

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

Wednesday, October 16, 2024
6:00 P.M.
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmember Bobby Burns, Jared Davis, Bonaventure Fandohan, Angela Pennisi, Michael McLean, and Ernest Noy

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilmember Devon Reid, Kemone Hendricks, and Rachel Williams

STAFF PRESENT: Tammi Nunez, Purchasing Manager Joseph Fields, Workforce Development Manager; Jessica Cooper, Workforce Development Coordinator; Caroline McCraw, Digital Services Specialist

GUEST: Sally Mabadi, Darush Mabadi, Mike Abrams, Sarah Baresel, Peter Kelly, Clarence D. Weaver, Robert Orenstein, Kimberly H. Michele Millison, Eldridge Ford, Matthew Eadie, and Abigail Mahoney

PRESIDING MEMBER: Councilmember Bobby Burns

1. Declaration of a Quorum

With a quorum present, Councilmember (CM) Burns called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.

2. Public Comments

A.No public comments were made during this session.

3. Approval of Minutes

E. Noy motioned to approve the minutes for September 18, 2024. Seconded by B. Fandohan. Motion passed, and all voted in favor of approving the minutes.

4. Old Business

A. MWDEBE Award Proposal

- A proposal was discussed to recognize Evanston-owned MWD businesses and other local businesses. two awards: one for an Evanston-owned MWD business and another for a non-MWD business. Eligibility requirements and the selection process were outlined.
- The award would include a promotional video and a business promotion and marketing consulting package.
- Funding sources include LEP penalty funds and the National League of Cities grant.
- A selection committee will be formed to determine the winning businesses.
- The committee discussed partnering with organizations like the Chamber of Commerce for the award presentation.

B. NU Update on the Stadium Project and Minority/Woman Goals

- Representatives from Northwestern and Turner Walsh provided an update on the Ryan Field Project.
- The project aims for a 35% spend commitment on minority and women-owned businesses.
- To date, \$133 million has been committed to these businesses.
- Local workforce hires are at 10%, with efforts to increase this number.
- The project is still in early stages, with peak employment expected in the summer.

C. MWDEBE Small Business Survey – Item held

5. New Business

A. City Webpages & Apps Update

- Caroline McCraw from IT presented updates on the city website and digital accessibility initiatives.
- The city plans a website redesign to improve navigation and accessibility, with a target completion by April 2026.
- Feedback from community and staff surveys highlighted issues with navigation and platform integration.
- The committee discussed the need for a more user-friendly and engaging online presence for the NWDEB.

6. Staff Reports

A. LEP Projects Tracking Updates

- An update on LEP compliance was provided, with a focus on projects not in compliance.
- The committee discussed challenges in finding local workers and the need to update the LEP list.
- The issue of union requirements for certain projects was also addressed.

7. Other Business

- The committee plans to continue discussions on the business awards proposal and the city website redesign.
- The survey on MWD businesses will be discussed in the next meeting.
- The committee will work on clarifying the LEP ordinance regarding funding from external sources.
- The meeting concluded with plans to continue discussions on the business survey and awards proposal in the next meeting

8. Adjournment

Lost a quorum at 7:01 PM.

Councilmember Burns ended the meeting at 7:50 PM.