

OFFICE OF EQUAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, July 19, 2023
Minutes

Members Present:

Javin Walker, Chair
Lorna Anderson, Vice Chair
Denise Albritton
Amy Angelo
Alan Gerwig
Carole Hart
Clementine Fleuranvil
Robert Lesko
Juan Pagan
Doris Pastl
Bob Schafer

Members Virtual:

Courtney McKenzie Newell

Staff Present:

Tonya Davis Johnson, Director
Richard Sena, Assistant County Attorney
Nicole Davis, SBDS I
Angela Smith, SBDS III
Antonia Smith, Public Info. and Outreach Coordinator
Yamel Vasquez, Contract Analyst

Guest:

Dorritt Miller, Assistant County Administrator
Christine Roberts-Kelly

Members Absent: Kati Cassiani

Vacant Seats: Seat 1, Certified Black Business Owner

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 May 17, 2023 Meeting

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

C. Approval of Minutes for March 15, 2023 Meeting

Motion by Doris Pastl, seconded by Lorna Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Introduction of Guests

Christine Robert-Kelly, Intention Enterprises LLC

II. COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATE

Tonya Davis Johnson reported that the committee is currently at 14. Mrs. Davis Johnson advised that the appointment of Christine Roberts-Kelly, Seat 1; Certified Black Business and the reappointment of Lorna Anderson, Seat 15; Professional Services Organization will go before the Board of County Commissioners on August 22, 2023. Upon the board's approval, the committee would be at full complement. The committee welcomed Mrs. Roberts-Kelly.

Tonya Davis Johnson opened the floor for the nomination of Chair. Juan Pagan nominated Javin Walker, seconded by Denise Albritton, and unanimously passed. The floor re-opened for nominations for Vice-Chair and Seabron Smith nominated Lorna Anderson, seconded by Denise Albritton, and unanimously passed.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. OEBO Outreach Activity Report

Antonia Smith discussed the past outreach/training events. Ms. Smith advised that she conducted more collaborative and targeted outreach. Ms. Smith also provided the committee with the upcoming outreach events and gave an overview of the Mind Your Business 4th Annual Youth Entrepreneurship Forum.

B. Small Business Certification Status Report

Yamel Vasquez presented the Certification Report and discussed the different class indicators. Additionally, Ms. Vasquez provided the committee with an electronic copy of the district mapping.

Bob Schafer stated that a 6-month comparison shows that certifications have decreased. Mr. Schafer asked if this is due to firms not recertifying or due to firms graduating.

Juan Pagan mentioned concerns that the newly passed laws on immigration may impact certifications.

Amy Angelo asked if there were any plans to have a workshop on the E-verify system. Mrs. Davis Johnson asked Mr. Sena if Palm Beach County had any upcoming workshops. Mr. Sena responded that he was not aware of any upcoming workshops.

Robert Lesko requested a geographical breakdown by zip code for the commission districts. In response, Ms. Vasquez stated that district mapping was provided. She will also provide a list of the district and the zip codes.

Javin Walker congratulated the newly certified businesses. Mr. Walker also commended the committee for their role in encouraging businesses to become certified. He thanked Ms. Vasquez for the detailed reporting.

C. Identifying Solicitation, 5/31 Webex Training

Tonya Davis Johnson requested the committee's feedback on the Identifying Solicitation Webex Training. Robert Lesko responded that the training was very informative. The recording of the training will be resent to the committee.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recertification Sub-Committee Update

Doris Pastl reported that 12 calls were made to vendors who did not recertify. Ms. Pastl also gave an update on the certification status of the vendors.

The committee discussed some of the challenges that businesses may be experiencing regarding certification.

V. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Clementine Fleuranvil stated that she will be attending the upcoming Mind Your Business Youth Entrepreneurship Forum and offered her assistance with transportation.

Denise Albritton commended Tonya Davis Johnson and the staff for the hard work and support that is provided to the committee.

Juan Pagan thanked the committee and was happy to be in attendance.

Doris Pastl thanked Yamel Vasquez for her work and the assistance she has provided to the Recertification Sub-Committee. Ms. Pastl also expressed that she is pleased with the reappointment of the Chair and Vice Chair.

Amy Angelo stated that she is happy to be in attendance and that she plans to attend the Mind Your Business Youth Entrepreneurship Forum.

Courtney Newell Mckenzie suggested creating a podcast featuring business success stories from certified vendors for the OEBO's website. Mrs. Newell Mckenzie volunteered to host the podcast.

Lorna Anderson thanked the committee for her reappointment as Vice Chair. She stated that the meeting was successful and thanked Ms. Vasquez for the data that was provided to the committee.

Javin Walker thanked the committee and staff. Mr. Walker was impressed on the progress of the program and encouraged the committee to share their knowledge and lend support to the small

business community.

VI. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Tonya Davis Johnson thanked the committee for their service and their continued feedback. Mrs. Davis Johnson advised that the staff is working on creating valuable and meaningful tools to improve the experience for SMWBEs.

VII. COUNTY ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS

None.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.