

**RICHLAND PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL, 505 SWIFT BLVD.
MONDAY, January 5, 2009 MEETING TIME: 1:00 P.M.**

SPECIAL MEETING: # 01-09

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Linda Boomer called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Linda Boomer, President	Present
Rich Emery	Present
Eric Gerber, Vice President	Present
Joel Rogo, Treasurer/Secretary	Present
Burton Vaughan Clerk/File	Present

LIAISONS

Council Liaison: Rita Mazur	Absent
The Reach Board: Ron Lerch	Absent
Chief Executive Officer: Kimberly Camp	Present
City Liaison: Bill King/Gary Ballew	Present
Alternate Council Liaison: Edward Revell	

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Burton Vaughan moved and Rich Emery seconded a motion to approve the agenda of January 5, 2009 as presented.

Motion carried

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

V. COMMITTEE/LIAISON COMMENTS

- A. Council Comments – Rita Mazur
- B. Reach Board Liaison – Ron Lerch
- C. City Liaison – Bill King/Gary Ballew

D. CREHST Liaison –

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Legislation for Multi-Governmental Public Facilities Districts

Kimberly Camp reported that the special meeting had been called to discuss the proposed legislation relating to multi-governmental public facilities districts being developed by the Tri-Cities Legislative Council. Ms. Camp asked the PFD to review and comment on the proposed legislation prior to the House reconvening later this month. Representatives from the Benton County PFD, Kennewick PFD, City of Pasco, City of Kennewick, and the Benton Franklin Council of Governments were invited to attend the discussion. A representative of the Tri-Cities Legislative Council, Glenn Bestebreuer, was also present.

Matt Watkins, Chair of the Regional Oversight Committee, gave a brief synopsis of the proposed legislation. The Tri-Cities Regional Oversight Committee commissioned a study in 2007 to identify potential regional public facilities projects in the Tri-Cities area. The study concluded that the community did want regional building projects and were possibly even willing to consider additional taxes to pay for them. The size and scope of a regional project was determined to be more than any one city could undertake on its own and that is where the draft legislation to form a “super PFD” came from. The legislation would essentially allow the creation of a regional PFD with approval from the municipal governments within the district. Mr. Watkins stated that the proposed legislation would create the mechanism for the creation of the regional organization and for the collection of a sales tax increase only. It would still require inter-local agreements between all parties, a specific project (or projects) to be selected and the voters to approve it. If the State Legislature passed the bill this session, the public vote would be in late 2010 at the earliest.

Gary Ballew pointed out that the regional PFD would exist side-by-side with City/County PFDs. It would not affect the current projects or revenues of existing PFDs but could impact the .2% sales tax that is allowable with the current PFD legislation.

There was much discussion regarding which entities the “super PFD” would consist of, what authority it would have, what areas it would cover and draw sales tax revenue from, what project(s) it would endorse, the differences between a Metropolitan Park District and a Super PFD, etc.

Rich Emery moved and Eric Gerber seconded the motion to support legislation that would allow for the creation and operation of the public facilities district within the geographic boundaries of existing public facilities districts.

Kimberly Camp was asked what she thinks about the proposed legislation. Ms. Camp stated she believes the legislation would be an avenue for future support for the Reach, but competing projects would be an issue. The Reach needs to be seen as supportive of our region and not as obstructive.

Motion carried with Joel Rogo abstaining.

B. State Appropriations Strategies

Ms. Camp thanked everyone for their attendance with such short notice. She brought everyone's attention to the draft position paper in their packets and the three bullets listed on that document as points of discussion regarding what the PFD's strategy should be.

Bullet point one is in regard to the Washington Heritage Capital Projects Fund for which we were recommended at 14% of our request. The question posed was, "do we want to continue to push for a legislative solution to obtain increased funding."

Burton Vaughan moved and Joel Rogo seconded the motion to initiate a renewed request for funding and explore options for doing so.

Motion carried.

Bullet point two is regarding proposed legislation that would allow for creation of publicly funded Cultural Access Funds in communities across the state. Kimberly Camp reminded everyone that there had been a meeting scheduled in December with members of Prosperity Partnership regarding to the Cultural Access Fund that was postponed due to weather and asked Gary Ballew to review the proposed legislation.

Mr. Ballew described the Cultural Access Fund and the goal of increasing access to cultural and scientific experiences for children and adults across Washington State. Mr. Ballew pointed out that communities that have a strong cultural base tend to produce strong innovation within their community. The proposed legislation would allow counties to ask for .1% to fund increased public access to science and cultural organizations and could possibly be used to offset a portion of the operating costs of the Reach.

Ms. Camp pointed out that the projected visitation numbers at the Reach exceed those of all current local organizations combined. She feels the proposed legislation makes sense.

Eric Gerber moved and Joel Rogo seconded the motion to support the Cultural Access Fund initiative as sponsored by Prosperity Partnership.

Motion carried.

Bullet point three regarding the proposed legislation to allow for the creation and operation of a multi-governmental public facilities district was covered in the discussion and vote under New Business, Section A.

C. Heritage Capital Projects Fund

Discussed and voted upon under New Business, Section B.

D. Revision of January and February 2009 RPFDD Meeting Dates Due to Holidays

The January meeting will be held January 26, 2009 due to Martin Luther King Jr. Day being on January 19, 2009. The date for the February meeting will be decided at January's meeting or earlier if possible.

IX. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

None

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS

XI. ADJOURN

President Boomer adjourned the meeting at 2:39 p.m.

Prepared by: Mary-Lynne Peters

Reviewed by: Linda Boomer