TIDD BOARD AGENDA

Monday, January 25, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Chair
Ken Miyagishima

Vice Chair
Kasandra Gandara

Board Members
Tessa Abeyta-Stuve
Gabriel Vasquez
Johana Bencomo
Gill Sorg
Yvonne Flores

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700 N. Main St.
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Remotely via Zoom
Meetings can be viewed live at
lascruces.civicweb.net

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1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ACTION ITEMS

2.1. Approval of Minutes from October 26, 2020. 2 - 6
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3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.1. Financial Update.

3.2. TIDD Projects Update.

4. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES

Tax Increment Development District Board Meeting

Monday, October 26, 2020 @ 1:00 PM

Remote via Zoom

PRESENT: Mayor Ken Miyagishima, Councilor Kasandra Gandara, Councilor Gabe Vasquez, Councilor Gill Sorg, Councilor Yvonne Flores, Councilor Tessa Abeyta-Stuve, and Councilor Johana Bencomo

ABSENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ACTION ITEMS

2.1 Approval of Minutes from May 11, 2020.

Councilor Yvonne Flores moved, seconded by Councilor Kasandra Gandara, to Approve the minutes from the May 11, 2020, TIDD Board meeting.

RESULT:	**Carried**
MOVER:	Councilor Yvonne Flores
SECONDER:	Councilor Kasandra Gandara
AYES:	Mayor Ken Miyagishima, Councilor Kasandra Gandara, Councilor Gabe Vasquez, Councilor Gill Sorg, Councilor Yvonne Flores, Councilor Tessa Abeyta-Stuve, and Councilor Johana Bencomo

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.1 Financial Update.

Josh Saffell, Senior Accountant gave an overhead presentation.

Vice Chair Gandara asked what is the negative number on operations?

Josh Saffell said it is the change to the fund balance, which is caused by that reduction in the total revenue.

Vice Chair Gandara asked what was the transfer out to and what do the total revenues consist of?

Josh Saffell said there are three areas highlighted: taxes, rental income, and investment income. It's generating income just from being in the bank.

Leeann DeMouche, Chief Budget Officer said there was money borrowed from the general fund. We brought a resolution to council to pay half of that back

over five years. The transfer out is the first quarter transfers for that transfer of paying back the general fund. That transfer was actually budgeted. We have not been receiving any revenue on the TIDD and none of the revenues have been meeting the baseline. We should start seeing the TIDD revenue come in again.

3.2 TIDD Projects Update.

Liz Vega, Interim Destination Downtown Coordinator gave an overhead presentation.

Board Member Bencomo asked are we not having a big tree downtown this year?

Liz Vega said we don't want to encourage any sort of gathering and the Plaza is currently being utilized every Saturday for the Farmer's Market.

Board Member Bencomo asked what does the $18,000 include for the decorations?

Liz Vega said we are initially purchasing the lights and it includes installation of the lights. They will also be put on timers.

Vice Chair Gandara said I've been advocating for these lights for a couple of years. Where are we at with the Campo Street lighting study?

Liz Vega said we are running these projects concurrently. We had a meeting with the Arts and Cultural District about the way finding study a couple of weeks ago so they're in the same timeframe of finishing in January of next year. We have been working with our Grants Office to encumber as many funds as possible.

Vice Chair Gandara said I know David Maestas was working on a lighting study. Is that separate to the one that has been conducted?

Liz Vega said that's a separate project. We can get public works to get an update to you.

Vice Chair Gandara asked are you working on the lighting study specific to the Mesquite and Campo area?

Liz Vega said those will be complete in January.

Vice Chair Gandara asked once we get that study back, when will we ramp up to the work?

Liz Vega said once we get the studies back they're going to have design estimates for the different infrastructure and then we'll look at the budget that remains in the capital appropriation for the Arts and Cultural District.

Vice Chair Gandara asked are you redoing Campo Street infrastructure?

Liz Vega said yes.

Tony Trevino, Interim Deputy Director of Public Works said it will include roadway, sidewalk, curb and gutter. We are going to have the consultant do a Phase I study. We're going to come up with about three different scenarios and bring them to stakeholders and city council. For the lighting study, they are looking at the right-of-ways.

Board Member Vasquez asked what have staff at the Rio Grande Theatre been doing during COVID?

Chris Faivre, Rio Grande Theatre Manager said we have been shut down since March. Most of the staff was contract technical and are helping with the Small Business Continuity Program.

Board Member Vasquez asked what are we thinking budget-wise for the Rio Grande Theatre?

Chris Faivre said right now the only funds being spent are just the staff helping to process the grant applications and we're helping economic development with other projects. I cancelled all the planned programming for the coming year so there's nothing that we're having to pay for. We're in a holding pattern right now.

Board Member Vasquez said we haven't gotten an update on the Amador in quite some time.

Dr. Griselda Martinez, Economic Development Director said the Rio Grande Theatre is fully funded by the general fund. As far as Amador Hospitality, we implemented an amendment that allowed for a different fee schedule.

Board Member Vasquez asked have you had any delays because of the courthouse?

David Sedillo, Interim Public Works Director said they asked for an extension on lane closures and we informed them at that time that we would not support a lane closure. They have since that time moved their fencing. It shouldn't have major impacts to the project.

Board Member Vasquez asked has staff thought about syncing the lights to music?

Liz Vega said currently the lights we will be having installed do not have that capability but we can look with the contractor and see if that's a possibility going forward. Staff is working on a virtual celebration to launch the lights downtown.

Board Member Flores said I wonder if we could provide maps of different

places in the city that have light displays.

Sonya Delgado, Parks & Rec Director said our team is getting together tomorrow to talk about some ideas that we can do to create a drive by area somewhere and we'll see what we can do about creating a map.

3.3 Future TIDD Priorities.

Chris Faivre, Rio Grande Theatre Manager gave an overhead presentation.

Vice Chair Gandara said I would like to prioritize the cameras and updating Church and Water. Would the incubator program be similar to a place to help people convene meetings but also the technical pieces that people don't have at their fingertips?

Dr. Griselda Martinez, Economic Development Director said the ultimate goal would be to provide a space for entrepreneurs to launch their business and have a space for them to have a storefront. We are looking to have a pilot program to ensure that we have the demand. We will also look at having allocated spots for sector businesses and be linked to the Arts and Cultural District goals and outcomes. They will have access to technical and financial assistance.

Vice Chair Gandara asked how are we managing anti-donation?

Dr. Griselda Martinez said this would be within the Metropolitan Redevelopment Area and it allows for fair value to provide assistance to businesses.

Vice Chair Gandara said I think it's going to take us a little bit to capture the funding for the shade structures. Is there opportunity to find the funding for broadband?

Board Member Flores asked does the construction of the plaza shade fall into the 1% money that is allocated to public art?

Dr. Griselda Martinez said the portion of art allocated is when it comes from state appropriation and we currently don't have funding from capital. If city council decided to have the shade structures as a priority during capital appropriation requests, it would be 1% of the funding received.

Amy Johnson Bassford, Grants Administrator said that is a decision made by the state whether or not the 1% is for the art. It is when we are in the process of constructing a building that the 1% is held back by the state.

Board Member Flores asked so is the shade structure not considered "construction?"

Amy Johnson Bassford said that is one that would be on the margin of how they decide these things. If it is over $100,000 and you're actually building a

bricks and mortar project, they will hold the 1% back.

Board Member Bencomo said I don't think we got a full presentation on solar panels so I would like to see what that would look like because I don't want to make a decision based on it being expensive and what could the revenues potentially be used for.

Tony Trevino, Interim Public Works Deputy Director said we showed several different designs and materials, and we said we would take the three highest voted concepts and take those to city council in a work session. The solar panels were presented but they were number four. That is a lot of solar that would be produced there and we have to look at battery storage, which is out of my expertise.

Chair Miyagishima asked is this something that we could do a third party agreement with?

Tony Trevino said it would be something to discuss with economic development.

Board Member Bencomo said I have some concerns with the security cameras. There is no evidence that says surveillance decreases crime.

Chair Miyagishima said we were getting a lot of reports from patrons, specifically women feeling intimidated because it was dark. It was to deter crime.

Board Member Bencomo said I'm just curious if there are other security measures we could take before security cameras.

Vice Chair Gandara said I'd like to see us use 1% for art. The businesses were asking us for lighting and security cameras. I was getting feedback on a daily basis about what was happening.

4. ADJOURNMENT

4.1 Councilor Yvonne Flores moved, seconded by Councilor Gill Sorg, to Adjourn at 2:20 p.m.

RESULT:	**Carried**
MOVER:	Councilor Yvonne Flores
SECONDER:	Councilor Gill Sorg
AYES:	Mayor Ken Miyagishima, Councilor Kasandra Gandara, Councilor Gabe Vasquez, Councilor Gill Sorg, Councilor Yvonne Flores, Councilor Tessa Abeyta-Stuve, and Councilor Johana Bencomo