

OFFICE OF EQUAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, March 15, 2023
Minutes

Members Present:

Javin Walker, Chair
Robert Lesko
Juan Pagan
Doris Pastel
Seabron Smith

Staff Present:

Tonya Davis Johnson, Director
Allen Gray, Manager
Anthony Gregory, SBDS II
Angela Smith, SBDS III
Antonia Smith, Public Info. and Outreach Coordinator
Angie Whitaker, SBDS II
Deirdre Kyle, SBDS III
Megan Harp, Administrative Assistant II
Nicole Davis, SBDS I
Yamel Vasquez, Contract Analyst

Members Virtual:

Amy Angelo
Denise Albritton
Alan Gerwig
Bob Schafer
Clementine Fleuranvil,
Courtney Newell,
Carole Hart

Guest:

None

Members Absent: Lorna Anderson, Kati Cassiani, John Elliott,

Vacant Seats: None.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 8:36 a.m. by Chairman, Javin Walker.

A. Roll Call

Roll called by Megan Harp. Quorum present.

B. Adoption of Agenda for March 15, 2023 Meeting

Motion by Seabron Smith, seconded by Juan Pagan. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Approval of Minutes for January 18, 2023 Meeting

Motion by Doris Pastl, seconded by Seabron Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

II. COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATE

Tonya Davis Johnson reported that the committee is at full quorum. Ms. Davis Johnson stated that Seat 1, certified Black Business Owner; currently held by Mr. John Elliot is up for renewal in April.

The OEBO will contact Mr. Elliott to confirm his interest in continuing to serve. Ms. Davis Johnson stated that if Mr. Elliot does not wish to continue as a committee member, she would identify a certified Black business owner for consideration.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. OEBO Outreach Activity Report

Antonia Smith discussed the past outreach/training events. She spoke about The Office of Equal Business Opportunity's recent collaboration with resource partners. Ms. Smith announced the OEBO Roadshow as well as upcoming events and encouraged members to attend and participate. She thanked the committee and encouraged their feedback.

Javin Walker asked Ms. Smith about guest participation in comparison to the registration list. Ms. Smith responded that the participation on average is around 50%. Mr. Walker also asked about the committee's attendance at events. Director Davis Johnson stated that there is good participation from the committee. Ms. Smith will forward a copy of the current activity signup log to the full committee.

Small Business Certification Status Report

Yamel Vasquez thanked Doris Pastl for her responsiveness to her subcommittee duties. She also recognized Clementine Fleuranvil for her attendance at the Goal Setting Committee meetings.

Ms. Vasquez presented the certification report and discussed the different class indicators. She also presented the committee with a new chart that displayed the breakdown of ongoing certifications as well as certification by commission districts.

Alan Gerwig requested a copy of the disparity study. Ms. Vasquez told Mr. Gerwig that she would send him a copy of the disparity study. Ms. Vasquez also noted that the disparity study is available on the Office of Equal Business Opportunity's website.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recertification Sub-Committee Update

Doris Pastl reported that subcommittee member responses are due. She encouraged subcommittee members to submit responses to Ms. Vasquez. Ms. Pastl reported that there were multiple responses from the businesses as to their certification status. Ms. Pastl stated the calls were effective and she was able to assist the businesses where needed.

V. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Amy Angelo noted that seeing the committee members at the advisory committee retreat was good. Ms. Angelo also stated that she plans to attend the Roadshow and thanked the committee for their hard work.

Carole Hart stated that the advisory committee retreat was great as well as the information provided at the retreat. Ms. Hart requested clarification on whether she can provide information on procurement to businesses during her recertification calls. Tonya Davis Johnson advised that the information should be sent to staff for distribution to the businesses. Ms. Davis Johnson will get clarification from the county attorney.

Clementine Fleuranvil stated that she has been sharing information on OEBO's events via social media and her newsletter. Ms. Fleuranvil stated that in doing so she has received questions about the benefits of certification from business owners. Ms. Fleuranvil asked if there was a direct link to share the benefits of being county certified with interested businesses. Ms. Davis Johnson advised that businesses can visit the website to obtain information on the benefits of certification.

Courtney Newell stated that she is excited to see everyone in person at the next Advisory Committee meeting. She encouraged the committee to continue doing a great job.

Denise Albritton gave staff kudos for an awesome retreat. Ms. Albritton commended staff for their programming and collaborations throughout the community, which she believes has been effective. She also welcomed the committee to register to attend the upcoming Women in Industry event.

Robert Lesko stated that he is also doing a SCORE event where he will share information on the OEBO process.

Juan Pagan announced his appointment to Florida Atlantic University's International Business Advisory Board. Mr. Pagan shared that through his appointment he sees an opportunity to share information on the OEBO certification with students.

Doris Pastl complimented the office on the retreat. Ms. Pastl thanked the office for the shirts and name badges provided and suggested that the committee wear their OEBO Advisory Committee shirts and name badges at events.

Seabron Smith thanked the committee and staff for the work they accomplished. Mr. Smith offered his assistance to the recertification committee.

Javin Walker thanked Tonya Davis Johnson and t staff for the retreat. Mr. Walker thanked the committee for their commitment. He also encouraged the committee to attend the afternoon Goal Setting Meetings.

VI. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Tonya Davis Johnson thanked the committee for their attendance at the inaugural advisory committee retreat. She also thanked the committee for their recommendations and their support to the small business community. She also informed the committee that due to the expected expiration of the extraordinary circumstances brought upon by Covid-19; Advisory Committee meetings are to be in-person beginning with the May 17, 2023, meeting and guests can attend by WebEx.

VII. COUNTY ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS

None

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.