



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 22, 2017

- I. President Jennifer Goudeau convened the meeting at 9:07am
 - a. Present – Deannie Marin, Douglas Qasawadish, Jennifer Goudeau, Alfredo Ripa, Emmie Medellin, Oscar Salas, Ernesto Murguia, Rudy Lopez, Carlos Avalos, Antonio Barbosa
 - b. Guests – Carlos Lacarra, Martha Zamora, Esmeralda Sanchez
- II. Presentation

Tijuana Walking Tours presentation given by Martha Zamora
- III. President’s Report was given by President Jennifer Goudeau. She mentioned her representation of the chamber at a binational mayor’s press conference regarding the importance of staying in NAFTA and good-faith renegotiations. President Goudeau also highlighted the details of the “border closure” coming September 23-25. Carlos Lacarra (SDPD) mentioned the SDPD work with Caltrans to have officers at certain intersections
- IV. Executive Director’s Report was given. ED Wells reaffirmed that pedestrian crossings would remain open. ED Wells said the chamber would bring artists and music to San Ysidro Blvd. as part of the promotion to get border crossers crossing on foot during Sept 23 and 24, called PedFest. ED Wells mentioned that for bus passengers, an extra lane would be open at Otay Mesa for bus crossings. ED Wells explained that PedFest would be the first of many efforts to get more people crossing on foot on a regular basis. He mentioned that in less than a year, 22 pedestrian lanes at traditional (Blvd) side – tripling pedestrian capacity from a couple years ago, Tijuana CDT has their Umbral Las Americas – a pedestrian project from El Chaparral to Avenida Revolucion, and other pedestrian-enhancing projects.

ED Wells reiterated Carlos Lacarra’s mention of work done with Caltrans to be able to get drivers into San Ysidro during the Sept road closures. Work with MTS on greater trolley service during the closure weekend.

ED Wells mentioned the chamber server went down and the hard drive will be sent out for data recovery.

ED Wells shared that Arturo Velasquez had approached him regarding getting a new off-ramp from 805. ED Wells mentioned that he would propose the offramp to the San Ysidro Planning Group and vet a plan of action. The first thing he would do was get a conceptual drawing done to make sure the offramp is feasible and would not need private land acquisition. Through preliminary discussions with the Planning Group’s Infrastructure committee, the goal would be to request State funding for the ramp, versus trying to make a City project, as the offramp is not on the current community plan priority list.

ED Wells told the board that CDC has \$2M in small business loans directed toward jobs creation that they need to get out within 18 months. The Chamber will be partnering with CDC to give chamber members access to loans.

ED Wells let the Board know that the chamber would be conditioning one of the community center's office for rent-by-hour/day. More information would be given as compiled.

ED Wells relayed to the Board his intervention with the City of Tijuana on behalf of San Ysidro hotels who transport their guests to Tijuana and back for medical treatment. San Ysidro hotels are now eligible for program membership in Tijuana's FastLane (Medical Lane). This is the first international membership made for this program!

ED Wells further relayed to the board that with Goodwill's purchase of the San Ysidro Indoor Swap Meet, swap meet vendors were given a 30-day notice to vacate. The vendors were scared/furious in that they had purchased their inventory for the holiday season and had nowhere to go. The Chamber would be intervening with Goodwill and the Swap Meet managers to try and find answers/ options for the vendors.

As a final note of the Executive Director Report, the Chamber will begin offering small business sponsorships for the AMIGOS security program.

- V. A status report for the upcoming golf tournament (September 8)
- VI. There were no remaining action items
- VII. The meeting was adjourned at 10:23am