

# Equal Opportunity Review Commission

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## MINUTES

Wednesday, March 15, 2017  
12:00 PM  
City County Building  
Sixth Floor City Stats Room 646  
414 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Erin Conley, James Myers Jr., Tracey McCants-Lewis, Barry Nathan, Karen Hall, Demeshia Seals, Justin Laing

**Absent Commissioners:** Ralph Bangs, Jessica Bellas

**Staff in Attendance:** Emily Pontarelli, Ricardo Williams, Josh Rolon, Oliver Beasley, Valerie McDonald Roberts

### **I. Approval of all 2016 minutes & February 2017 minutes**

Approval of 2016 minutes. McCants-Lewis motions to approve Laing seconds. All approve.

### **II. New**

- **1703-01-** Office of Management & Budget, Governmental Affairs and Legislative Services (Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney)

Sam Ashbaugh introduced contract for government affairs consultants. Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney were able to get WBE participation with about \$5,000 a month as a retainer for services to help monitor national legislation and help the city develop relationships in Washington D.C.

Seals asks why Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney were unable to find MBE participation or show documented good faith effort. Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney stated that they had reached out to a minority lobbyist. Laing said that the conversation with one minority contractor is not a robust outreach or sufficient good faith effort.

Laing motions to not approve because of lack good faith effort. Hall seconds. In favor: McCants-Lewis, Hall, Seals, Nathan, Conley, Laing, Myers. Against: None. Abstention: None.

- **1703-02-** Office of Management & Budget, Governmental Affairs and Legislative Services (Malady & Wooten)

Malady and Wooten states that in the EORC process they had vendors go to the PAUCP website. Malady and Wooten stated that they reached out to legislators based here in Pittsburgh.

Conley said that the Commission wants to know what minority firms they have reached out to. Malady & Wooten said that they have a spreadsheet with that information. Laing said that documentation is needed.

Seals motion to approve contingent on PJ proving paperwork on operating agreement from Savvy, scope, and outreach docuemtnation. Conley seconds.

Laing states that he will not approve because he would like to see more outreach done.

In favor: McCants-Lewis, Hall, Seals, Conley, Myers Against: Nathan and Laing  
Abstention: None

Documents would be sent to the Commission by Friday 3/17 close of business for to review.

- **1703-03-** City Planning, Architectural Inventory Brookline Neighborhood (Michael Baker International)  
Sarah Quinn said that the City has received a grant to collect data to help put in historic designation. Quinn said that the RFP was out for 4 weeks and Michael Baker International had provided the only MWBE participation. . Conley motions to approve. Seals seconds. All approve.
- **1703-04-** City Planning, Broadway Avenue Public Realm: Schematic Design (Sam Schwartz)  
Andrew Dash and Kristin Saunders from City Planning said that this project is for a schematic design of the Broadway Avenue. Dash said that Beacon sent out RFP and resent to primes and subs that City planning has worked with in the past and has received 3 responses. Sam Schwartz was the only one that had participation and had been involved in the original TRID study that started this project.  
  
Laing asked where the documentation for the search for WBE. Saunders passed out a table with the MBWE participation. Saunders said that Councilmember Rudiak emphasized outreach for this project and Sam Schwartz has demonstrated this work. Laing motion to approve. Hall seconds. All approve.
- **1703-05-** Housing Authority, Legislative & Regulatory Monitoring & Consulting Services (Ballard Sphar)  
Anthony Mannella said Baard Sphar has subcontracted 25% for Ahmad Zaffarese, LLC and Sphar had been able to increase 25% since WBE couldn't be found.

Seals asked if they have looked beyond PAUCP. Manella said that they had looked at PAUCP primarily, but they regularly are on the look out especially since PAUCP is so broad.

Nathan said that shouldn't it be the line of work to search for MWBEs who would be able to become certified.. Manella said that he does not call potential MWBEs to see if they would be willing to certify.

Williams asked to clarify that Manella said that he does not have other methods of outreach. Manella said that he only looks at certified searches.

Laing said that the other check boxes in the process which allow other search options because PAUCP website and B2GNow. Manella asked how HACP could use the certification. Laing asked if...

Laing motions to approve. Conley seconds. Conley, Myers McCants-Lewis, Laing  
Against: Hall, Seals, Nathan

### **III. Committee Report Updates**

- WBE Committee- Demeshia Seals, Emily Pontarelli, Rick Williams

### **IV. Chairman's Remarks**

- Florence Rouzier's resignation

### **V. Manager's Minute**

- Tracey McCants-Lewis tenure appointment  
Seals congratulated ML on her tenure appointment with cupcakes.
- Department of Public Works meeting follow-up  
Williams said that there was a good conversation with Department of Public Works and Mobility and Infrastructure to talk about how EORC can be more involved more in the procurement process and pre-bid list.

### **VI. Adjournment**