

MINUTES OF
THE EDWARDS COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
MEETING
JUNE 8, 2009

President Deaver opened the meeting at 8:00 AM. Directors in attendance: Deaver, Edmiston, Jamison, Johnson, Novinger, Pickard, Welling. Others present: Johnstone, Losoncy, Moen, Novinger, Uhazy.

ECA PROJECT STATUS

Land Use Compatibility: Mr. Welling said there is nothing to report.

Education:

Edison Donation: A donation of \$1,000 has been received from Edison thanks to Ms. Hart. The money is to be used for the K-16 Bridge program. Johnstone asked the members to let him know if any of our K-16 participants are in need of additional funds.

Fresno Engineering Program: Fresno has announced that they are pulling out of the Lancaster University Center engineering program due to the budget cuts. The termination will be effective in 18 months in order to allow current students to graduate. Preliminary discussions have been held with the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo College of Engineering to determine their interest in taking over the program locally. A team from Cal Poly will visit Lancaster on July 7 to learn more about their possible involvement. Cal Poly has a number of graduates already working in the local area and has strong support from local aerospace companies.

Gates Grant (Creating a college culture): Les Uhazy and Bob Johnstone participated in a meeting at AVC to discuss a possible Bill and Melinda Gates grant. Antelope Valley College was selected by the Community College Foundation to participate in this grant because of their successful partnership with SOAR High School (Students on the Academic Rise) which is an Early College High School (ECHS) program. The objective of the grant is to develop regional partnerships focusing on creating a college-going culture (inclusive of career and technical education) among all residents. Regional partnerships will also include (1) Developing seamless educational transitions for students; (2) Professional development for teachers and educational administrators; (3) A small learning community structure (e.g. small K12 schools of 400-500 students), the advocacy of educational (ECHS-friendly) policies; and (4) The sharing of research-based instructional and administrative/collaborative best practices. The goal of the Community College Foundation is to limit the initial effort to the AVC District, however, the effort can be phased to include Eastern Kern County in additional phases. The Grant is a 10 year effort.

Chapman University partnership: Johnstone said Chapman University participated in a recent AV Board of Trade Education Committee meeting. The University sent representatives from their Orange County Headquarters to express their desire to partner with local efforts on education issues. Chapman is very interested in knowing unmet community educational needs to determine if they can offer opportunities to meet these needs. The local contact for Chapman University is: Ms. Kitty Hogan. Kitty can be reached at 661-223-5344.

Astronaut Walter Cunningham lecture: Former Apollo 7 Astronaut Walter Cunningham will lecture on September 11 and 12th at 7:00-9:00 PM (location to be announced at a later date). Tickets will cost \$70 dollars which includes both lectures. The first lecture will be on Climate change, it is not man made but mother nature. The second lecture will be NASA-From Golden age to middle age. There will be a total of 600 tickets sold, with a drawing on September 12th for the schools entered in the ticket sales and one school will win \$6,000 for their school. Please call either Larry Hobson at 661-618-3260 or Vernita Scott-Flanton at 661-202-9598 for tickets or more information.

FINANCIAL REPORT

James Welling said the ECA bank balance as of June 6, 2009 is \$22,808.80. James also prepared a new budget at the request of Kern County. Due to the financial crisis the County is experiencing a severe cut in financial resources. James prepared a budget reflecting a 25% reduction in ECA expenditures. On a motion by Mr. Edmiston and second by Mr. Pickard and unanimous approval by the Board of Directors in attendance it was resolved to submit this budget to the county for approval.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Space Challenge: Johnstone reported that he has been told by Josh Mann, Executive Director of the Antelope Valley Board of Trade, that Lockheed has stated they would be willing to sponsor a Space Challenge in the Lancaster/ Palmdale area. This challenge would be basically a duplicate of the Intermediate Space Challenge conducted at Mojave Air and Spaceport.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 AM.

The next meeting will be on July 13, 2009.

Sincerely,

Robert Johnstone, Technical Advisor

ATCH: Financial Report