

Equal Opportunity Review Commission

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

12:00 PM

City County Building

Sixth Floor City Stats Room 646

414 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Commissioners in Attendance: Erin Conley, Tracey McCants-Lewis, Barry Nathan, Karen Hall, Demeshia Seals, Justin Laing, Ralph Bangs, Gonzalo Manchego

Absent Commissioners: Jessica Bellas, James Myers Jr.

Staff in Attendance: Ricardo Williams, Oliver Beasley, Valerie McDonald Roberts

I. New

- **1705-01-** Office of Management & Budget, PWSA Restructuring Advisor (Infrastructure Management Group)

Sam Ashbaugh introduces the plan representing the Office of Mayor William Peduto for the advisory team to complete an overall assessment of the PWSA from an organizational, operational and financial standpoint. Ashbaugh states that it was 100% unlikely that any firm would be able to handle the entire scope of the RFP and it was the intention of the City of Pittsburgh to bring the best team to the table, as well as, meet the participation goals of the City of Pittsburgh.

Steve Steckler states that the skillset needed for the assignment has two parts. An assessment phase that IMG has been doing for 23 years, and a legal and technical phase that IMG is not as familiar with, as they are not accustomed to doing business with the City of Pittsburgh. Steckler goes on to state the DBE firms he reached out to come from Allegheny County and City of Pittsburgh contacts.

Ashbaugh states that a number of firms that bid for the RFP already had a preconceived notion of how to fix the PWSA and that is not what the City of Pittsburgh is looking for. The City of Pittsburgh is looking for an unbiased assessment and best options and IMG presented the best case for that specific area.

Conley suggests that a list of documentation for outreach would be helpful to the commission and benefit the case for the proposed plan.

Laing asked if there are opportunities for the RFP to be broken up to allow other firms to bid on specific jobs in their expertise. Ashbaugh states that addendums to uncompleted tasks would be the ideal way to approach that idea rather than breaking up the core of the RFP.

Bangs states that Beacon is an ineffective method of outreach. Ashbaugh explains that Beacon is the bidding tool and that he reached out directly to the EORC for potential subcontractors.

Conley motions to approve the plan. Nathan seconds. Laing, Bangs, Hall, Manchego oppose the plan. Seals, McCants-Lewis abstain.

PLAN IS NOT APPROVED

- **1705-02-** Office of Management & Budget, Development Process Optimization (Zucker Systems)

Ashbaugh introduces Paul Zucker, Carol Barrett, and Clifford Graves who are phone conferenced in on the meeting. Ashbaugh states that this is parallel for consulting for another contract that is being executed by the Permits Licensing & Inspections Department. Ashbaugh explains that Barrett and Graves are not firms, but individual consultants that are in the process of being certified.

Zucker states that they are a very specialized firm and that they do not use junior consultants as the reputation of his firm stands by his professional work.

Laing asks why Zucker feels that 10.3% MBE is a good faith effort. Zucker states that when it comes down to budget there is a limit whether or not they can replace consultants that they have been using for years and trust their work. Laing asks that if what Zucker is implying is that Zucker knows of DBE firms have the capacity to complete the work and increase the participation but they are not being utilized because of the comfort level Zucker has with his incumbent consultants. Zucker agrees.

Conley motions to approve. Seals seconds. Nathan, Hall, McCants-Lewis, Manchego in favor of the plan. Laing, Bangs oppose the plan.

PLAN IS APPROVED

- **1705-03-** Pittsburgh Parking Authority, Ft. Duquesne & 6th Garage Repairs and Preventive Maintenance (Carl Walker Construction)

Christopher Holt introduces Joe White from Carl Walker Construction. Holt explains the scope is comprehensive structural repair and maintenance. Holt

states that the goals on the plan are incorrect. The true percentages and figures are \$815,000 (10.6%) MBE and \$80,000 (1%) WBE. Holt states that there is an error with Cooper Trading. As they should be receiving \$700,000.

Bangs states that there must be tons of DBE firms to complete this work and asks why they have not been utilized. Joe White states that his firm only had six days to bid on the contract and received no proposals from DBE firms. Williams asks subcontractor Jamie Younger in audience if he was reached out to. Younger states that he was not reached out to and that he is not here for this plan being presented.

McCants-Lewis asks the White about his good faith efforts. Regarding why all the boxes were checked on the good faith effort when White states he was unable to efficiently do a good faith effort due to time restraints.

White states that Carl Walker targeted the larger portions of the project to obtain additional participation in the short time frame they were given.

Bangs motions to not approve. Laing Seconds. Vote is unanimously in favor
PLAN IS NOT APPROVED

- **1705-04-** City Planning, Greater Hazelwood Neighborhood Plan (Gensler Chicago)

Andrew Dash and Alexander Phillips introduce the plan for consulting for the Hazelwood area. Dash explains the good faith efforts taken by the City of Pittsburgh, City Planning Department and Gensler Chicago. Dash explains that one subcontractor on the plan is currently not certified (Urban Kind). However, after Urban Kind are certified in a few months that will propel the participation for the plan to 46% instead of the proposed 27%.

Laing Motions to approve. Seals seconds. Vote is unanimously in favor.
PLAN IS APPROVED

- **1703-05-** Finance, Taxpayer Location Services (MuniServices)

Edward Barca introduces Patrick Scott and Lisa Veralli from MuniServices. Barca explains the scope of the project being that the City of Pittsburgh is trying to find the businesses that are in Pittsburgh that are not certified and not paying their taxes. Scott and Lisa explain that they have been doing revenue enhancements for governments for 30 years and their confidence in being able to execute the goals of this plan. Scott explains the outreach and good faith effort that he personally took in trying to identify the DBE firms in the area that have specialization in investigative services. Scott was unable to find any DBE firms within the area that could handle the workload.

McCants-Lewis motions to approve. Bangs seconds. Vote is unanimously in favor.
PLAN IS APPROVED

- **1703-06** – Office of Management & Budget, Budget Publishing Software (Workiva)

Rea Price introduces Dean Fischer from Workiva. Price explains the scope of the plan being licensing of the software. The software will be used to do the yearly capital budget by the staff of Management & Budget.

Laing motions to approve. McCants-Lewis seconds. Vote is unanimously in favor.

PLAN IS APPROVED

II. Chairman's Remarks

- Nathan comments on the attendance of special meeting that was called last week.
- Nathan commits to managing the time of the presenters and commissioners for a more efficient meeting.

III. Adjournment