



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

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

6:00 P.M.

Meeting Minutes

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilmember's: Bobby Burns, Kristian Harris, and Devon Reid, **Jerad Jared** Davis, Angela Pennisi, Ernest Noy, Kemone Hendricks

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bonaventure Fandohan, Michael McLean

**STAFF PRESENT:** Hitesh Desai, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer; Tammi Nunez, Purchasing Manager; John Gonzalez, Purchasing Specialist

**GUEST:** Aina Gutierrez, Rebuilding Exchange

**PRESIDING MEMBER:** Councilmember Bobby Burns

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**1. Declaration of a Quorum**

With a quorum present Councilmember (CM) Burns called the meeting to order.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Councilmember Burns motioned to approve the October 19, 2022 minutes, seconded by Councilmember Harris. All voted in favor of approving minutes unanimously.

**3. Guest Introduction**

No Guests

**4. Old Business**

**A. Rebuilding Exchange Update**

Aina Gutierrez, Executive Director of the Rebuilding Exchange discussed their services which include a 20 week training for low income individuals and providing jobs in open shops. Rebuilding Exchange is planning to expand within Evanston using ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds and will be opening a new Building and Trades training facility at 626 Hartrey. The Rebuilding Exchange works and utilizes many resources. Aina Gutierrez expressed her concerns with meeting MWEBE goals and the current challenges they are facing within the building and trades industry related to major projects which include inconsistent work and scale; mentoring and networking; few apprentice sponsorship opportunities; complicated contract language and requirements. A. Gutierrez shared some ideas where help is needed for Rebuilding Exchange to be able to compete including training and support

on contract requirements; helping people grow capacity to respond to contracts; making contract work more consistent and more collaboration with the city, nonprofits not being able to be certified as MBE or WBE; incentivise contractors to offer sponsored apprenticeship programs; how to incubate some of the companies and get signatory so they are able to respond to prevailing wage work.

### **B. Amend City Code 1-17-1**

Amend City Code 1-17-1 to accept Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Certification. Councilmember Burns motioned for approval, Councilmember Reid approved and Councilmember Harris seconded. Roll call was called and all voted unanimously in favor.

### **C. MWEBE Committee 2023 Workplan**

Each group provided an update for each assigned goal and their recommended strategies and objectives.

**Goal #1:** Position Evanston's MWEBE Committee as a leader in MWEBE advocacy in Evanston.

First Group: A. Pennisi and J. Davis shared that they divided their work into strategies and objectives. Strategy #1, collaboration with community partners to develop and maintain the MWEBE directory with the objective to aggregate the business registration form on the MWEBE businesses that the city already collects. To seek input from and/or collaboration with the Back Business Consortium, the Evanston Chamber of Commerce and other potential partners. Strategy #2, identify and assess the needs of the MWEBE community through a minimum of quarterly initiatives and outreach efforts. Strategy #3, collaborate with the Economic Development Committee to facilitate discussion of their agenda items allowing the MWEBE Committee to provide an assessment of the impact on the MWEBE community. Strategy #4, seek opportunities to collaborate with community partners to provide networking and supportive programming for the MWEBE community with the objective to provide an MWEBE committee presence at existing and planned networking events.

**Goal #2:** Increase local firms that provide goods and services the city needs.

Second Group: F. Bonaventure and Councilmember Harris. This group did not meet due to F. Bonaventure traveling outside of the country. Councilmember Reid offered to work with Councilmember Harris to create the strategies and objectives for Goal #2 until F. Bonaventure returns.

**Goal #3:** Increase local contractors that work as general contractors and subcontractors on major projects in Evanston.

Third Group: E. Noy. and M. Mclean. E. Noy shared that they are working to identify what companies fall under the construction industry in Evanston, if they qualify for some of the projects and how to get them qualified and help them understand what

contract funding may be for them because a lot of them cannot afford the contract. One of the pieces that came up under the scope of work for a lot of these projects is bonding.

## **5. Staff Reports**

### **A. M/W/EBE and LEP Tracking Report**

T. Nunez shared updates to the 2022 MWEBE Goal Compliance. This month's report includes the September 27 section that was left out in the October meeting. This included:

- RFP 22-51 Ecology Center Renovations for \$144,500, awarded to Studio AH, LLC. LEP is not included since the project was under \$250,000. The general contractor included 39% MWEBE participation and their subcontractor, CCJM Engineers, was 32%.
- BID 22-55 Butler and Twiggs Park Electrical Improvements for \$79,357.60 awarded to Utility Dynamics Corporation who received 36.50% MWEBE participation with their subcontractor, Everlights, Inc.
- RFP 22-52 Independence Park and Larimer Park Improvements for \$194,245.00 awarded to MKSK, Inc. and who received MWEBE participation with the following subcontractors: David Mason & Associates, 17.50%; Delta Engineering Group, 15.53%; GSG Consultants, 8.26%.

For October 2022, the following projects received credit for MWEBE participation:

- BID 22-56 Sewer Inspection, 24-Inch Diameter and Larger for \$50,914.80 awarded to Sheridan Plumbing who received 100% MWEBE credit.
- RFP 22-44 Utility Bill Print and Mail Services for \$139,050 awarded to Standard Printing Company who received 100% MWEBE credit.

For the Year to Date, there has been \$3,665,775.77 in MWEBE waivers and the LEP Penalty Fund as of November 14, 2022 has a balance of \$61,230.81.

## **6. New Business**

No New Business

## **7. Other Business**

2023 Meeting Schedule

For 2023, there will be monthly meetings except for August 2023 and November 2023. Councilmember Reid motioned for approval and A. Pennisi seconded. All voted unanimously for the 2023 meeting schedule.

## **8. Adjournment**

Councilmember Burns motioned the meeting be adjourned, motion carried unanimously. Meeting ended at 7:27 P.M.