Minutes of the March 14, 2001
Rio Nuevo Multipurpose Facilities District Board

Approved on: June 12, 2001

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Ruben Suarez called the Board meeting to order at 6:07 pm, Wednesday, March 14, 2001 at the Tucson Convention Center's Leo Rich Theater, 260 South Church Avenue, Tucson, Arizona.

Present:
Chair Ruben Suarez
Secretary Corky Poster
Alice Eckstrom

Staff: John S. Jones, Project Director; John Updike, Project Manager; Kay Gray, District Treasurer; Bill Hicks, Esq., Counsel to the Board

Absent:
Olivia Hernandez

It was determined that a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Minutes of 2/14/01

Mr. Poster moved approval of the minutes of February 14, 2001. Ms. Eckstrom seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously 11-0.

3. Discussion of Rio Nuevo Master Plan

Mr. Jones updated the status of the plan. He reviewed the RNCAC (Rio Nuevo Citizen's Advisory Committee) motion of 2/13/01, and the final RNCAC Criteria that has been approved by the RNCAC. He reviewed the Natural and Cultural Heritage Alliance of Pima County (NCHA) letter of support of the plan. Also included in the Board package was a copy of the letter from Westside neighborhoods expressing neighborhood desires, some level of support for the plan, and unanimous opposition to the amphitheater concept. Chair Suarez asked for clarification as to whether the westside letter was as a result of the direction received from the joint Board/City Council meeting of January 22, 2001. Mr. Jones indicated that there are additional neighborhoods that will be approached to determine their specific concerns, which will be addressed through some form of contract with each neighborhood.

Mr. Poster indicated that he felt that the individual concerns expressed by neighborhoods can be dealt with after master plan approval. Ms. Eckstrom concurred. Mr. Poster referenced the project evaluation matrix, and asked if the phasing issues were affected by the March 7, 2001 revised budget submitted by staff. Mr. Jones indicated that the phasing recommendations were really unaffected by the new submittal. Mr. Jones again noted the fluid nature of the budget and projects. Mr. Poster moved that the Board adopt the RNCAC's motion, with the following concerns:

- First: Movement of the amphitheater to the long range plan only, deleting same from the 10 year plan;
- Second: A balance of affordable housing and market rate housing be included in the housing element of the project;
- Third: Make every effort to depress the freeway through downtown;

- Fourth: Resolve neighborhood issues through appropriate agreements;
- Fifth: Urge Mayor and Council to find funding for neighborhood improvements;
- Sixth: Reinforce the issues noted in the Board's February letter to Mayor and Council.

Ms. Eckstrom seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously (11-0).

Mr. Poster requested a break-out of the additional funding streams that might be available to the District. He referenced the Hunter Interests, Inc. $22,000,000 figure of additional tax revenues projected to be derived from downtown investments alone, and Proposition 301 monies that might be available to the District, and questioned if this information might change the projected funding levels. Mr. Poster asked that this information be brought back at the next meeting.

4. Secretary Small's visit and Smithsonian Affiliates

Mr. Jones outlined the Smithsonian Affiliates program for the Board, and reviewed the contents of the memo in the agenda package. An amount of $2,500 toward the application fee and $1,000 toward the reception expenses which would be sponsored by the Board was requested. Mr. Poster moved approval of the reception funding in the amount of $1,000. Ms. Eckstrom seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously (11-0). After Mr. Poster noted his relationships with many of the Affiliate program participants and refrained from further discussion on the matter, Ms. Eckstrom moved, and Chair Suarez seconded, that the Board approve payment of $2,500 toward the application fees as noted in the memo to the Board. Motion approved (6-0).

5. Santa Cruz River Alliance Conference Funding

Mr. Jones reviewed the memo to the Board seeking $3,500 to co-sponsor the Santa Cruz River Alliance Conference. Mr. Poster asked what the total conference budget was estimated to be. Mr. Jones indicated he believes the budget is somewhere between $6,000 and $8,000. Mr. Jones believes the conference may be free to the public. Mr. Poster moved approval to fund $3,500 toward the event as a co-sponsor, providing the event is free and open to the public. Ms. Eckstrom seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously (11-0).

6. Future Agenda

Mr. Poster asked for an update on the cost to depress Interstate 10 through downtown. Mr. Poster indicated housing is a critical component of the project, and asked for staff or consultant advice for methods to accelerate housing initiatives in the downtown. Mr. Jones suggested that April 18 might be best for the next Board meeting, as the prior Wednesday, falling during Holy Week and the regularly scheduled meeting date for the month, may be during a time when many are unavailable. The Board appeared to concur with Mr. Jones' suggestion.

Mr. Poster referenced a letter from the City Attorney's Office to the Board dated February 20, 2001, in reply to the Board's letter to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Poster indicated that he found the response letter to be "incomprehensible". Chairman Suarez requested that any further reply or clarification from the City Attorney's Office be in "plain English", and responsive to the issues raised by the Board.

7. Call to the Audience

Ms. Robin West addressed the Board and presented a map and letter previously provided to the RNCAC and subsequently provided to the Board prior to this meeting. Ms. West reviewed the contents of her letter, and added that Alameda should be connected to the frontage road after the frontage road construction is complete.

Mr. Paul Mackey questioned the funding requests on today's agenda and noted the need for budgets from requesting organizations be provided before approval is provided by the Board for funding.

Ms. Sally Drachman, representing the Tucson Symphony Orchestra (TSO), asked for consideration of the TSO request contained in a letter written to the Board.

Mr. Sal Conchola, of the Barrios Unidos Land Trust, thanked the Board and staff for their work and alluded to his prior clarification letter to Mayor and Council regarding the amount of the Land Trust's request for funding for Rancho-Shukson. He reviewed the list of concerns from westside residents again.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Eckstrom moved, and Mr. Poster seconded, adjournment. Chair Suarez adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm.