



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

**Regular Meeting
Tuesday November 2, 2010**

The MBE/WBE and Small Business Advisory Committee convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 2, 2010 at 301 W. 2nd Street Room 1029 in Austin, Texas.

Chair Adrian Neely called the Board Meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Adrian Neely, Ed Lowenberg, Barbra Boeta, Anne Harutunian, Andy Ramirez, Brian Walters

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 7, 2010 regular meeting minutes were approved with a 5-0 vote, on a motion by Mr. Ramirez, seconded by Mr. Walters.

September 9, 2010 special called meeting minutes were approved with a 5-0 vote, on a motion by Mr. Walters, seconded by Ms. Boeta.

October 5, 2010 regular meeting minutes were approved with a 4-0-1 vote, on a motion by Mr. Walters, seconded by Ms. Boeta with Ms. Harutunian abstaining.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

There were no citizens signed up to speak.

3. NEW BUSINESS

For discussion and possible action on recommendations to City Council (2-1-163(B))

a. Discussion regarding the Formula One project and potential City of Austin involvement

Rudy Garza, Assistant City Manager said that dialogue regarding this project began in June. He said that there have been many discussions regarding their understanding of the MBE/WBE program. He also explained that they have discussed strategies and resources available to them for creating opportunities for the minority contracting community. He said that a general contractor has not been hired, and that they will be hiring an MBE/WBE Coordinator to assist them once they have hired a general contractor.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Paul Saldaña, US Hispanic Contractors Association de Austin – presented a hand out outlining a request for inclusion and transparency regarding this project. The association requests that the Advisory Committee take this discussion to the Subcommittee for additional support for a resolution from the City Council which states that economic incentives and/or support for the Formula One project is contingent upon compliance with the MBE/WBE ordinance.

Mr. Ramirez made a motion to have Mr. Garza and the US Hispanic Contractors association work on drafting a resolution that includes a timeframe which will allow maximum participation on this project. Ms. Moss seconded the motion and it passed on a 7-0 vote.

4. OLD BUSINESS

For discussion and possible action on recommendations to City Council (2-1-163(B))

a. Update on Commodity Code Improvements

Keri Juarez, Assistant Director-Public Works, presented an update from the interdepartmental working group on Commodity Codes.

The committee requested more information regarding an MBE/WBE Consulting code.

b. Update regarding the Austin Energy Weatherization Program

Steve Leinweber and Joe Guerrero, Austin Energy - updated the committee regarding the weatherization program.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Alayne Johnson, Austin Area Black Contractors Association asked why Climate Mechanical did not meet the goal if she was listed on their compliance plan as 14% and another sub was listed for 2% of the work. She also said that some primes are handing out partial files instead of the full file. She said this project is not being run properly by some of the primes because they want to take 100% home.

c. Discussion regarding the proposed MBE/WBE Procurement Program rules amendment.

Ms. Lara presented an amendment in the program rules.

The committee voted to recommend the rules change as long as there is no adverse affect on professional services on a motion by Mr. Ramirez, seconded by Ms. Moss. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

5. STAFF REPORTS

Monthly report for the Small & Minority Business Resources (SMBR) Department on request for changes and Council Awards

Veronica Briseño Lara, Director – SMBR presented the committee with the reports.

The Committee asked if more information, such as a report could be provided regarding no goals projects.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Alayne Johnson, Austin Area Black Contractors Association – asked if the report showed total violations or how many received since the Ordinance was changed.

Lino Mendiola, Andrews & Kurth, LLC clarified that the number on the report shows total violations.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

- Update from the weatherization subcommittee
- Update on the MBE/WBE Coordinator in the Formula One Project
- Discussion regarding the definition of commercially useful function and like-kind substitutions in the ordinance.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Boeta, seconded by Ms. Moss.