



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

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

6:00 P.M.

Meeting Minutes

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilmember Bobby Burns, Councilmember Kristian Harris, Jerad Davis, Bonaventure Fandohan, Michael McLean, Angela Pennisi, Ernest Noy

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kemone Hendricks

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tammi Nunez, Purchasing Manager; John Gonzalez, Purchasing Specialist

**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 Harris motioned to approve the September 21, 2022 minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilmember Burns. All voted in favor of approving minutes unanimously.

**3. Guest Introduction**

No Guest

**4. Old Business**

**5. Staff Reports**

Councilmember Burns began discussion regarding the MWEBE tracking. Purchasing Manager T. Nunez shared details regarding several projects. Included in the 2022 MWEBE Goal Compliance chart are projects that did not meet the \$250,000 project amount or were not required to meet the goal due to IEPA funding. These projects occurred between September and October, 2022. T. Nunez shared several companies that did meet the MWEBE 25% goal which included the contractor Sheridan Plumbing and Sewer who is certified WBE. It was also shared that National Power Rodding requested a MWEBE waiver due to the limited time of the contract and the contract size, the waiver was approved. There are ongoing projects still being monitored for compliance with LEP. Angela Pennisi asked if contracted companies supporting local Evanston businesses are being tracked. T. Nunez replied that they are not but

feedback can be requested from Community Development for the contract period to see how they utilize Evanston businesses and who they actually purchase from.

## **6. New Business**

Councilmember Burns opened discussions regarding the 1997 resolution 71-R-97 titled To Reorganize the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Committee of the City of Evanston. The resolution contains the 15 responsibilities of the committee.

Councilmember Burns also discussed completing annual reviews of all the boards, committees and commissions in order to make improvements. The key items that the committee should complete are:

- Develop and maintain a MWEBE directory
- Prepare status reports and an annual economic presentation to the Mayor and City Council that is based upon actual proposed MWEBE participation and related cost factors.
- Propose realistic goals for addressing underutilization of MWEBE in the City of Evanston.
- Identify and assess the needs of the MWEBE community on a regular basis.
- Review Economic Development Committee agenda, provide recommendations and send items to both committees.

Committee goals were also discussed and developing one or two strategies for each goal. Members were assigned to work on each goal.

Goals:

1. Position Evanston's MWEBE Committee as a leader in MWEBE advocacy in Evanston. Also includes website development.
2. Increase local firms that provide goods and services the city needs.
3. Increase local contractors that work as general contractors and subcontractors on major projects in Evanston.
4. Develop long term planning documents that help establish and address the needs of the MWEBE committee.

Regarding goal one, Michael M. shared that there should be a dedicated MWEBE website to offer more transparency and communication with the public. The website would include a database and search engine with up to date commercial business information for people to search for MWEBE local businesses with supervision provided by the committee. Councilmember Burns shared that the website could provide other links to related topics but should focus on what the committee is focused on. Michael M. also asked if the funds from LEP non complaint contractors can be used to fund the website. Councilmember Burns replied yes as long the expenditures advances the LEP and MWEBE goals.

Regarding goal three, Councilmember Burns shared that the committee should work closely with Northwestern University on their new stadium construction project to make sure Evanston MWEBE businesses benefit from this project.

**7. Other Business**

**None**

**8. Adjournment**

Councilmember Burns motioned the meeting be adjourned, motion carried unanimously. Meeting ended at 7:26.