



Approved 5.1.12

**MBE/WBE and Small Business Advisory Committee
Minutes**

**Special Called Meeting
Thursday, April 19, 2012**

The MBE/WBE and Small Business Advisory Committee convened in a regular meeting on Thursday, April 19, 2012 at 301 W. 2nd Street Room 1029 in Austin, Texas.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Ed Lowenberg called the Board Meeting to order at 3:20 p.m.

Board Members in attendance were Ed Lowenberg, Barbra Boeta, Anne Harutunian and Andy Ramirez.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

There were several citizen's signed up to speak. Mr. Lowenberg asked to hold communications until after hearing presentations from staff.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Item 3a. Review of the Interlocal Cooperation Contract between the City of Austin and the University of Texas at Austin (April 5, 2012 Council Agenda Item 36).

Item 3b. Review of funding for EGRSO and SMBR service provider contracts.

Mr. Kevin Johns, Director of Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office (EGRSO), briefed the Committee with a power point presentation regarding service provider contracts funded through EGRSO.

Citizen Communication is summarized below:

Ms. Carol Hadnot, Austin Area Black Contractors Association (ABCA) expressed concerns regarding the disparity in funding and overlapping of services as it relates to the ABCA.

Mr. Paul Saldana, US Hispanic Contractors Association (USHCA) expressed concerns regarding the disparity in funding and overlapping of services as it relates to the USHCA.

Mr. Juan Oyervides, USHCA expressed concerns regarding the disparity in funding and overlapping of services as it relates to the USHCA.

Ms. Aletta Banks, Asian Contractors Association (ACA) expressed concerns regarding the disparity in funding and overlapping of services as it relates to the ACA.

Ms. Ana Estrada signed up to speak but left early.

Mr. Aaron Gutierrez, University of Texas Professional Development Center (UTPDC) briefed the Committee on the Universities program as it relates to class structure, student demographics, attendance and awards program.

Kimberly Carelke, (UTPDC) briefed the Committee on the University's program as it relates to finances for classes and scheduling.

Toi Powell, Small Business Owner, gave testimony in support of classes provided by the University of Texas Professional Development Center

Richard Powell, Small Business Owner, gave testimony in support of classes provided by the University of Texas Professional Development Center

Donald Tischa, Small Business Owner, gave testimony in support of classes provided by the University of Texas Professional Development Center

After hearing testimony from the citizens, service providers and staff, Mr. Lowenberg made the following motion:

Having studied the issue of funding provided by the City to various service providers in the City, and after discussing the issue at a public meeting and receiving public comment, the Committee recommends the following to City Council:

1. There is a disparity in funding among service provider contracts administered by SMBR (minority trade contractors associations) and those administered by EGRSO (UT Professional Development Center and several local Chamber of Commerce); and there should be an increase in funding based on a graduated scale of yearly increases throughout the life of the service agreement, with the agreements having a minimum term of 3 years, with 1 year options; and
2. City staff or a third party should study the overlap of services provider contracts administered by SBMR and EGRSO taking into account the audience each provider currently serves, to include consideration of cultural, language, time, day of the week, frequency, and length of classes offered; and coordination of service providers by SMBR and EBRSO, minority participation on contracts and for third party agreements where applicable; and
3. The interlocal cooperation agreement proposed between the City of Austin and University of Texas at through September 30, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$43,000.00, in order to allow for classes to proceed throughout the summer.

Motion seconded by Mr. Andy Ramirez and passed on a vote of 4-0.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Ramirez and seconded by Ms. Boeta.