



Florida Advisory Council on Small and Minority Business Development

MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2015

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

Chair Gonzalez welcomed everyone to the meeting. **IN ATTENDANCE:** Cheryl Gonzalez, **Chair** - (University of North Florida), Jay Narang (GDKN Corporation), Pamela Hart Frazier (Palm Beach County), Ben Harris (City of Tallahassee), Barbara Rhodes Melvin (Wells Fargo Bank), George Owen (Independent Consultant), Rhett Frisbie (The Florida Bar), Christine McMillon (Ensync Diversified Management Services), Malik Ali (FMSDC) and Carlos Rodriguez (Maverick Constructors, Inc.). Also, on the call were the DMS/OSD staff members Thad Fortune-MBE Administrator and Denise Wright, Administrative Assistant who recorded the minutes.

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Julius Davis (VoltAir Consulting Engineers), Anne Marie Richards (Office Depot), Augusto Sanabria (Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida) and Wendy Grey (Wendy Grey Land Use Planning LLC).

Agenda Modification/Adoption: Mr. Rodriguez moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Narang. The agenda was accepted and approved unanimously by the Council.

Adoption of Minutes from the January 7, 2015 meeting: Mr. Rodriguez moved to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Narang. The minutes was accepted and approved unanimously by the Council.

Department of Management Services, OSD'S Update, Thad Fortune:

- Mr. Fortune stated over the past month there has been a great deal of outreach efforts with the OSD staff. OSD will begin their Regional Business MatchMakers starting with the first one next week in Pensacola. Mr. Fortune said there are twenty five entities confirmed to conduct the One-On-One Sessions and fifteen of these entities are state agencies. OSD is also gearing up for the Northeast Regional in Jacksonville March 12th. OSD is working with the local governmental entities in Jacksonville to increase the number of opportunities through the One-On-One Sessions. Also, Mr. Fortune met with Secretary Poppell and he said he will try and attend the Jacksonville Regional but to be cognizance that Session will be in at that time and he may not be able to attend.
- Mr. Fortune stated one of the promotions of the Governor's Office is the recruitment of veterans to the State of Florida. There is a program called "Florida for Veterans" and OSD is working with them to make sure they understand the concept, requirements and responsibilities of veteran owned companies for the certification process.
- Mr. Fortune reminded Council members that when a Regional MatchMaker event come to their region and if they can participate, if they can give a greeting from the Council.
- Mr. Fortune stated that last month certification of new companies increased in numbers. At this time there are over 5,000 companies certified/recertified with OSD in the online directory. Also, if a vendor sends in a completed application, OSD is able to certify that company in approximately fifteen business days. If information is omitted by the company and the Officer has to send them an information request, it will take longer than the fifteen day time frame.
- Ms. Gonzalez said she got a call from Ms. Budd, Secretary Poppell's assistant, which stated the Secretary has been called away to a state wide meeting and will not be able to attend the Regional in Jacksonville on March 12th.

Council Chair/Vice Chair's Update:

- A. **Policy Recommendations Update:** Ms. Gonzalez stated the establishment of a Direct Support Organization, the realignment of the Definition of a Small Business and the reconfiguration of the Micro Finance Legislation are all still on the table.
- B. **G6 Report:** Ms. Gonzalez stated that Bill Spivey is meeting with the group in Miami to discuss the route that Enterprise Florida wants to take as a result of input from the Council and other members of G6.
- C. **Legislative Session Perspectives:** Ms. Gonzalez mentioned the authorization of a budget for the Council per **statue**. She said when she met with Secretary Poppell, he said what the **statue** say the Council is supposed to be doing and what the Council is supposed to have, he expects and anticipate following the **statue**. Ms. Gonzalez stated she will follow up with Secretary Poppell on the Council's budget because she would like to know what members can attend the SFMSDC 30th Annual Business Expo in Ft. Lauderdale in April. She said the Council has been approved to have their meeting on April 14th. A conference call will be set up for those members who cannot make the face-to-face meeting.

Old Business and Actions Requiring Votes:

- A. **Comprehensive Plan Implementation Plan Review:** Ms. Gonzalez asked members they agreed to Chair a committee, to please look over that information and if they have questions to send it to Ms. Wright to forward to Ms. Grey.
- B. **State Agency Vendor Diversity Committee Update:** Mr. Frisbie stated his committee is following up with DMS and DBPR since Mr. Larson got reconfirmed this committee is trying to schedule a meeting with him so they can implement some of the initiatives that use to be in place at DBPR to close the learning gap for small businesses.
- C. **Strategic Planning Session Ideas (SPS):** Ms. Gonzalez stated the meeting in Ft. Lauderdale needs to be 9am-2pm. She asked Ms. Wright to contact Ms. Beatrice Louissaint at (305) 762-6151 to make sure room is set up for the meeting. Also, Ms. Gonzalez asked members if they had any ideas for the SPS to let her know.
- D. **Call for Appointment Recommendations:** Ms. Gonzalez stated the Council has an opportunity to make recommendations to Secretary Poppell for new Council members. She asked members to please ask people they recommend to send their resumes and cover letters to Ms. Wright and she will forward to her and Secretary Poppell. Ms. Gonzalez stated members are needed from the Panhandle, Key West and Miami Regions. Members are needed in banking, insurance, legal background and economic development background. Also, lacking is someone from the State of Florida who is a procurement official.

Action Items:

- Ms. Gonzalez asked Mr. Rodriguez to send a one pager to Ms. Wright on bonding regarding his experience and knowledge in the field so she can forward to Council members.
- Ms. Gonzalez reminded members to send Ms. Wright their committee meeting schedule so she can add to the calendar.
- Ms. Gonzalez asked members who haven't already sent their pictures and bios to please update them and send to Ms. Wright.
- Mr. Narang will check with hotels to see what kind of rates he can get for Council members.
- Ms. Gonzalez got a head count of about 9-10 members that will attend the meeting in Ft. Lauderdale.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 3:15 p.m.