

**MINUTES OF THE  
SEAGO EXECUTIVE BOARD  
NOGALES CITY HALL  
777 N GRAND AVE.  
NOGALES, ARIZONA  
NOVEMBER 22, 2019**

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Gomez, David – Supervisor, Greenlee County (*Chair*) (Phone)  
Ortega, Richard – Vice Mayor, City of Safford (*1st Vice Chair*)  
Laws, Mike – Mayor, City of Willcox (*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair*) (Phone)  
Garino, Arturo – Mayor, City of Nogales (Treasurer)

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Barlow, Bill – Mayor Pro-Tem, City of Tombstone  
David, Paul – Supervisor, Graham County (Phone)  
English, Ann – Supervisor, Cochise County  
Grijalva, Jose – City of Douglas (Phone)  
O'Donnell, Patrick – Graham County Private Sector (Phone)  
Richardson, Barbara – Representative, Cochise County Private Sector  
(Phone)  
Smith, David – City of Bisbee

**STAFF PRESENT:** Catten, Larry – Economic Development Planner  
Curtiss, Dina – Accounting Manager  
Dennis, Keith – Community Development Program Manager  
Glenn, Heather – Administrative Assistant  
Heiss, Randy – Executive Director  
Villa, Laura – AAA Program Director

**GUESTS:** Adam, Kevin, RTAC  
Garino, Cathy – City of Nogales

**I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS**

Vice Chair Ortega called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and introductions were made.

**II. MEMBER ENTITIES' DISCUSSION**

**Supervisor Ann English** stated she is glad the USMCA is being addressed today as the Cochise County Board of Supervisors is moving forward with the commercial port in Douglas. It was approved by Federal Government and they are in process of developing a plan for infrastructure and working with them on that. She states that the SEAGO member support has been very important. **Mayor Robert Smith** would like to see short term rental issues addressed, as they affect Bisbee and elsewhere. He attended a meeting in Phoenix on it. Legislature passed some regulations for short-term rentals throughout the state. Participants must register with the city and have a tax ID. He noted that it is important that these properties get counted in the census otherwise they are classified as vacant. They just passed an ordinance which mirrors the state's law and will be happy to share it. Developers are trying to circumvent being classified as hotel. **Vice Mayor Richard Ortega** noted that Veterans Day is overlooked by many cities. Safford had a Field of Honor with 250 8-foot flags posted in front of City Hall via Lions Club and American Legion and the flags were sold to the public. The flags were on display for a week. A Veteran's name tag and dates of service were posted on each purchased flag. **Mayor Arturo Garino** shared that the Boy Scouts wanted to plant 8' tall flags along the honor wall by the fire station and plan to do it every year. Mayor Garino is looking to annex Nogales at a meeting around the end of December. It would entail a three-phase process: Phase 1 - Coronado Forest west to the railroad tracks; Phase 2 - railroad tracks. He hopes to get it started after the first of the New Year. Mayor Barlow asked what city services Nogales would have to provide that they are not already receiving. Mayor Garino responded that they are currently providing sewer; they will provide

fire, sanitation and police services and road services. He said the area has a water company and that there are many more pros than cons. There will be no increase in taxes. **Mayor Mike Laws** stated they lost their rural fire dept. when the man who owned it died. They are endangering their city and fire service by responding to calls outside the city limits. They don't have equipment and personnel to respond in the city. They are investigating creation of a fire district. He said they can't simply annex; the residents have to request it. Mayor Garino stated they created a mutual aid agreement with neighboring fire stations. Robert Smith asked Mayor Laws to contact him. Randy Heiss stated he knew Steve Pauken had worked on an agreement for Bisbee that didn't go through, but Steve might be able to help him along with Mayor Smith.

### III. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No one from the public spoke.

### IV. ACTION ITEMS

1. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of the August 16, 2019 Minutes
  - b. Nominations to the Advisory Council on Aging

Vice Chair Ortega called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

**MOTION: Supervisor Ann English**  
**SECOND: Mayor Arturo Garino**  
**ACTION: Unanimous**

2. Discussion and possible action to recommend the nomination of Shaylee Richards to serve as the Greenlee County Private Sector Representative on the Executive Board

Mr. Randy Heiss explained the history of the position and that members from Greenlee County brought her name forward. He advised that SEAGO is also looking for another private sector rep for Cochise County.

Vice Chair Ortega called for a motion to appoint Ms. Shaylee Richards to a two-year term as the Greenlee County Private Sector Representative on the Executive Board.

**MOTION: Mayor Mike Laws**  
**SECOND: Mayor Bill Barlow**  
**ACTION: Unanimous**

3. Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of Resolution No. 2019-04 urging Congress to ratify the USMCA negotiated by the Office of the United States Trade Representative

Mr. Heiss described the importance of trade with Mexico and Canada noting that it would bring 228,000 jobs in Arizona and 2 million jobs across the country. He stated that there is no agreement in Congress yet for a vote. A lot of Arizona delegation are still sitting on the fence about this issue. Supervisor English stated her support of the resolution saying having something is better than nothing. She suggested attaching a list of all the member entities so that the resolution might carry some clout if they see the numbers. Mayor Garino also stated his support. Supervisor Paul David asked for an add-on to address that border cities are affected by the wait times at the border. Mr. Heiss stated he would be happy to put something together to bring to a future meeting.

Vice Chair Ortega called for a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-04.

**MOTION: Mayor Robert Smith**  
**SECOND: Mayor Bill Barlow**  
**ACTION: Unanimous**

4. Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of Resolution No. 2019-05 relating to the diversion of dedicated transportation revenues to the State General Fund (HURF)

Mr. Heiss advised he usually brings a transportation statement to the Board this time of year, but is hoping to create a broader document that spells out the region's position on those issues. He hopes to have it to the Board by February. He gave background on this particular resolution and what it addresses and why. Vice Chair Ortega stated that politicians don't want to step up to the plate to make suggestions on how to come up with the money.

Vice Chair Ortega called for a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-05.

**MOTION: Supervisor Ann English**  
**SECOND: Mayor Robert Smith**  
**ACTION: Unanimous**

5. Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of Resolution No. 2019-06 authorizing the Executive Director to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority.

Mr. Randy Heiss explained that SEAGO has been receiving 5310 training funds from ADOT for years to provide training throughout the state. The State has people that do the same type of training and it would be more cost effective for SEAGO to take those training funds and hire the State personnel rather than having SEAGO employees conduct it. The resolution provides authorization for Mr. Heiss to sign the paperwork implementing this. Supervisor David asked if subcontracting with them might provide impetus for them to go after the money themselves. Mr. Heiss replied that if it is more cost effective, he would support it. He proposed a partnership approach which would probably make it a more successful attempt to seek funds.

Vice Chair Ortega called for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-06.

**MOTION: Mayor Robert Smith**  
**SECOND: Supervisor Ann English**  
**ACTION: Unanimous**

## **I. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. Future Meeting Dates**

Mr. Heiss provided an overview of the future meeting dates and addressed questions. The next Executive Board meeting date is February 21. He noted that the May 22 date is the beginning of Memorial Day weekend and asked if the members wish to change it. Supervisor English suggested moving both meetings back one week. Mr. Heiss will investigate. He announced that December 5 at 9 am is the next Joint Committees meeting and that the Committee will consider a Regional Technical Services IGA on the agenda for that meeting.

### **B. Report on 21<sup>st</sup> AZ Rural Transportation Summit**

Mr. Heiss provided a synopsis of the RTS as an overwhelming success. The only disappointing issue was that SEAGO wasn't able to hold the event in their region because of its size. Casino Del Sol did an amazing job. The program and sponsorship was outstanding. They tried to keep the focus on trade. Mr. Heiss stated he created an evaluation tool to help with future event planning. 393 people attended and feedback was very positive. The event generated \$131,259 in revenue; and after stated expenditures, there is about \$43,500 in profit. He noted that the hosting agency is at risk of losing money if they don't get the attendance. He stated he would not do it again, until issues he raised get addressed. There is not a shared risk between the Summit host and RTAC and there is great potential for the host to lose money. On a positive note, he believes the Summit really elevated SEAGO in the eyes of their counterparts around the state. Supervisors David Gomez and David Paul acknowledged Mr. Heiss and staff for putting the RTS together.

C. Strategic Plan Implementation Progress Report

Mr. Heiss stated it is time to update the Strategic Plan, which should have been done last year, but was put aside to handle the RTS and AAA Provider Contract Updates. The Executive Board agreed that meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup> after the Administrative Council Meeting in Benson would be a good time to work on the update.

D. Quarterly Finance Report

Ms. Dina Curtiss presented her report out of order since she had to leave to work on the audit. She stated she will have the trial balance to the auditors tomorrow and reported that things are going smoothly. She doesn't anticipate having to take it any further this year. Supervisor English asked about the numbers in brackets and if that meant it was a deficit. Ms. Curtiss explained that it shows a negative balance because of the billing and reimbursement cycle, but that the numbers will balance when all funds are received.

E. AAA Program Updates

Ms. Laura Villa distributed an annual report for AAA for FY 2018/19, provided an overview of AAA programs and answered questions.

F. CDBG Colonias Presentation

Mr. Keith Dennis provided an overview of the CDBG Colonias Set Aside Funding opportunities and responded to questions. Colonias money CAN be used to purchase public safety vehicles.

G. SEAGO Economic Development District Report

Mr. Larry Catten provided a synopsis of the Economic Development Program and answered questions.

H. Transportation Program Updates

Mr. Heiss provided an update on the Transportation programs and responded to questions.

**II. RTAC REPORT**

Mr. Kevin Adam provided a legislative update and answered questions. Mayor Bill Barlow expressed his displeasure at the increase for driver ID fees and how it was implemented where the public had no input.

### **III. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS / CURRENT EVENTS**

Mr. Heiss announced that Transportation Program Administrator Jim Russell left SEAGO on November 13. The recruitment to fill the position is in process and there are some fairly interesting candidates; he hopes to have the position filled as soon as possible.

### **IV. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Heiss noted the following items for future agendas: policies statement; audit; elections; Cochise County private sector rep; resolution for wait times at the border; information item on Greenlee County Road Study.

### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Garino adjourned the meeting at 12:32 pm.