

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

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

6:00 P.M.

Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmember Bobby Burns, Angela Pennisi, Ernest Noy, Bonaventure Fandohan, Kemone Hendricks

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilmember Devon Reid, Councilmember Kristian Harris, Rachel Williams, Jared Davis, Michael McLean

STAFF PRESENT: Tammi Nunez, Purchasing Manager; John Gonzalez, Purchasing Specialist; Jessica Cooper, Interim Workforce Development Manager

GUEST: Aina Gutierrez and Arthur McGriff- Rebuilding Exchange

PRESIDING MEMBER: Councilmember Bobby Burns

1. **Declaration of a Quorum**

No quorum was present.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

No approval due to no quorum present.

3. **Guest Introduction**

Aina Gutierrez, Executive Director - Rebuilding Exchange; Arthur McGriff, Career Development Manager- Rebuilding Exchange

4. **Staff Reports**

A. **M/W/D/EBE Tracking Report**

MWDEBE Projects Awarded 02/12/2024

BID 23-55 Ecology Center Renovation, \$2,318,999. Awarded to Bodala, LLC, DBA Central Rug and Carpet. MWDEBE Subcontractors: 6.2% towards goal for Central Rug and Carpet (EBE); 5.6% towards goal for JH Plumbing Solutions, Inc (MBE); 12.5% towards goal for Windy City Heating & Cooling, Inc (MBE).

RFP 23-38 Solar Power Purchase Agreement at Robert Crown Community Center. Awarded to Verde Solutions LLC. Project does not have upfront cost. MWDEBE Subcontractors: 25.0% towards goal for BA Lighting LLC dba BA Solutions (WBE).

Waiver Request Review

BID 23-58 Service Center North Fuel Island Replacement Project. \$1,577,362.00. Awarded to Stenstrom Petroleum Services Group (Rockford, IL). Reason for Waiver: Precludes Subcontracting Opportunities. Work is highly technical and specialized work in nature and recognized the limited number of potential qualified vendors.

B. LEP Projects:

2024 CIPP Sewer Rehabilitation, BID 24-04 – Waiver Requested. Workforce Development to reach out to vendor regarding three residents' available to participate in project.

5. New Business

A. 2024 Committee Meeting Calendar - Not discussed.

6. Old Business

A. M/W/D/EBE Committee Work Plan Updates:

Working Group 1:

ED M/W/D/EBE Self Declaration, Local Business Process & Business Directory Update – Not covered.

Business Survey Discussion: Survey Update Recommendations:

- Add more categories for service types to question 2.
- Expend or add to question 3 regarding type of contract with the city.
- Rearrange question order for question 5 and 6.
- Shorten total number of survey questions to 12-13.
- Responses due by March 1st, 2024.

Working Group 2: City Webpages & Apps

1. Economic Development – Not covered.
2. Workforce Development – Currently has a page on the City Website. Also utilizes UpSquad App to provide access to the Evanston Workforce CONNECT social platform.
3. MWDEBE/ Business Diversity Workforce Development – Currently there is a MWDEBE landing page. Group considering a standalone site for MWDEBE or a link to another city website.

Working Group 3

1. Rebuilding Exchange + Ryan Field Agreement Update

Rebuilding Exchange is partnering with Northwestern University to include Evanston residents on the Ryan field project. Recruiting more Evanston residents to their building trades pre-apprenticeship program. The recent cohort started January 22, 2024 and has six Evanston residents enrolled. A 9 week pre-apprenticeship program that prepares candidates for Department of Labor registered apprenticeship programs in the building trades, including union apprenticeships. Pre-apprentices receive hands-on skills, job site safety, physical training, and classroom instruction in order to successfully pass a variety of apprenticeship aptitude entrance exams.

Rebuilding Exchange has placed graduates in several unions, including the carpenters, bricklayers, laborers, painters, iron workers, electricians, and sheet metal workers. Rebuilding Exchange is hosting regular outreach sessions to Evanston residents who don't require the full services of their career programs to learn more about the Rebuild Ryan Field Project and see how they can support their placement into jobs/apprentices on the project. They will also be engaging subcontractors who

are awarded contracts on the project to review their workforce plans and help with recruitment and outreach to fill any available open positions.

7. Other Business

Award Proposal – Establish an award to highlight the community contributions of a MWDEBE business. Consider partnering with another organization that currently provides an award ceremony to include our award or consider hosting a separate event which might be difficult due to limited resources. To be added on the next agenda for vote. Ernest, Angela and Kemone will present.

8. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 7:45 P.M