



Meeting minutes

November 16, 2023

The Greater Yuma Port Authority Board of Directors regular meeting

Location: Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation (GYEDC)

3151SouthRedondoCenterDriveSuite158/159Yuma,Arizona85365

Members in attendance:

Gary Magrino, Cocopah Tribe

Gary Knight, City of Yuma

Matias Rosales, City of Yuma (online)

Frank Rascon, City of San Luis

Ian McGaughey, Yuma County

Members Absent:

Alan Heck, Cocopah Tribe

Wayne Gale, City of Yuma

Tony Reyes, Yuma County

1. Call to order / Roll call / Pledge of Allegiance
  - **Meeting called to order at 9:06 by Chairman Rosales**
  - **The Executive director noted to the board that this month was her 5-year anniversary with the organization and thanked them for their leadership through the years.**

**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 Arizona Revised Statute §38-431.03 to address the items listed in Executive Session portion of the agenda and reconvene in Regular Session Immediately after the Executive Session. The Executive Session is not open to the public.

- Legal consultation regarding GYPA restructuring, distributions, bylaw modifications and general operations.

**Executive session commenced at 9:08AM**

**Executive session concluded at 10:14AM**

**Regular session resumed at 10:15AM**

2. Discussion and possible action regarding GYPA restructuring, distributions, bylaw modification and general operations.

- **The board held a discussion regarding fund utilization going towards identifying potential projects where GYPA could partner with the respective member entities, that align with GYPA's mission and purpose. Potential projects, at this time to be capped at \$150,000.**
  - **A motion was made by Frank Rascon, authorizing the Executive Director to approach each member entity and identify prospective projects that GYPA can partner with that align with the Authorities mission.**
  - **Second made by Gary Knight**
  - **Motion carried unanimously.**
3. Discussion and possible action to approve [meeting minutes](#) for 10/4/2023.
- **Motion made by Ian McGaughey to approve minutes as presented.**
  - **Second by Gary Knight**
  - **Motion carried unanimously.**
4. Discussion and possible action to approve [financial reports](#) ending 10/31/2023.
- **The Executive director mentioned she is scheduled to meet with Frost PLLC, the organization's CPA next Tuesday to finalize recording details on the property sale, clear up the balance sheets and obtain audited reports. Currently the CPA has an accountant's copy of the QuickBooks program.**
  - **Motion made by Ian McGaughey to approve report as presented.**
  - **Second by Gary Knight**
  - **Motion carried unanimously.**
5. Discussion and possible action in adopting [Resolution 2023-1101](#) authorizing GYPA to invest funds with the State Treasury and stipulate the amount to be transferred.
- **Motion made to approve resolution by the State Treasury as presented and for a max of \$3.1million to be transferred and invested into the treasury by Gary Magrino**
  - **Second by Gary Knight**
  - **Motion passed unanimously.**
6. Discussion and possible action in executing a [Non-Profit fund](#) with Arizona Community Foundation.
- **Item tabled for a later meeting.**
7. Discussion and possible action amending the 2023/2024 budget.
- **The Executive director explained this amendment was to include a line item for the newly executed investment account onto the budget.**
  - **Motion made to approve amendment by Gary Knight**
  - **Second by Ian McGaughey**
  - **Motion passed unanimously.**

8. Discussion and possible action authorizing the Chairman to sign a [joint resolution](#) regarding Port Staffing within CBP. (Drafted by Ramirez Advisors International).
  - **Executive director stated the resolution was drafted by Ramirez Advisors and there were other border communities along with additional Port Authorities that would sign on to the initiative.**
  - **Motion made to allow Chairman to sign on behalf of the Greater Yuma Port Authority by Gary Magrino**
  - **Second by Ian McGaughey**
  - **Motion passed unanimously.**
  
9. Discussion and possible action authorizing the Executive Director to obtain telephone services for the Port Authorities principal line of communication.
  - **Executive director explained that the Port Authorities current phone number of 928-373-1179 was integrated into Yuma Counties phone system and the option to release it is not an option. Currently, the calls made to the 1179 number are being forwarded to the Director's cell phone. By allocating another line, a dedicated number can be specifically for Port Authority communication.**
  - **Motion made by Ian McGaughey to allow for director to obtain telephone services.**
  - **Second by Gary Knight**
  - **Motion passed unanimously.**
  
10. Executive Report
  - **Executive director reported that the Arizona Mexico Commission is scheduled to hold its first session of inter-plenary meetings in Phoenix along with its Southern counterpart, Commission Sonora / Estados Unidos. She shared current priorities and will inform on the report findings once available.**
  - **The EPA (it was noted to be mislabeled on the agenda item) grant funding opportunity that is being offered through the Environmental Protection Agency. With this Administration having a focus on clean energy projects, with a \$750 million allocation, she suggested a partnership with the entities to put forth a request with one of the members entities, especially with POV's at San Luis II in mind.**
  - **Presented were prospective future initiatives for the board's consideration. She relayed the importance of the County 25<sup>th</sup> Extension to ash highway as a secondary means for commercial vehicles to access SR-195, Highway 95 and Interstate 8. Considering the vast growth on the east side of San Luis and traffic increasing off Ave E, paired with the potential of a high school, its detrimental to keep everyone safe.**
  - **She also put forth the possibility of additional land acquisition, the need for private vehicles through San Luis II, the need for a 501-c6 trade organization and the need to interconnect the Arizona Mexico Commission pillars to local initiatives and tasks. (Mr. Jones relayed that the Port Authorities had met earlier in the year, and that GYPA should align priorities of the other Arizona Port Authorities. The board looked**

favorably to that suggestion.)

- She provided a slide to the meetings and events she had attended.

**Gary Knight left the meeting at 10:40**

11. Provide direction regarding future tasks and initiatives.

- **Item to continue in the next meeting.**

12. Provide direction regarding rebranding & website redesign.

- **Item to continue in the next meeting.**

13. Provide direction regarding [EDA](#) grant funding opportunity.

- **Item to continue in the next meeting.**

14. Chairman's Report

- **Chairman was attending virtually from a conference. Stated he is aligned with what has been proposed at the meeting and there is still much work to do for this region.**

15. Call to the public: Each member of the public is allowed 3 minutes to address the board of directors.

- **Mr. Russ Jones stated there is a high school proposed in the proximity of Avenue E and county 24<sup>th</sup> street. He also noted there have been accidents from Avenue E and County 24<sup>th</sup> due to the increase in traffic and lack of traffic mitigation on left and right turns. He noted that the County 25<sup>th</sup> extension is a good thing to want, but there is a lot of work to be done and will be very costly. Jenny Torres, City of San Luis City Manager, stated that there was a development agreement in the works with the developer for the High School. The county 25<sup>th</sup> extension was directed to be put into the long-range transportation plan with YMPO but remains unfunded. The City of San Luis Council prioritized Cesar Chavez Blvd. and as a secondary measure is county 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Jones also noted, referring to the AIDA (Arizona International Development Authority) that it may be a good time to revisit and refine it as a priority for the Port Authorities of Arizona. He also noted that holding a "town hall" type meeting for the community understands the roles of each economic engine organization such as the Port Authority, Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation, Airport Authority, Chamber of Commerce and 4FrontED, to distinguish the roles of each organization and not duplicate efforts but complement them.**

16. Summary of current events: Board members may discuss events attended on behalf of the Port Authority, may

present a summary of current events, and update the schedule for future meetings, as appropriate. No legal action will be taken pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.02 (K).

- None

17. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:48am.