Amarillo College Community Link

Community Advisory Committee Meeting

June 1, 2009

In Attendance: Bob Austin, Paul Boston, Phyllis Cook, Daniel Martinez, Mayor Debra McCartt, Charles Mestas, Anita Perez, Prenis Williams, Zetta Riles, Danette Fenstermaker, Victoria Hughes, Maury Roman, Laura Harrison, Lana Miers, and Christy Ramirez.

Guests: Sheryl Luther, Gary Holwick, and Juan Medrano

1. Maury called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
2. Maury introduced Gary Holwick from MPO and Sheryl Luther from Texas Department of Transportation. Mr. Holwick and Mrs. Luther made a special presentation on the proposed Railroad Crossing Project at Grand and Eastern Streets.

* There will be a public meeting on June 16th, 2009 to hear public input on the relocation of railroad tracks on Grand Street, Eastern Street and SE 3rd Street.
* Money collected for the project to date includes $3 million from the railroad division and $5 million from the city.
* The target date for having it ready and developed is March 2010.
* Total price for the project is $15.4 million which includes $9.5 million for a bridge on Grand and SE 3rd Street and $5.9 million for Eastern and SE 3rd Street.
* Community input is needed to help make this plan come together. The public meeting will be conducted at Community Link.

1. The minutes from the March meeting was presented with a correction. Daniel Martinez made the motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Charles Mestas seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.
2. The program activity report was presented.

Danette presented an update on the GED program:

* To date, 244 students have earned their GED.
* 51 total students enrolled in spring quarter 1.
* 56 total students enrolled in spring quarter 2.
* 8 students are pre-registered for the summer.

Danette introduced Juan Medrano, Community Link GED graduate, who attended the meeting to share his story with advisory members. He enrolled in the GED program in 2007 and graduated in 2009 with a certificate in Diesel Mechanics. Juan is still planning on pursuing another program with AC in the area of Aviation Maintenance Technology. Juan Medrano said he faced many challenges while in college. He had his family, work, and school to struggle with. He tried three times, and he was not able to pass his writing test and thought of giving up. However, with the assistance and encouragement from Danette and Maury, and a lot of perseverance, he earned his GED. Once he achieved his diploma, he continued his education and enrolled for academic classes.

Victoria gave the committee an outreach report:

* A presentation was made to McDonald’s managers at their Annual Awards Ceremony.
* On site recruitment was conducted at Region 16 GED classes.
* In collaboration with the Southwest Library and several AC departments, Career Exploration and Financial Aid workshops were conducted on May 16th.
* In collaboration with Parent Involvement Coordinators, several visits have already taken place at AISD area schools.

Maury presented an update on the Conversational English for the Workplace classes:

* 91 students enrolled for spring quarter 2.
* Summer classes begin on June 9th.

1. Charles Mestas presented the scholarship report.

* 4 students were nominated as scholarship recipients, of which 2 are single mothers.
* Charles, Phyllis and Maury served on the scholarship selection committee.

1. Maury presented the community relations report.

* There will be a public meeting regarding the Grand Street & Eastern Street Railroad Crossing Project on Tuesday, June 16th at 6:00pm at Community Link. Everyone is welcome to attend.
* AC Community Link is hosting the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Hora social (Social Mixer) on Thursday, July 16, 5:30pm to 7:30pm.
* As a Star Award recipient in 2004, AC Community Link is submitting a progress report to the THECB. The THECB, in collaboration with other agencies will produce a publication on the Star Award winners in order to highlight programs that advance the goals of the Texas higher education plan, *Closing the Gaps by 2015.*

1. Meeting adjourned.