



The MBE/WBE and Small Business Enterprise Procurement Program Advisory Committee convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 301 W. 2nd Street, in the Boards & Commissions Room, in Austin Texas.

Board Members in Attendance:

Reginald Worlds, Barbra Boeta, Schiller Liao, Lena Banks, Usha Boddapu, Denise Hernandez

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the regular meeting of February 5, 2019 were considered for approval. The minutes were approved on a motion by Committee Member Schiller Liao and seconded by Committee Member Barbra Boeta. Minutes approved on a 6-0 vote.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- a. Carol Hadnot, Program Manager for the Austin Area Black Contractors Association addressed agenda item 3b expressing concerns with MBE/WBE participation on projects where Catellus is the master developer.
- b. Jose Vera representing Masonry Plus, a minority contractor, addressed agenda item 3b by requesting that there be more discussions with Catellus regarding subcontracting opportunities on the Mueller project.
- c. Carol Hadnot, Program Manager for the Austin Area Black Contractors Association addressed agenda item 3a suggesting a project such as "The Independent" be broken up or unbundled to give small firms the ability to get work on the project.
- d. Aletta Sung, Executive Director for the Asian Contractor Association, addressed agenda item 3a stating that Asian owned firms are getting less work than other minority groups. She requested more outreach directed at Asian contractor firms and more 2nd tier work on "The Independent" project to allow small Asian contractors to get work on the project.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Cloteal Davis Haynes, MBE/WBE Program Consultant and Craig Land, Project Manager for the General Contractor on "The Independent" project provided an update on the WBE/MBE participation on the project.
 - Committee member Barbra Boeta asked if SMBR can survey the small and minority owned firms to see what programs need to be developed to help them get work on large projects like "The Independent" development. Edward Campos, SMBR Acting Director said that he believes that we can survey the firms to get answers to that question and others. Tamela Saldaña, SMBR Compliance Officer, explained that SMBR sends a Good Faith Effort survey to firms that are on the SMBR Availability List for City construction contracts. It is often difficult to get completed surveys back. The surveys that have been completed and returned recently shows that firms consider certification/compliance too much work and that their firms have met its work capacity and is not able to take on more work at this time.

b. Rebecca Giello, Interim Director for the Economic Development Department, Christine Maguier, Redevelopment Services Division Manager with the Economic Development Department, Pam Hefner, Redevelopment Project Manager with the Economic Development Department and Greg Weaver with Catellus, the master developer, provided an update on the WBE/MBE participation on the Mueller Development.

- Committee member Usha Boddapu made note of the low participation of Asian and Native American owned firms on the Mueller Project. She asked if the committee can get statistics on how many Asian and Native American owned businesses are in the Austin construction industry.
- Committee member Schiller Liao requested that the Mueller development contract be modified to allow changes that would benefit Austin MBE/WBE firms and allow SMBR to verify compliance.
- Committee member Barbra Boeta requested a report on the Mueller Development listing:
 - The total amount of money expended on the contract
 - The amount of money the developer says is going to WBE/MBE firms
 - The amount of money that SMBR Compliance team can verify going to WBE/MBE firms.

Tamela Saldaña, SMBR Compliance Officer, said that she will look at the report currently being provided by the developer to determine what information can be pulled from it to build the report Committee member Boeta requested.

- Committee member Lena Banks requested the percentage of WBE/MBE firms that are on the entire contract.

4. Old Business

Reports provided and reviewed by Tamela Saldaña, SMBR Compliance Officer

ADJOURN

Vice-Chair Worlds adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.