



June Meeting and Strategic Session Minutes

Greater Yuma Port Authority.
Jun 7, 2023 at 10:30 AM MST
@ Cocopah Casino, Somerton, AZ

Attendance

Present:

Members: Buna George, Gary Knight, Gary Magrino, Ian McGaughey, Frank Rascon, Tony Reyes, Matias Rosales, Trevor White

Guests: Wayne Benesch, Julie Engel, Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation, Greg Lavann, Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation, Alejandro Figueroa, Economic Development and International Affairs, Yuma County, Nazzer Mendez, Executive Director, 4Front ED, Jenny Torres, Deputy City Manager, City of San Luis, Crystal Figueroa, Executive Director, Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization, Allen Heck, Planning Director, Cocopah Indian Tribe, Jay Simonton, Acting City Manager, City of Yuma

Absent:

Members: Wayne Gale

I. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 10:32am by Chairman

II. Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance

III. . Discussion and possible action to discuss Letter from Mayor Riedel to Attorney General regarding GYPA, its members and executive director.

Board members voted this item be placed and discussed in executive session due to the nature of the matter concerning personnel, public records, and the seeking of confidential legal counsel. This motion allowed under A.R.S. §§ 38-431.03(A)(1)-(7). Direction was given to GYPA legal counsel. No action taken.

 [Request Re GYPA to AG 2023-06-02.pdf](#)

IV. Executive Session: Action to Authorize Executive Session of The Board of the Greater Yuma Port Authority pursuant to Arizona Revised Statute §38-431.03. Motion to recess the Regular Session portion of the agenda, convened in Executive Session pursuant to

Motion to enter Executive Session: Gary Magrino

Second: Gary Knight

Motion passes unanimously.

Executive Session commenced at 10:34am

Executive session ended at 11:10am

- A. Real Estate Development, finance details, Magrino Industrial
- B. GYPA loan with Yuma County

- V. Discussion and possible action regarding real estate development, finance details, for Magrino Industrial.

Direction was provided to the executive director to confer with legal counsel as to the boards discussion during executive session.

- VI. Discussion and possible action regarding GYPA loan with Yuma County.

Direction was provided to the executive director to confer with legal counsel and Yuma County as to the boards discussion during executive session.

 [C14 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

- VII. Break

Upon ending executive session, the remaining attendees entered the room. There was a break for refreshments and for guests to get settled in the conference room.



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- VIII. 11:00am begin Strategic Session

Strategic Session commenced at 11:20am.

- IX. Welcome and introductions

Chairman welcomed everyone anew, everyone in attendance was asked to introduce themselves.

- X. Discussion and review of strategy and action plan / Historical recap of GYPA accomplishments / Review and discussion on previous retreat goals

Executive director covered the GYPA's previous successes, from the successful implementation of the Commercial Port in San Luis, AZ, construction of Avenue E in San Luis AZ, and the joint effort in the building of SR-195 that leads from San Luis, AZ to Highway 8, the development of the Gary J. Magrino Industrial Park. All of which allowed the City of San Luis grow to the east side of town, these measures also escalated the numbers of commercial truck crossings through San Luis II. Because the GYPA is approaching the finish line in property development, it was agreed upon by the board of directors to invite the economic development representatives of the region to aide in the future measures of the Port Authorities mission moving forward. The open discussion portion of the meeting was to note the attendees comments for the board and the executive director.

 [Overweight Truck Route.pdf](#)

 [Retreat. Ramirez Advisors.pdf](#)

 [GYPA. Presentation title.pdf](#)

XI. Open discussion of future initiatives

Discussion occurred regarding Future initiatives of the Greater Yuma Port Authority:

- Maintain an effective partnership amongst current members / reduce membership contribution from \$50k to lesser amount
- Educate the public to GYPA's prior successes and future initiatives
- Increase our reach and impact into Mexico, its industries and the benefits of an FTZ in their model
 - Increase presence within Industries in MX
- Compliment current initiatives of the current members, the goal is to compliment not duplicate efforts
- Educating future Port Users:
 - Resources of ADOT permitting, overweight permits, mechanical inspections, established overweight routes
 - Additional audio/visual resources for Future Port Users
- Focus not only on Northbound freight, but Southbound loads
 - Create efficiency model for industries/commodities that travel both North and South
- Promote San Luis II as an ideal and efficient westward gateway for commercial trade
 - Increase regional marketing
 - Attend trade shows in Mexico (Produce, food, cluster specific)
- Advocate for longer port hours,
 - Mirror hours to Calexico, CA Commercial POE
- Model a complimentary trade organization, as a 501-c6 membership model for trade organizations
- Obtain economic impact numbers as to how international trade impacts the region
 - North from San Luis II, what fiscal impact goes to County v. City v. Tribal lands
- Veer a route leading to the Sun Corridor and the Can-A-Mex corridor from San Luis II
- Update website data
 - Statistics
- Connect with USA entities established in MX
 - ACA
 - US Embassy in CDMX
- Advocate for Ave D/E Corridor for increase in regional connectivity
 - Somerton to SL II
 - Serve as a tertiary entrance to the City of San Luis
- Advocate and spearhead County 25th extension to Ave B
 - Serve as a secondary truck route to Ave E
 - Ave E currently experiencing POV congestion due to increased residential developments
- Apply for grants and low interest loans as a non profit
 - Operations
 - Roadway construction
 - parking lot for commercial vehicles at San Luis II
 - parking lot for POV's at San Luis I
 - Acquire real estate assets

Additional discussion regarding execution, executive director to report back to the board and members as to the action plan to implement outlined items and more. Everyone present offered a diverse perspective to the GYPA's future mission and their expectations of the organization.

XII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: Gary Knight
Second: Gary Magrino

Motion passed unanimously
Meeting adjourned at 1:00PM.