



**WEATHERIZATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday February 15, 2011**

The Weatherization Committee convened on Tuesday February 15, 2011 at City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street in the Executive Session Room, # 1027 in Austin, Texas.

Chair Andy Ramirez called the Board Meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:
Andy Ramirez and Brian Walters**

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the January 26, 2011 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Walters and seconded by Mr. Ramirez.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

There were no citizens signed up to speak.

3. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion regarding the Austin Energy Weatherization project and potential recommendations to the Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) & Small Business Enterprise Procurement Program Advisory Committee regarding minority participation.

Alayne Johnson, Austin Area Black Contractors Association (ABCA), said the Austin Energy monthly meeting has now included subcontractors and not just the primes, however she only received one meeting notice from a prime contractor and all of them should have extended the invite.

Mr. Ramirez asked if the meeting was organized by Austin Energy and if the invitation could be sent by Austin Energy?

Fred Yebra, Austin Energy, said yes they are the ones to organize the meeting and would send the meeting notice to all subcontractors in addition to the primes.

Ms. Johnson, ABCA, said that one of the prime contractors that had previously not followed the program seems to now be complying and sending full files to subs.

Tom Cisneros III, Armor Sealants & Firestopping, said the program has been misdirected or misguided and that out of town general contractors have been self performing.

Ms. Johnson recommended that air conditioning companies are not allowed to be primes. Local presence has to be important. Weatherization firms should get the opportunity versus the AC firms.

Mr. Ramirez, asked Austin Energy to consider how to maximize local dollars by perhaps giving more points to local firms. He asked that Austin Energy and Small and Minority Business Resources (SMBR) take a look at this and consider the possibility of weatherization to be a scope of work all by itself.

Carol Hadnot, ABCA, said Austin Energy needs to do a better job at getting out a solicitation to give people more time to prepare and front end documents need to be clear on all the requirements needed.

Mr. Ramirez asked if it was possible to separate out the test in, test out and weatherization scopes of work.

Mr. Yebra, Austin Energy said yes, they are.

Mr. Cisneros added to also separate out the AC work as well.

Mr. Yebra said that he would welcome ideas on ways to achieve goals, weatherization is getting more sophisticated.

The committee, ABCA and Mr. Cisneros recommended the following changes to the weatherization program and on a motion by Mr. Ramirez and seconded by Mr. Walters, they agreed to forward these recommendations to the MBE/WBE & Small Business Advisory Committee;

- Separate out the different activities, scopes of work, as follows:
 - Test In
 - Test Out
 - AC work
 - Weatherization
 - Appliances
- Ensure all contractors know on the front end what type of certifications or licensing is required
- AC companies not allowed to be primes, weatherization firms should get the opportunity vs. the AC companies.
- Local companies should get extra points over companies located outside SLBP.
- Homes or “files” distributed equally to the subcontractors.
- Don't allow prime contractors to work in more than one area.
- Sanctions be applied to program for non-compliance.
- Institute a set number of home weatherization experiences as a requirement for each category or scope of work.
- Austin Energy purchases their own equipment instead of using subcontractors' equipment.
- Any contractor that conducted outreach to get homes into program should not then benefit from being assigned those files/projects. The files should go into a "pool" for all to share.
- Austin Energy should be conducting all outreach, not contractors.
- Urge Austin Energy to aggressively seek out any additional dollars available for this program. Ask that Advisory Committee urge City Council.
- Place MBE/WBE goals on project.
- Add to matrix; if the contractor met their goals on previous projects, give them more points.

4. STAFF REPORTS

Fred Yebra, Austin Energy and Amelie Gonzalez-Flores, SMBR reviewed the staff reports with the committee.

Mr. Walters requested that the Austin Energy report include a cumulative column to better evaluate the information.

Mr. Yebra said that he would look into it and see if it could be added.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

No agenda items were discussed.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ramirez adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.