan stated providing information on where to get masks
7 would be good. Board Member Harris mentioned Las Cruces Creatives has
8 kits for making masks. Chairman Schaljo stated this might play into the Las
9 Cruces Safe Promise, and also a section to acquire masks or PPE. Board
10 Member Lopez stated she does have someone making masks and asks just
11 for donations for the fabric. Board Member Cowan stated he knows some
12 people also that make them without cost.
13

- 14 **2. Service Corps Employment:** Ms. Natalie Green stated the City manages
15 the Mano y Mano Homeless Day Program. This is a day labor program, not
16 job training. Modeled after City of Albuquerque's program. This gives
17 homeless individuals dignity in work, helps them connect with service
18 provides to help work on issues that lead to homelessness. The goal is to
19 reduce panhandling across the City. This program is a partnership between
20 City of Las Cruces and Community of Hope that was started in 2018.
21 Essentially they beautify parks, garbage removal, landscaping on City
22 property. Right now there are two vans with 20 people and two drivers and
23 this five days a week. Monday through Thursday is for homeless, and
24 Friday take out the precariously housed, people who are recently housed
25 but need some additional funding. They get a day wage, lunch, and
26 supportive services from the agencies on Community of Hope campus. On
27 average about 40 participants, based on a lottery system. Monthly average
28 employee 200-400 people. There have been 8,647 work opportunities and
29 about 1,350 were unique encounters.
30

31 Board Member Miller asked about the fiscal constraints about expanding to
32 include members of the community that may be unemployed/seeking
33 employment. How to expand the program? Ms. Green stated the limitations
34 are at the State level, which is anti-donation, so cannot use City or public
35 funding to benefit private individuals. Beneficiaries have to be sick or
36 indigent, and they also are providing a public benefit. Board Member Miller
37 asked if they could make private individuals City employees. Ms. Green
38 stated it is a possibility and recognize this is a complex population, and so
39 many of them work once a week or once a month but are not in a position
40 to do long term employment. Board Member Martinez asked if other
41 nonprofits or organizations could offer opportunities for employment if they
42 paid the wages. Ms. Green stated they are exploring ways to comply with
43 the anti-donation. The van is owned by the City so it would be more than
44 just the wages, they would need a form of transportation. It is already a
45 partnership with Community of Hope and they operate and run the program.
46 Board Member Martinez stated they do have some vans at FYI, and youth
47 employment projects for homeless youth. Board Member Harris stated it
48 sounded like they were restricted in terms of the State's anti-donation

1 clause. He asked if other communities had similar restrictions or is it unique
2 for New Mexico. Board Member Moore stated that each state is different
3 and New Mexico is pretty strict but there are ways to broad base it. Board
4 Member Harris asked whether there is one person or one department at the
5 City who is a liaison between nonprofits. Board Member Moore stated it is
6 the Community Development Department. Board Member Martinez
7 suggested maybe the City partner with some local legislators to help
8 address COVID related changes to the anti-donation clause. Many
9 nonprofits received funding for COVID related issues. Chairman Schaljo
10 stated maybe going through the health ordinance rather than the State
11 constitution might work better.
12

13 Ms. Green stated Board Member Moore is correct it is Community
14 Development and Ms. Green is the single person that works on all the
15 nonprofit grants. Also the City has been very diligent about awarding
16 COVID funds, \$1.8 million has been awarded. A lot of programs are funded,
17 direct assistance to community members, meal initiatives, PPE initiatives.
18 Also working on a round two of COVID funding. And ways to comply with
19 the anti-donation act and still support the communities. Board Member
20 Harris agrees that the City is limited to what they can do directly, but they
21 do have lobbyists to help make change at a higher level. Board Member
22 Miller stated the Federal government did CCC but the City runs a summer
23 program for teens to give them jobs. Maybe this is bigger than the City can
24 handle, maybe coordination with the State. Temporary employees on the
25 payroll or working with Workforce Solutions to do training solutions,
26 scholarships to put people into job vacancies. Board Member Martinez
27 stated Mayor Pro-Tem Gandara is working on an initiative with the Bridge
28 addressing youth employment, economic employment for a lot of families
29 who experienced trauma. She suggested the resilience leaders project that
30 Mayor Pro-Tem Gandara is pulling together with 10 sectors that might be of
31 interest to this Board. Board Member Moore stated they should suggest
32 they stay as a Board to continue supporting those organizations, such as
33 Board Member Martinez, that are really helping those most vulnerable to
34 get jobs, food insecurity, etc. Strongly support what the City has in place;
35 get presentations from Resilience Leadership and Workforce Collaborative,
36 certainly Mayor Pro-Tem Gandara, Dawn with Community Action, and
37 Tracey Bryan of Bridge of Southern New Mexico.
38

39 **VI. Future Discussion:**
40

- 41 **1. Workforce Connections Scholarship:** Board Member Harris put forth
42 topics for next meeting, public banking, hearing from Resilience Leadership,
43 of course the Workforce Connections Scholarship recommendation. Board
44 Member Montgomery agrees with more information with Workforce. Board
45 Member Moore stated the public bank she is having a hard time connecting
46 with this Committee. Board Member Harris stated it is an interesting
47 concept from a more long term recovery point of view. He stated they could
48 look at it and then recommend it as something that the City support.

1 Recovery timeframe is probably years, this might be end of the recovery
2 time. Board Member Moore stated the City has already passed that they
3 support the concept. Her concern is the concept has changed with public
4 banking and so she would prefer to wait and see, have that discussion later.
5 Chairman Schaljo stated this Board is more here and now, and that there
6 are other Boards for more long term. Mr. Pallares the public bank proposal
7 was presented in a work session with some support from Councilors. The
8 Councilors would put out support of State Legislature for long term issues,
9 such as the public bank. Board Member Cowan agrees there are more
10 immediate issues. Board Member Miller stated the State finance is
11 accepting loans for small businesses, Wednesday for low interest loans
12 designed to help businesses endure the financial stress of the coronavirus.
13 Board Member Moore stated \$400 million was designed through the special
14 session, applications at NMFA.com. There is also CARES Act money given
15 to cities and counties via application process. The City of Las Cruces is
16 going after an application for reimbursement of the City's COVID and for
17 small business. County is doing everything else.

18
19 Chair Schaljo stated taking off the state banking for now. Board Member
20 Harris/Martinez suggesting hearing from some of the Resilience Leaders.
21 Board Member Martinez will follow up with that. Board Member Moore
22 asked about also asking Dawn with Community Action and/or with Tracey
23 Bryan about Workforce Collaborative together. Board Member Martinez
24 stated Tracey and Dawn are on the Resilience Leaders Economic Task
25 Force. Chairman Schaljo suggested it would be good have a roadmap of
26 where to get PPE. And the other discussion needs to be how to add
27 additional roadmaps and/or guidances on the Las Cruces Safe Promise.

28
29 Chair Schaljo suggested mental health issues and being comfortable
30 navigating the pandemic, including free resources, suicide rates, children,
31 parents, LGBTQ. Currently with COVID many people have very limited
32 support systems. He suggested the meeting two weeks from now. Board
33 Member Lopez stated each insurance agency has a complaint system and
34 she got an approval out of state; if the service is needed, necessary, and
35 there is a good cause to go outside of the state, there is a process.

36
37 Ms. Martinez stated they are launching technical assistance leading to
38 access for microloans today, partnering with LiftFund and a key component
39 is to help with technical assistance, helping businesses become more
40 robust, being loan ready and able to pay it back and continue to expand.

41
42 **VII. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:42 a.m. Board**
43 **Member Montgomery moved to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Lopez.**
44
45
46
47
48

1 Christopher Schaljo

2 Chairperson

3

4

5

6 Approved: *Christopher Schaljo*