



**Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business
Enterprise and Small Business Council Committee
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, June 10, 2014**

The Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise and Small Business Council Committee convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 301 W. 2nd Street, Boards and Commissions Room 1001, in Austin, Texas.

Council Member Martinez called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Committee Members in Attendance:
Council Member Martinez, Council Member Tovo

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the April 8, 2014 regular meeting were approved on a 2-0 vote by a motion from Council Member Tovo, seconded by Council Member Martinez.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Heath Williamson, Earthco Landscape Construction, spoke in favor of the Austin Area Black Contractors Association (ABCA) and the services they provide. He asked the committee to ignore recent public comments made against ABCA stating that they had no substance.

Cloteal Davis-Haynes spoke in support of ABCA, specifically Ms. Carol Hadnot. She said it is important for council to hear from the black contractors that they are very satisfied with the services provided by ABCA and that not only black contractors, but the contracting community as a whole, benefit from all of the services Ms. Hadnot provides.

Mayor Pro Tem Cole joined the dais.

Charmaine Sellers questioned the steps taken by a person making negative comments and said it is important to get quantitative data from someone claiming to be able to provide services that are already being received. She said she has not personally been contacted by the source.

Reginald Worlds said that the negative comments made have no basis and that the ABCA provides valuable resources, training, networking, and mentorship when needed. He also said that ABCA is the only association being scrutinized.

Avery Williamson said that he has been affiliated with the ABCA for over 20 years and through that association, he has been able to contract over a million dollars worth of work. He said the resources and contacts available through ABCA are very helpful.

Ben Warmate said Ms. Hadnot helps people make money, bottom line, and the estimating and legal services she provides are great. He said he hopes this is the last time this issue has to be addressed.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Briefing from Brian Donovan, Executive Director of Austin Cooperative Business Association, regarding the work of the Austin Cooperative Business Association and their partners, and discussion of a resolution regarding support of the development and growth of cooperative businesses.

Mr. Donovan explained the goal of ACBA and its importance to promote and grow cooperative businesses within the City.

The committee voted unanimously on a motion by Council Member Tovo, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cole to support the resolution going forward and when it is presented to the full Council later this week.

Council Member Tovo left the meeting.

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 enterprise issues as described in its agenda posted for June 3, 2014.

There was no one present to provide an update.

5. STAFF REPORT

a. Update from staff on status of potential financial and payment assistance options for small businesses and minority-owned and women-owned businesses (MBE/WBE) in accordance with Council Resolution No. 20131024-055

Veronica Lara, SMBR Director, presented a draft timeline and options being considered.

b. Monthly update from SMBR regarding the request for change report

Debra Dibble, SMBR Assistant Director, presented the request for change report for the month of May.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Martinez adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m. without objection.