The following are summary minutes for the meeting of the Las Cruces Economic Recovery Ad Hoc Board on July 23, 2020 at 1:30 pm. The meeting was held via Zoom.

Members Present:
- Chris Schaljo, Chairman
- Debbi Moore, Vice Chair
- Michael Harris, Member
- Doug Cowan, Member
- Sharon Thomas, Member (joined approximately 1:39 p.m.)
- Veronica Archuleta, Member
- George Miller, Member
- Brooke Montgomery, Member
- Ron Fitzherbert, Member (joined approximately 2:25 p.m.)
- Susan Greenwald, Member
- Darleen Lopez (joined approximately 1:33 p.m.)

Members Absent:
- Jolene Martinez, Member

Staff Present:
- Griselda Martinez, Economic Development Director
- Francisco Pallares, Economic Development Deputy Director

Others Present:
- Steve Duran, South Central Council of Governments

I. Call to Order: Chair Schaljo called the meeting to order at 1:30.

II. Conflict of Interest: There was none.

III. Acceptance of the Agenda: Motion to accept the agenda by Board Member Harris, seconded by Board Member Miller. Motion passes.

IV. Minutes for Approval:

1. Minutes for Meeting on July 9, 2020: Motion to accept the minutes from July 9, 2020 by Board Member Harris, seconded by Board Member Moore. Motion passes, Board Member Greenwald abstained.

V. Discussion:

1. COVID-19 Update for Public Health Data: Approximately 15 minute video that had also been presented to the New Mexico Tourism Task
As of May, New Mexico was one of three states that were deemed ready to open. As of today 45 of 50 states are seeing increase and we are trending positive. Testing volumes and Statewide health care system capacity are still in the green, but the spread of COVID-19 and contract tracing and isolation are not doing as well. Chart of framework for assessing risk from a model from John Hopkins University with various public locations and ranking of few to many number of contacts, low to high contact intensity. A snapshot of the reopening.

Mr. Pallares stated that tomorrow there will be a Special City Council Meeting that will also include health officials to relate further comments. Board Member Cowan he would have liked to have seen an overlay of how many tests to see a comparison with tests and positives. Wondering if the Board could request some of their questions to be answered tomorrow. Also the rate of spread seemed to have a slight downturn. On the gating criteria talked about hospitalizations, the governor has allowed neighboring states to have some of their patients be admitted into our hospitals, and how many of those that are in our hospital are not actually from New Mexico but transferred patients and how that may be affecting our data on the gating information. Ms. Martinez stated e-mailing City Councilors and Mayor would be the best way to get questions to the meeting tomorrow. Mr. Harris asked for the link for this video. Board Member Moore pulled up information 44,404 tests in Doña Ana County as of yesterday, on NMH modeling, 1,838 cases, 14 deaths, 684 recovered as of 3:32 p.m. yesterday. Chairman Schaljo asked how many of the tests are actually individual by person or how many are multiple by an individual. Board Member Cowan stated who is in the hospital beds truly counts due to the effect that has on reopening, and the gating data is assuming the hospital beds are occupied by New Mexicans. Chairman Schaljo asked Board Members to get all questions to him by 4:00 p.m. and he would pass those to staff for the Council meeting tomorrow.

2. Possible Actionable Items from Workforce Connections: Ms. Lopez stated the easiest and most beneficial system that the City could do is to set up something to the effect of a scholarship. To be accepted would depend on what that person has already applied for, exhausted other resources. A local program can have the ability to help specific groups, whereas Workforce Connections cannot do that. For that she would need key people from this Board, the administrator from her Board. Helping people per term, not full graduation.

Ms. Martinez asked about funding, what type of figure would she see as impactful and beneficial for the volume Ms. Lopez is seeing in their office. Ms. Lopez she will get a report from their providers. Board Member Moore asked about the accountability for completing programs to be sure taxpayer money is being utilized to put someone to work. Ms. Lopez stated an official MOU between her Board and the City, as they follow these individual’s
employment for a year following their education. There is a case manager that follows up with the student. Board Member Moore asked if this was open for someone to increase their skill set as well or people totally out of a job right now. Also people wanting to start a business. Board Member Moore as this as an actionable item, this would have to be a recommendation to City Council. We can also look at what other cities have done, look at the fee structure, things being paid, how to work with the City to physically help them in various ways. Ms. Martinez stated as the City and Workforce Connections are both governmental entities, an MOU (with deliverables) is possible and as long as it is open to anyone seeking the services and not limited. For starting a business, invite the Community Development Director to the meeting. Board Member Harris asked what the estimated impact of the scholarship fund would be in terms of how many people don't have jobs today would be able to get them, what the rough ROI would be on the amount of funding and what amount of money would be impactful. Ms. Lopez stated she will get some information and metrics they have. Chairman Schaljo asked if the Board had the ability to set an amount. Ms. Martinez recommended the Board do the recommendation and then the City work with Ms. Lopez (Workforce Connections) and define an amount, the metrics behind that, and define the process on how that money would be channeled to Workforce Connections. Figures would be based on availability of funds, number of people that need to be served, a bulk number worked out between staff and Workforce Connections. Chairman Schaljo asked if there was any way to see how many jobs are not returnable or displaced. Ms. Lopez stated that they would be able to get a report on employers in the region that are permanently closed. Board Member Miller stated that we don't want to leave anyone behind so the number of displaced workers would be helpful, but does the City have a direction as far as certain types of positions. Ms. Martinez stated the City does not have specific occupations; however they want to make sure that people that are being retrained, upskilled, able to get positions to move toward self-sustainability, and in demand, in the market. They would work with their partners, Workforce Connections and Dona Ana Community College, to make sure the training they receive translates to a job that moves them forward. Ms. Lopez stated that they don’t want to limit it to a certain sector, this way they don’t leave anyone out. Board Member Thomas stated there are several lists of industries that are likely to need workers, and she has consolidated many of the lists. Board Member Moore would like more presentations, perhaps Tracey Bryan. Ms. Martinez stated they could bring a proposal with more of a structure. Chairman Schaljo stated they want to get more information on this, and also check with City Legal on anti-donation clause.

VI. Future Discussion:

1. Inclusive Economic Recovery Framework: Chairman Schaljo stated Board Member Miller has found a person to discuss this item, and it will be on the next meeting agenda. Also have the scholarship as an item on the
agenda and if Legal verifies then discuss and talk about and keep going. If not legal, then just do the Inclusive Economic Recovery Framework and go into future discussions. Board Member Harris stated at the City Council work session there was a presentation on Inclusive Economic Recovery, and there were a few items in there that the Council specifically said this should be on the forefront of certain boards, including this Board. Probably need to keep this in mind for possibly a future meeting. He also mentioned that a community land trust was brought up and other kinds of zoning and policy changes that might be useful to promote different kinds of businesses or different mix going forward as some places re-open. Board Member Thomas stated to define economic development and what it is and where we are going. Ms. Martinez stated they will have a follow-up conversation with Mr. Shuman to see what elements would be actionable items that he could assist with based on his experience and other information that he shared during that conversation.

VII. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m.

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Chairperson

Approved: Christopher Schaljo