



**MINUTES – MEC REGULAR MEETING  
4:00P.M, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2015  
PIMA COUNTY LIBRARY LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM,  
101 N. STONE AVE., TUCSON, ARIZONA**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Bill Ardern, Dennis Barger, Dr. Kent Barrabee, Dr. Mary Jan Bancroft, James Cook, Jen Darland, Dr. David Dore, Deborah Embry, George Favela, Jennifer Flores, Guillermo Figueroa, Molly Gilbert, Paul Lovelis, Amber Mathewson, Rafael Meza, Jo Riester, Jennifer Sprung, Dr. Alan Storm, Dr. Kasey Urquidez Dr. June Webb-Vignery, Patricia Wiedhopf.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Dr. Linda Arzoumanian, Diego Martinez Barrera, Richard Elias, Steve Freeman, Javier Herrera, Teri Laguna, Vicky Mullins, Dr. Daisy Rodriguez Pitel, Regina Romero, James Wiltbank.

NON-COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Edward Nossem, Johanna Duffek.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER – DR. KASEY URQUIDEZ

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL – DR. KASEY URQUIDEZ

Roll call was conducted; a quorum was established.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – DR. KASEY URQUIDEZ

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was recited by all attendees.

4.0 TUCSON CITY MANAGER MICHAEL ORTEGA

Tucson City Manager Michael Ortega thanked the Commission for inviting him to the meeting. Mr. Ortega related his long involvement in the education field, including his position on the Douglas, AZ School Board and his awareness of K-12 education issues. He offered his thoughts on a number of issues including education funding, recognizes that there is much work to be done, and salutes the MEC's work. He related that Mayor Rothschild is engaged in working to improve the education situation through partnerships, and that solutions are only limited by imagination. He pledged to be on board with the MEC's efforts and stands ready to help.

The MEC Commissioners introduced themselves and stated which constituencies they represent. Mr. Ortega also fielded questions from the Commissioners on issues such as how the City can help support education given the City's position of non-involvement with school funding; how the City influences state legislators regarding education; quality-of-life issues for businesses looking at relocating or starting up in Tucson; how

the Tucson Police Department works with the school districts; why Tucson appears to be lagging behind Phoenix in economic recovery; and the Sun Tran bus strike.

5.0 APPROVAL OF AUGUST 8, 2015 MEETING MINUTES – DR. KASEY URQUIDEZ

Motion to approve: Jennifer Sprung

Second: George Favela

Motion carried 21-0.

6.0 APPROVAL OF JULY 2015 & AUGUST 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT – DR. KASEY URQUIDEZ

Motion: George Favela

Second: Jennifer Sprung

Motion carried 21-0.

7.0 MEC EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICER ELECTIONS – DR. KASEY URQUIDEZ

Motion to approve 2015-2016 MEC Executive Board officers: Chair – Pat Wiedhopf; Vice-Chair – George Favela; Secretary – Paul Lovelis; Treasurer – Bill Ardern; Past Chair – Dr. Kasey Urquidez; Appointments – Deborah Embry.

Motion: Dr. Alan Storm

Second: Dennis Barger

Motion carried 21-0.

8.0 MEC FUNDRAISING – DR. JUNE WEBB-VIGNERY

The MEC Fundraising Committee at the MEC Retreat had formulated some strategies for bringing in funds to support the MEC; the newly-formed RCAC Oversight Committee will oversee funding for the Regional College Access Center. A Funding Appeal letter has been created and 5 copies with donor envelopes were distributed to the Commissioners to send on to their constituencies; the Commissioners were urged to add their own personal notes to the appeal letters.

Other funding avenues discussed were a Reception for the 24 AmeriCorps Student Ambassadors with political, business and education leaders who we can solicit for donations; outreach to additional organizations and groups such as the Women's Foundation, which Debbi Embry said is seeking non-traditional funding targets – MEC Youth Commissioner Maggie Zheng is a member of the Women's Foundation Board and she also said the that they are expanding their vision and goals, capacity building and systems change and are looking for non-traditional applicants.

Also suggested were Alumni Associations, casinos, private sector business, the Southern Arizona Leadership Council, and the LGBT community, engaging more Chambers of Commerce and municipalities including Marana and Vail, and increasing the Crystal Apple Sponsorship amounts.

An RCAC Sustainability Logic Model has been drafted for approval by the Commission, to be used for funding proposals.

Motion to accept RCAC Sustainability Logic Model: Jen Darland

Second: Paul Lovelis

Motion carried 21-0.

9.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS – PAT WIEDHOPE

9.1 Budget – Bill Ardern

The budget is tracking appropriately. The MEC's Financial Review was completed successfully, and will be sent to the City & County.

9.2 Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon – Dr. June Webb -Vignery

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon will take place on Friday, April 29, 2016 at the Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel, 7350 S. Nogales Highway. We have 3 tables: Gold Sponsor: Pima County School Superintendent's Office; Table Sponsors: Jim Click Automotive Team; University of Arizona Enrollment Management. The Lifetime Achievement Committee has selected John Pedicone as the Lifetime Achievement Honoree, and recommended General Ron Shoopman for the Education Advocate Award, which the MEC Executive Board has approved.

9.3 Appointments –Paul Lovelis

Motion to approve Dr. David Dore, representing

Pima Community College: George Favela

Second: Jen Darland

Motion carried 21-0.

Motion to approve Pastor James Wiltbank,

Pima County Appointee representing the Religious Community: George Favela

Second: Dennis Barger

Motion carried 21-0.

9.4 YAC/TTC – Maggie Zheng

Five YAC/TTC members attended the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual League of Arizona Cities & Towns Youth Conference on August 19<sup>th</sup> at the Marriott JW Starr Pass Resort to represent the City of Tucson's youth, with the registration fees funded by the City Manager's Office. 91 Arizona cities and towns were in attendance at the 3-day Conference, and 20 youth groups from throughout the state participated in breakout sessions and workshops at the August 19<sup>th</sup> session. A report has been prepared and will be delivered to the Mayor & Council in the near future.

The 2015-2016 YAC/TTC Executive Committee will be elected at this evening's YAC/TTC meeting.

9.5 Issues –George Favela

MEC Commissioners Jim Cook and Molly Gilbert suggested holding a Forum on the upcoming Pima County Bonds ballot propositions; this will take place at the October 21st MEC meeting. The October meeting will also feature an awards presentation by Melanie McClintock from the Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence to local honorees.

9.6 Regional College Access Center – David Rodriguez (not present)

The RCAC Oversight Committee has drafted the RCAC Sustainability Logic Model (see Item 8.0). David Rodriguez has been busy conducting recruitment and training for the 24 AmeriCorps Student Ambassadors, which will be placed at 6 public high schools and 2 alternative high schools.

9.7 Key to Employment Symposium – Ed Nossem

The Key to Employment for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Symposium will take place on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at the U of A Student Union. The possibility of

conducting a UA Telemedicine virtual video broadcast, including the RCAC Workshop and other aspects of the event, is being discussed. Johanna Duffek gave an update on fundraising and exhibitor solicitation activities, which are underway.

10.0 CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No action.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT – PAT WIEDHOPF

Motion to approve: George Favela

Second: Dr. Kent Barrabee

Motion carried 21-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.