



**MINORITY, WOMEN & EVANSTON BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (M/W/EBE)
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, September 16, 2020
5:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ald. Peter Braithwaite, Ald. Robyn Simmons, Joshua Gutstein, Jessica Oldani, Jesus Vega, Kemone Hendricks, Michael McLean, and Nasutsa Mabwa

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Interim Admin. Services Director/CIO Luke Stowe, Purchasing Manager Tammi Nunez, Interim Deputy City Manager Sharon Johnson, and Management Analyst Tasheik Kerr

PRESIDING MEMBER: Ald. Braithwaite

1. Declaration of a Quorum

With a quorum present Ald. Braithwaite called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm. Ms. Oldani motioned to suspend the rules to permit members to convene via virtual meeting. Second by Ald. Simmons and approved 7-0 (roll call taken).

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes as presented from July 15, 2020 made by Ald. Simmons and seconded by Ms. Oldani. Motion passed unanimously 7-0 (roll call taken).

3. Guest Introduction:

Michael McLean introduced Jack Scapin, Project Manager for Valenti Builders. Jack works with the City to conduct local hiring in Evanston for construction projects. Jack noted he had been working with the City on an apprenticeship program based on union requirements. Jack mentioned the challenges brought on by the pandemic as it pertains to employment. Jack also noted that he is now working with Hire 360, a consortium developed to provide a pipeline for individuals interested in the construction trades.

Michael McLean provided an overview on the challenges with local hiring and the barriers to entry by union groups.

Justin Kwon, Director of Northwestern MICRO, provided an overview on MICRO. Justin noted that MICRO is a student-led micro-lending platform that is committed to providing financial and strategic assistance to minority businesses in Evanston. Justin Kwon added that the group is looking for a client to work with.

4. Old Business

A. Update on Vlink, Evanston Community Foundation, and Chamber

Ald. Braithwaite shared that an update would be provided at the next meeting.

B. Progress Report on Virtual Procurement 101/Chamber Event

No update. Jessica Oldani stated that this is a challenging time to make this project happen. Jessica recommended holding the event in 2021.

C. Progress on Website Ideas / Discussion

Ald. Braithwaite noted that ideas would be brought back at the next meeting for the Committee to consider. Luke shared that he had created a Google document for the Committee to input ideas and suggestions.

5. STAFF REPORTS

A. 2020 Capital Planning Projects

Lara Biggs, Bureau Chief Capital Planning and City Engineer, noted that in response to the pandemic, the City Council reduced the Capital Budget, and consequently, several projects were defunded. As it pertains to the LEP eligible projects, most projects have been allocated for the year.

B. M/W/EBE and LEP Tracking

Sharon Johnson provided an update on several LEP eligible projects and noted their status on meeting compliance requirements. The LEP balance now stands at \$63,975. There were a total of five invoices (no LEP penalties) in the amount of \$14,517.29 that impacted the account since July 2020. One invoice for \$6,000 from ERW and four invoices from ED Entrepreneurial Fund in the amount of \$8,517.29

6. New Business

MIRCO NU Organization Request

This item was discussed during guest introductions.

7. Other Business

815 Ridge Avenue Project with Condor Developers / Union Qualifications

This item was discussed during guest introductions.

Regarding the trade unions, Jessica Oldani opened discussion on the city's position of awarding union versus nonunion bids. Lara Biggs responded that the City is neutral on unions. The City hire based on low bid, but does require prevailing wage payment. Prevailing wages are higher than non-union contractors' wages. This requirement in effect encourages union contractors to be the winner of bids.

Luke inquired whether the City could work with the Northwest Municipal Conference to push pressure on the unions to address its archaic rules.

8. Adjournment

Nasutsa Mabwa motion to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Robyn Simmons. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting ended at 6:47 pm.