

# EDINBURG 2040

**BUILDING FOR TOMORROW'S FUTURE, TODAY!**

## EDINBURG 2040 COMMITTEES

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/INNOVATION/ENTREPRENEURSHIP/WORKFORCE**

CITY OF EDINBURG, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

Location: City of Edinburg  
City Hall  
415 West University Dr.  
Edinburg, Texas 78541

**DECEMBER 06, 2023**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**6:00 P.M.**

### **Meeting Minutes - 12/6/23**

#### **People in Attendance:**

- Mayor Garza
- Pedro Salazar, Committee Chair
- Bill Carlosn, Committee Member
- Alexis Racelis, Presenter
- Aurelio I, City Staff
- Alcinda Pardo, Committee Member
- Amy Cantu, Committee Member
- Sergio Perez, Committee Member
- Jennifer Yoder, Committee Member
- Cecilio Ortiz Garcia, Committee Member
- Sergio Perez, Invitee

#### **Departments in Attendance:**

- City Manager's Office

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

#### **II. COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

Alexis Racelis from UTRGV presented his work analyzing the impact of heat and climate change. He introduced the Social Vulnerability Index, indicating that Edinburg's census blocks were not as dark, signifying lower vulnerability compared to cities like Palmview or Alton, where colonies are typically located. The discussion included the impact on populations due to the urban heat island effect. Alexis mentioned applying for a program with the EPA, allocated funds by the Biden-Harris administration, targeting southern border communities and disadvantaged unincorporated communities, including 40% of colonias in the Rio Grande

Valley. Priorities for funding included climate resiliency, adaptation, and mitigating climate and health risks from urban heat islands.

**Recommendations:**

- Assess vulnerable areas for tree planting.

**III. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER COMMITTEE'S ACTION PLAN FOR GOALS AND STRATEGIES**

**Workforce Training:**

- Discussion on NCCER providing training.
- Committee members to liaise with contractors and builders.
- Explore funding for adult workforce courses.
- Meeting with Dr. Salinas to determine course providers.
- Economic Development Corporation involvement.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS AND MEETING DATES**

- Discussion on applying for the grants.
- Exploration of grants for planting trees based on Alexis's assessment.
- Organize meetings with the Transportation, and Parks and Beautification Committee.
- Propose solar and wind initiatives, involve NGO's.
- Include discussions in January comprehensive plans.
- Plan a tour to a facility during the next meeting.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned.

**Action Items:**

1. [CM Office] Coordinate with the City Forester to identify vulnerable areas.
2. [Edinburg 2040 Committee] Schedule a meeting with the 2040 Transportation Committee and Parks and Beautification Committee.
3. [Edinburg 2040 Committee] Collaborate with local high schools and the Green Club for tree planting initiatives.
4. [CM Office] Encourage ECISD to apply for a grant for tree planting in school districts.
5. [CM Office] Connect Alexis Racelis with Leo Duran, City Forester.
6. [Edinburg 2040 Committee] Committee members to reach out to contractors and builders for commitments.
7. [Edinburg 2040, EEDC, CM Office] Survey employers for workforce needs.
8. [Edinburg 2040 Committee] Propose solar and wind initiatives, involving NGO's.
9. [CM Office] Include discussions in January comprehensive plans.
10. [Edinburg 2040 Chair] Plan a tour to a facility during the next meeting.

For more information please contact Edinburg 2040 Committee Coordinator at (956) 388-8207 or [2040@cityofedinburg.com](mailto:2040@cityofedinburg.com)

Disability Access Statement

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