

**Southern Nevada Enterprise Community Board**  
**City of Las Vegas City Hall, 495 S. Main St.**  
**Council Chambers**  
**City of Las Vegas Internet Address: [www.lasvegasnevada.gov](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov)**

**MINUTES**

**November 18, 2024**  
**3:30 PM**

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

*Minutes:*

CHAIR NEAL called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR NEAL and MEMBERS STEELE, MONROE-MORENO, SCOTT, McNEAL, and McCURDY

EXCUSED: MEMBERS HORSFORD, CREAR, and GARCIA ANDERSON

ALSO PRESENT: BRIAN NEELEY-CRUZ, Management Analyst II for the City of Las Vegas; CRISLOVE IGELEKE, Deputy City Attorney for the City of Las Vegas; BRIAN CARROLL, Senior Deputy City Clerk for the City of Las Vegas; and NICK CRAWFORD, Deputy City Clerk for the City of Las Vegas

2. **Announcement Regarding: Compliance with Open Meeting Law**

*Minutes:*

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE: This meeting has been properly noticed and posted at the following locations in accordance with the noticing standards as outlined in NRS 241.020: City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor; the City of Las Vegas website – [www.lasvegasnevada.gov](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov); and the Nevada Public Notice website – [notice.nv.gov](http://notice.nv.gov).

3. **Public Comment:** Comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters on the agenda for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

*Minutes:*

KATHERINE DUNCAN said that the LVGEA (Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance) needed to update their Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to comply with the Southern Nevada Strong RTC (Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada) planning effort and incorporate the Regional Housing Authority. She reported that there are several different planning efforts in the community, but there was no concentrated effort. She stated that the UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles) curriculum includes a virtual community action planning tool that allows citizens to be engaged with planning efforts and helps developers, state agencies, and federal agencies achieve their Justice40 Initiative goals. MS. DUNCAN encouraged the Board to ask people how they plan to reach their Justice40 Initiative goals and asked them to use virtual community action planning.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of July 15, 2024

Motion made by William McCurdy II to Approve

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

For-Dina Neal, William McCurdy II, Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Nic Steele, Dontae Scott, Janice McNeal;  
Excused-Cedric Crear, Steven Horsford, Ruth Garcia Anderson;

5. Discussion for possible action regarding the election of Chair and Vice Chair

*Minutes:*

This item was heard subsequent to Item 8.

CHAIR NEAL nominated MEMBER SCOTT to the position of Chair. MEMBER STEELE nominated CHAIR NEAL to the position of Vice Chair.

Motion made by Dina Neal to Approve the nomination of Dontae Scott as Chair

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

For-Dina Neal, William McCurdy II, Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Nic Steele, Dontae Scott, Janice McNeal; Excused-Cedric Crear, Steven Horsford, Ruth Garcia Anderson;

Motion made by Nic Steele to approve the nomination of Dina Neal as Vice Chair

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

For-Dina Neal, William McCurdy II, Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Nic Steele, Dontae Scott, Janice McNeal; Excused-Cedric Crear, Steven Horsford, Ruth Garcia Anderson;

6. Presentation by Lizette Guillen, Acting President for Nevada Partners, Inc., Sean Tory, Owner of King of Jewels, Kasina Boone, Owner of Tulips, and Devin Moore, Owner of GoUrban.com, regarding a Clark County School District grant for the Learning Acceleration and Wraparound Support Youth Education Program

Minutes:

This item was heard subsequent to Item 4.

LIZETTE GUILLEN, Acting President for Nevada Partners, Inc. (NPI), reported that they applied for learning acceleration and wraparound support grant through Clark County in 2022. Using a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, she went over the general program summary, noting that NPI played a crucial role in stabilizing students and families during the global pandemic. She said NPI provided vital support to 1,361 students and their families within the Clark County School District (CCSD) by addressing the heightened challenges of high transiency, food insecurity, and housing instability. Although the three-year program was reduced to a two-year program with a smaller budget, they were still able to impact 41 schools within the school district.

MS. GUILLEN disclosed that they initially applied for the learning acceleration and wraparound support grant through an RFP (request for proposal) process, noting there were restraints on how the grant was administered through CCSD. When they applied for the grant, they assumed it was a grant and not a contract. Indirect operational support staff, transportation, and background check costs were removed from their budget, and they were asked to remove additional items that were previously approved, such as providing community action grants. The RFP allowed them to apply for subawards and contracts, which were approved when they submitted the application, that needed to be removed three months into the program.

MELVIN VALENTINE JR., STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Program Manager for NPI, provided details regarding the three-week STEM Leadership Boot Camp program. He stated that STEM is the future of the economy, and the goal of the program was to demonstrate that STEM is a culturally relevant approach to problem solving. The program followed a project-based learning approach, which placed students in teams that competed to execute their scope of work in the most efficient manner. He reported that drone soccer leagues are popular in Asia and gaining popularity in the United States. The first project the students were assigned involved studying the business model of drone soccer leagues and figuring out how Las Vegas can become a main attraction for American leagues. The students were assigned a second project that required them to learn how to build an Esports league that is culturally relevant to the community. He stated that they partnered with Valhalla Esports Training to expose students to the careers associated with Esports.

MR. VALENTINE JR. disclosed that 19 students received paid internship experience during the program, and he said project equipment was purchased through the CCSD grant. Following the three-week program, he reported that there is a network of young people on multiple campuses that are waiting for the STEM program to expand, and he explained that they were looking to partner with UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) to achieve that goal. He stressed the importance of encouraging at-risk youth to attend UNLV to unlock their innovative potential and have the opportunity to solve problems in the community. He concluded by stating that their partnership with UNLV will build the pipelines necessary for the future of work in Las Vegas.

DR. SEBERN COLEMAN spoke about community impact from the collaboration between NPI and the UNLV Rebel Start Camp. He explained that the five-week summer camp was created to prepare students of color for their future by offering high school students dual-credit courses, career exploration opportunities, and mentorship. He reported that less than 45 percent of students of color pursue higher education after graduating from high school, thus resulting in higher suspension and unemployment rates. In addition to academic hurdles, students faced food insecurity, limited mental health support, and lack of access to essential resources during the pandemic. He felt not giving students the tools to succeed affects the community socially and economically. With the Rebel Start Summer Camp, students are immersed in a community-driven experience on the UNLV campus and benefit from personalized advising, professional development, and exposure to various STEM fields. DR. COLEMAN said their collaboration with NPI began in 2023 and gave 125 students the opportunity to earn college credits with a heavy focus on critical thinking and mentorship. In 2024, 160 students went through the program with a 100 percent pass rate and an average GPA (grade point average) of 3.9. He detailed that students felt it was one of the first times they felt heard and seen in a classroom setting, noting that young adults were able to transform their lives and ideologies in only five weeks. He added that they offered virtual sessions to students without transportation. Thanks to the support they received, they were able to pay for the students' application fees and uniforms. In closing, DR. COLEMAN stressed the importance of continuous funding to keep the community headed in the right direction.

KASINA DOUGLASS-BOONE, Founder of TULIPS (Teaching and Uniting Ladies to Inspire Positive Success), reported that they served over 120 CCSD students over the last two years. She said the Pedals of Empowerment Program focuses on STEM and mentorship, noting that two CCSD teachers supported the program. She detailed that their program helped students read and write at their grade level. MS. DOUGLASS-BOONE added that their Pedals of Empowerment Enrichment Summer Camp has taught young people leadership skills and STEM over the last two years, stating that they offer guest speakers from various backgrounds. She thanked NPI, MEMBER MONROE-MORENO, and everyone that supported them.

DARIUS WILLIAMS, Mentor for King of Jewels, reported on the success of their non-profit organization that empowers and encourages young men of color from ages 12-18. He stated that their partnership with NPI helped them increase program registrations, noting that they provide 12 mentoring and life skill training workshops per year. He added that they also partnered with CCSD, the UNLV Upward Bound Math and Science program, and the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity to serve 150 CCSD high school students from 10 different schools. He explained that they connect students to people from various backgrounds based on their desired career paths, and he detailed that they visited eight local businesses to show them potential job opportunities. In a program feedback survey, 95 percent of students felt engaged during the workshops, gained valuable information, and created meaningful connections with others. MR. WILLIAMS mentioned that they took 20 students to visit Warner Bros. Studio in Los Angeles, California, to expose them to different career paths in the industry.

MARIA MOORE, Education and Youth Development Manager for NPI, appeared on behalf of Go Urban Las Vegas. She disclosed that the two-year partnership between NPI and the Go Urban Summer Blast Day Camp successfully concluded their second annual six-week program. The camp served around 118 students over the last two years, offering a comprehensive curriculum that included STEM, financial literacy, and Black history. The camp found success with mock-marketplaces, career fairs, and the Hour of Power, a tutoring program that covers math, reading, and writing. MS. MOORE said NPI offers the Hour of Power tutoring program every second and third Saturday of the month, noting that they hoped to extend the program into the new year and add licensed teachers to the group of volunteers.

MS. GUILLEN said they were thankful for the opportunity to support the community and added that there is still more work to do.

CHAIR NEAL asked about the divided reality program. DR. COLEMAN clarified that Silver State Credit Union is one of the partners that oversees the workshop. He explained that it is a simulated society program that can be completed in about two hours. He detailed that the program assigns each participant different occupational and living scenarios to teach students financial literacy. He added that once the program is completed, they hold a debriefing among the students. The Chair stated that there is an upcoming legislative session and suggested he ask for continued funding.

CHAIR NEAL wondered if any of the STEM Leadership Boot Camp participants were able to capitalize on opportunities with the technological knowledge they obtained. MR. VALENTINE JR. disclosed that they received additional funding and can include coding in the next boot camp. He explained that they are reaching out to the 19 students that completed the program to use their experience to build teams on their respective campuses. He added that they are in the process of applying for a \$3.5 million NSF (National Science Foundation) grant that will bring revenue to the STEM center. He stated that their partnership with UNLV allows them to nationally sell business models through subscription services, noting that most programs cannot solely rely on grant funding.

7. Report by Amber Stidham, Chief Operating Officer for the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance (LVGEA), regarding an update on the regional Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and their application to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) for a Planning and Local Technical Assistance grant

Minutes:

AMBER STIDHAM, Chief Operating Officer for the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance (LVGEA), utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to explain that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a five-year plan that provides the framework for successful economic development and what is needed to sustain and grow the community. She said the Economic Development Administration (EDA) was looking to expand the types of reporting requirements, noting they were focused on environmental resiliency and equity. She stated that the main goal of the plan is for the Southern Nevada Enterprise Community (SNEC), LVGEA, and Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) to work together, reduce duplication in the region, and draw from each other's strengths as the three primary organizations in the plan. She disclosed that LVGEA's previous five-year plans did not look inward to see what is needed to help the community. MS. STIDHAM detailed that RTC was added to the planning group due to their large staff size and involvement in the Southern Nevada Strong plan. She said they are in the process of updating the plan, stating that approximately one-third of the plan deals with economic development measures needed for the community. She reported that they were creating an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding), and the three partners will work with public and private stakeholders to submit a CEDS for the community in 2025. She added that they have a leadership council for quality control purposes and to serve as a connection point between external organizations. She announced that they are concentrating on an Equity Task Force (Economic Equity Citizen Task Force) to serve as regional planning advisors with members of SNEC and possible stakeholders. MS. STIDHAM said she learned it will take more time and money to execute the plan properly, noting that they hired a consulting company for \$80,000. They requested a \$150,000 technical writing assistance grant from the EDA, LVGEA would contribute \$80,000, RTC dedicated \$40,000 in non-federal donations, the State of Nevada committed a \$20,000 grant contingent on the approval of the EDA grant, and SNEC contributed \$10,000 and personnel time.

MS. STIDHAM detailed that the three primary organizations will put out an RFP (request for proposal) to the local and national market, stating that they received approximately 14 people on the pre-submission briefing and interviewed four firms. Following the assessments, they selected TIP Strategies and wished to offer a micro-contract to a localized firm that has connections to the community. She disclosed that they may change the scope of work if the EDA grant funds are not approved, noting that the CEDS process is moving concurrently. Once the CEDS notification is distributed, they will confirm the contractor agreement with TIP strategies and the micro-contract with the local firm, with the target date being January 1, 2025. She said they will work on the CEDS draft from January to September 2025, noting that SNEC, the Equity Task Force, and the local firm will be needed for Milestone 4. Once contracts are in place, updates will be provided to the Board before anything is submitted to the federal government. Once the CEDS report is formally filed, she said they will build a timeframe for the last quarter of 2025 to build an action plan with corresponding metrics. Further, MS. STIDHAM stressed the importance of measuring yearly regional progress and concluded that she was thankful for the partnership.

As Chair of the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means, MEMBER MONROE-MORENO was concerned about budget changes with changes in the federal administration. She asked if there was a backup plan if grants were taken away. MS. STIDHAM shared the same concerns but felt confident the EDA grant would be approved, stating that there is a continued trend of grant opportunities. She provided an example of a stakeholder organization that was not awarded a \$2.5 million underserved community upskill training grant. She said she was on a post-grant phone call with members of the EDA and reported that they said the grant submission was excellent but worried about not having a comprehensive five-year plan.

MS. STIDHAM underscored the importance of working together to formulate a comprehensive five-year plan and explained that the plan is not solely for grant opportunities.

8. **Discussion regarding topics for future agenda items.** Comments made during this portion of the agenda by individual members shall refer solely to proposals for future agenda items and any discussion shall be limited to whether or not such proposed items are within the purview of the Board and/or whether such proposed items shall be placed on a future agenda. No discussion regarding the substance of any such proposed topic shall occur and no action shall be taken.

Minutes:

CHAIR NEAL noted the importance of maintaining equity and environmental resilience in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and continuing to support Nevada Partners in different ways. She requested that the LVGEA (Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance) become a standing item for the next meeting, as they will have additional information to provide to the Board.

9. **Citizens Participation:** Public comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Board. No subject may be acted upon by the Board unless that subject is on the agenda and is scheduled for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion on any single subject, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:

This item was heard subsequent to Item 5.

KATHERINE DUNCAN commented on SNEC (Southern Nevada Enterprise Community), RTC (Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada), and LVGEA (Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance) becoming partners. She said the HUNDRED (Historic Urban Neighborhood Design Redevelopment) Plan, Choice Neighborhood Initiatives in Las Vegas and North Las Vegas, and the Las Vegas Promise Neighborhood Initiative need to be included. She believed the community action planning process needed to be done virtually to include more government entities, noting that the process was successful in Kansas City, Atlanta, and Los Angeles. She asked the Board to encourage all agencies receiving federal funding to put one penny out of every dollar into the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Center so the community can be engaged holistically with community planning. MS. DUNCAN felt having data and metrics available would ensure the community is prepared to develop community benefit and project labor agreements and give young adults an opportunity to earn while learning about community development. Additionally, she noted that she had not heard anything from the LVGEA regarding a high-speed train project coming to Southern Nevada.

MELVIN VALENTINE JR. informed the Board of a potential collaboration between Nevada Partners (Nevada Partners, Inc.) and UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) to fund the Micro-Business Park operational budget through legislation. He believed that strategically aligning SNEC, UNLV, and Nevada Partners to discuss expanding STEM Center programming could be a solution to fund future STEM innovation projects.

10. **Adjournment**

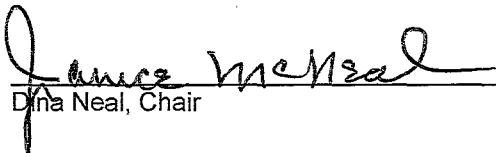
Minutes:

The meeting was recessed from 4:29 p.m. to 4:36 p.m. and adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Nick Crawford, Deputy City Clerk  
City of Las Vegas



For Dina Neal, Chair

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NOTICING STANDARDS AS OUTLINED IN NRS 241.020:

The City of Las Vegas website – [www.lasvegasnevada.gov](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov)

The Nevada Public Notice website – [notice.nv.gov](http://notice.nv.gov)

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor