



MBE/WBE and Small Business Council Subcommittee
MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 14, 2010

The MBE/WBE and Small Business Council Subcommittee convened in a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 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 Cheryl Cole, Council Member Randi Shade,

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Martinez called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The August 10, 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.

Council Member Cole joined the dais.

Brad Beam, asked for the Subcommittee to consider expanding Certification to include non-profit entities that are owned or controlled by a minority or woman.

Paul Saldaña, U.S. Hispanic Contractors Association de Austin – discussed the Formula 1 Initiative and it's transparency within the community and also the possibility of utilizing the 3rd party agreement on this project.

Carol Hadnot, Austin Area Black Contractors Association, said that she supports Mr. Saldaña about getting involved in the Formula 1 process and would like for the Subcommittee to consider using a 3rd party agreement for this project.

Howard Lazarus, Director-Public Works – said that the City has not been in any discussions regarding the Formula 1 Initiative and that if there are any discussions, then the City would have the ability to include the MBE/WBE Ordinance requirements in the contract language.

4. MBE/WBE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

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.

Adrian Neely, Chair of the MBE/WBE and Small Business Advisory Committee reported on the September 7, 2010 regular meeting and the September 9, 2010 special called meeting.

5. OLD BUSINESS

Update from Austin Energy on the Weatherization Project with respect to subcontracting

Karl Rabago, Vice President, Distributed Energy Services, Austin Energy – presented the committee with an update on the project.

Veronica Briseño Lara, Director, SMBR discussed the reported expenditure numbers and participation

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Susan Meredith, Go Green Squads (Ms. Meredith has 12 minutes of donated time to speak regarding this agenda item) explained that her company is one of the primes on this project and presented her business model and objectives for this project.

David Clauss, Youth Build Program Director of American Youthworks – said that he appreciates GoGreen Squads and Austin Energy for giving them the chance to work on this project and for giving the youth in his program an opportunity.

Ted Roane, Project/Training Manager, American Youthworks – explained that the youth working on this project go through the appropriate training before working.

Rogelio Barrera, American Youthworks- explained that the program helped him get back on track by providing him the opportunities for training and work.

Pete Rivera, ATX Drywall, said that he was chosen by GoGreen Squads as a sub and that he has had a rewarding experience on this project.

Alayne Johnson, Austin Area Black Contractors Association, said that she doesn't understand how American Youthworks is paying minimum wage. She also said that it is difficult to weatherize the homes with the dollar amounts remaining once the administrative fees are taken out.

Adrian Neely, Chair, MBE/WBE Advisory Committee - suggested that Austin Energy be the general contractor on this project as it would level the playing field for everyone.

Carol Hadnot, Austin Area Black Contractors Association – agreed with the suggestion that Austin Energy should be the general contractor on this project.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion with Contract and Land Management (CLM) and the Purchasing office regarding the appeals process.

Mike Trimble, Director – CLM discussed the protest issues when a bidder is deemed non compliant. He and Ms. Lara explained that non compliance determinations are made on a case by case basis and it depends on the situations surrounding the decision.

b. Discussion regarding the proposed MBE/WBE Procurement Program Ordinance Amendments

Ms. Lara updated the committee on the MBE/WBE Procurement Program Ordinance Changes.

7. STAFF REPORT

Monthly report from the Small & Minority Business Resources department regarding request for changes.

Veronica Briseño Lara, Director, SMBR presented the request for change report. The committee requested information be added to show the number of violations each prime contractor has to date.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Carol Hadnot, Austin Area Black Contractors Association, said that she has seen a great improvement in African American participation and appreciates the work done by the compliance staff under Ms. Lara's leadership.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez at 5:27 p.m.