

Valencia Association of Local Elected Officials (VALEO)

Tuesday February 19, 2019 – 6 pm at the City of Rio Communities
Southside City Council Chambers
360 Rio Communities Blvd, Rio Communities, NM

CALL TO ORDER by Mayor Mark Gwinn

Mayor Mark Gwinn called to order the meeting at 6:11 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Peggy Gutjahr led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS

- Councilor Bill Brown, Rio Communities; Councilor Peggy Gutjahr, Rio Communities; Councilor Arturo Sais, Rio Communities; Mayor Mark Gwinn, Rio Communities, Councilor Wayne Gallegos, Belen; Councilor Frank Ortega, Belen; Commissioner Gerard Saiz, Valencia County; Commissioner David Carlberg, Valencia County; Manager Danny Monette, Valencia County, Administrator Greg Martin, Los Lunas; Councilor Phillip Jaramillo, Los Lunas; Councilor Charles Griego, Los Lunas, Councilor Joshua Ramsell, Rio Communities, Clerk Lisa Adair, Rio Communities.
- Mayor Gwinn thanked everyone for coming and said he is glad that we can get the VALEO project kicked off.

NEW BUSINES

a. Review of Articles of Association

- Mark Gwinn said talking with Greg Martin they would like to revisit the association of VALEO and see if there are any changes they want to make and opened it up for discussion.
- Arturo Sais said he would like to see they get together to support each other with revenues, how to derive revenues throughout the County and how to enhance each other.
- Frank Ortega said one of the things he feels is we have lost our effectiveness, and no one is excited to work together and continued the discussion.
- Arturo Sais said maybe coming together as a group we could vote on whether we are going to support specific issues.
- Frank Ortega said since we are not a voting policy making entity we need to come up with some kind of solution to be effective and then said economic development is not on everybody's mind and continued the discussion.
- Arturo Sais said we are all elected officials but the name VALEO needs to get out there which incorporates all of them and continued with the discussion.
- Peggy Gutjahr said she feels the way it is written the purpose is solid, meaning; coming together, talking things out and knowing we are here to work it out.

- Frank Ortega said we have lost our effectiveness.
- Mark Gwinn said as VALEO a group we could all bring certain things to the table and we can help each other as a collective group putting our resources together.
- Frank Ortega said he agrees, and we should have an MOU with each other and continued the discussion.
- Wayne Gallegos said we could start with something small to work together on and then suggested having a Valencia County Clean-up day and continued the discussion.
- Charles Griego said we are too small of an area and have different priorities and said something that concerns him is the safety issue and how can we work together as a group and how can we as a County have economic development. The discussion continued.
- Bill Brown said speaking of public safety, the unified force that binds us together is the Rio Grande River and we can't build a wall, but we need to unify with maybe a joint resolution to better restrict illegal access and stimulate action. he then said he feels this is a concern that can be readily addressed.
- Frank Ortega said he feels not everyone is available here and also feels we need to include the school systems and their elected officials and continued the discussion.
- Danny Monette said we need to show our representatives that we as Valencia County are pulling together, not only as individuals but also a group of the County and continued with the discussion.
- Greg Martin explained the way VALEO had started it being the governing body elected officials and to see how that went before including others later in the future and continued the discussion.
- Peggy Gutjahr said she thinks it started off with a really good group coming together and one of the first major issue was animal control and then said before leaving today we need to pick something small to begin with such as a clean-up day. She then said trust is key, enjoying working together and the entire community needs to see us all working together.
- Charles Griego said we all have different sets of goals.
- Frank Ortega said he already has a funding idea that they all could work on and explained it is a veteran's memorial and further explained it is not just a Belen project but could be for all.
- Wayne Gallegos said another idea is a pool in the area getting mutual funding for it and said this regional thinking will work for everyone and continued the discussion.
- Arturo Sais said a clean-up date that can be a broad project but by identifying a date of everyone coming together. He then gave an example of VALEO day being April 6... and then identify a project that would be specifically for that day and invite people to come in and help.
- Frank Griego said he would suggest a more regional type project that we can all get together and effects all areas of the County.
- Peggy Gutjahr said another issue that we can do as a group is drug prevention.
- Frank Ortega said we all have crime issues throughout the County, and we need all resources getting together.
- Charles Griego said that is a long-term commitment not just a one-day event and continued the discussion.

- Peggy Gutjahr asked do you think it would benefit us as a group to have dialogue with the Police Chief's, Sheriff and under Sherriff or should we go back to our prospective forces with information and continued the discussion.
- Arturo Sais said we need to identify a specific date, such as a substance abuse day, clean-up day or a senior day and put some kind of proposal together and continued the discussion.
- Frank Griego said he thinks the first step would be to have a common goal and something to agree on.
- Phillip Jaramillo said we do have to set goals on a regional basis and come up with future goals to become successful as a group.
- Wayne Gallegos said we need to figure something coming up soon and continued the discussion.
- A discussion began on setting up the next VALEO meetings and if they should stay quarterly next few being May 21, Aug 20, and Nov 19. They further discussed the next meeting should be hosted by (May) Valencia County, (Aug) Los Lunas and (Nov) Belen. It was then suggested at the next meeting in May, should be on public safety.
- The group considered having a VALEO clean-up day for the entire County April 13, 2019. They agreed all would support a clean-up day by a Proclamation and continued the discussion.

b. Develop a purpose for VALEO

c. Tour of Rio Communities City Hall

- Mayor Gwinn gave a tour of the building.

NEXT MEETING

The next VELEO meeting will be held on May 21, 2019 at Valencia County.

ADJOURN

The VALEO meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm.