



MBE/WBE and Small Business Council Subcommittee
MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 11, 2010

The MBE/WBE and Small Business Council Subcommittee convened in a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 in Room #1101 at City Hall, 301 W. 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Committee Members in attendance:

Mayor Pro Tem Mike Martinez, Council Member Sheryl Cole, Council Member Randi Shade

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Martinez called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. with Council Member Cole off the dais.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The April 13, 2010 regular meeting minutes were approved on a 2-0 vote by a motion from Council Member Shade, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez.

3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

The first 10 speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

There were no citizens signed up to speak.

4. MBE/WBE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

a. Monthly report from the Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) and Small Business Advisory Committee regarding its activities and minority-owned and women-owned business enterprises issues.

Council Member Cole joined the dais.

Adrian Neely, Chair of the MBE/WBE and Small Business Advisory Committee reported on the May 4, 2010 regular meeting. He explained that the discussion was centered on the Construction Phase of Austin Energy's System Control Center Project.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion regarding the Construction Phase Package of Austin Energy's System Control Center Project (Presentation from Austin Energy)

Assistant City Manager Rudy Garza said that after the discussion at the Advisory Committee meeting, it is more efficient for Austin Energy to review the next steps and return in June with a full report on how they will proceed.

Cheryl Mele, Deputy General Manager, Austin Energy presented the committee with an update on the next steps to be taken on the project by working with DPR, Austin Energy, SMBR, and the trade associations regarding the trade summaries. She will return with the findings in June.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Frank Fuentes thanked the Council Members for their vote on Thursday. He explained that on the original professional services compliance plan there was zero participation. He said that the Competitive Sealed Proposal alternative delivery method will work best for this type of project.

Carol Hadnot, Austin Area Black Contractors Association, said she concurs with what Mr. Fuentes said. She said she is not opposed to the Competitive Sealed Proposal delivery method, but it depends on the General Contractor and their willingness to make it work. She asked how much out of the 67 million is equipment costs because if goals are set off of the entire 67 million they will be low. She also said she would like to see project specific ethnic goals because general goals will also be very low.

Adrian Neely, MBE/WBE Advisory Committee Chair, explained that the Construction Manager at Risk and Competitive Sealed Proposal delivery methods work best to increase participation. He said that even though alternative delivery methods do help participation goals it really depends on the general contractor and City staff to ensure trade summaries are accurate.

Ed Lowenberg, Solis Constructors, said that the alternative delivery methods lend themselves to better participation because you are not required to go with the lowest bidder.

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS

a. Update on improvements at the Small and Minority Business Resources (SMBR) Department regarding request for changes

Amelie Gonzalez-Flores, Compliance Division Manager, SMBR updated the committee on the request for change report.

7. AGENDA ITEMS

Update on the Green purchasing policy outreach efforts
Break-down of demographics by commodity code
Report on the Competitive Sealed Proposal Delivery Method
Update on Water Treatment Plant 4

8. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez at 3:51 p.m.