

**Minutes of Special Meeting
Of the Board of Directors of
Rio Nuevo Multipurpose Facilities District**

Friday, November 18, 2009

**Tucson Convention Center
Tucson, Arizona**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rio Nuevo Multipurpose Facilities District was held on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 in the Maricopa Meeting Room of the Tucson Convention Center, 260 South Church Avenue, Tucson, Arizona commencing at 3:00 pm.

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

	Appointee	Present	Absent/Excused
Anne-Marie Russell, Chair	Tucson	x	
Jeff DiGregorio, Acting Secretary	Tucson	x	
Victor Soltero, Member	South Tucson	x	
Dan Eckstrom, Member	South Tucson		x

2. Call to Audience

No Response

3. Consider (and, if appropriate, Approve) Minutes of October 2, 2009 Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of the special meetings on September 30, 2009 and October 2, 2009 was made by Board Member Victor Soltero, seconded by Board Member Jeff DiGregorio, and passed unanimously 11-0.

4. Consider (and, if appropriate, Appoint) Richard Miranda as Acting Executive Director of the District

The City Manager, Mike Letcher, has recommended that Richard Miranda be appointed as Acting Executive Director of the Rio Nuevo Multipurpose Facilities District in his place.

Motion to approve the appointment of Richard Miranda as Acting Executive Director was made by Board Member Jeff DiGregorio and seconded by Board

Member Victor Soltero. Following discussion, the motion was adopted unanimously 11-0.

5. Acting Executive Director's Report – Richard Miranda

Richard Miranda described the mission and responsibilities of the Executive Director and the Staff of the Rio Nuevo District, including administration of the policies and implementation of the decisions of the Board. He introduced the other staff members working on District matters: Jessie Sanders - Rio Nuevo Project Director, Silvia Amparano - Rio Nuevo Treasurer, Stacie Bird - Rio Nuevo Finance Manager, and Kathy Maish – Secretary to the Rio Nuevo Board

Richard Miranda then gave the Executive Director's Report regarding actions taken on behalf of the Board to fulfill District obligations and to ensure the successful completion of the Hotel/Convention Center project and other contracted projects. All actions follow the direction of the Board.

The standing priorities for the Rio Nuevo Multipurpose Facilities District Board are the Convention Headquarters Hotel and related Convention Center expansion projects, and previously contracted projects.

Board Member Victor Soltero asked for a status of the Convention Center East Entrance project. Richard Miranda indicated that everything is on time and on budget. The issues regarding having local workers and supplies have been dealt with; the contractor has provided documentation to this effect. Tommy Obermaier, Convention Center Director, indicated that demolition and utility relocation should be completed by November 20th. They will begin the vertical and the structural work, foundations and footings by the middle of the following week. They have been assured that the work will be completed by the time the Gem and Mineral Show starts.

Silvia Amparano, Rio Nuevo Treasurer, indicated that the monthly financial reports, the Revenues or Financing Sources, and the Expenditures documents are posted on-line at <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/rionuevo>.

6. Update on Proposed Governance Legislation

Anne-Marie Russell indicated that the goals of the proposed legislation are for greater transparency and accountability, and to cause the District to focus on revenue-generating projects. The TIF revenues have declined due to the economic challenges, which mean the funds received need to be stewarded well. One of the significant components of the legislation is the focus on the Hotel and Convention Center project. If we don't have these kind of facilities in place, we might lose future convention center business, along with the Gem and Mineral Show.

Richard Miranda presented a Summary of the proposed legislation (that was subsequently passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor on

November 23, 2009). The legislation would increase the size of the District governing board, require new independent performance audits under the direction of the State Auditor General, and require public disclosures and outreach.

Jessie Sanders gave a brief update on the status of the Rio Nuevo website.

Bill Hicks, District Counsel, indicated that the provision relating to the public outreach and the limitation of funding to the Hotel and Convention Center are retroactive to July 1, 2009. The legislation also contains an emergency clause which would result in its becoming effective immediately upon passage and signature by the Governor.

7. Report of Search Committee on Interim Executive Director Search

This item was determined to be unnecessary in view of the imminent anticipated adoption of the new governance legislation by the Arizona Legislature.

8. Future Agenda Items

The Board asked to be kept apprised of the progress of the Convention Center East Entrance project and the Convention Center Hotel.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 pm.