



MEETING MINUTES

Jan. 6, 2016

2:00 – 3:00 pm

Welcome & Introductions:

IN ATTENDANCE: Chair Cheryl Gonzalez (University of North Florida), Vice Chair Jay Narang (GDKN Corporation), Christine McMillon (ENSYNC Diversified Management Services), Barbara Rhodes Melvin (BMR-Melvin Consulting), Augusto Sanabria (Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida), and Ray Spaulding (FAMU Veterans Affairs).

From OSD: Hue Reynolds (Executive Director), Sherry Fagg (Stakeholder Relations Coordinator) and special DMS guest Ben Fairbrother. The minutes were recorded by Hue Reynolds.

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Malik Ali (FMSDC), Julius Davis (VoltAir Consulting Engineers), and Rhett Frisbie (The Florida Bar).

Members of the Public in attendance:

Michelle Andrewin was in attendance, representing FAMBEO on behalf of Sheena Ferguson. Katrina Alexander was also in attendance from the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County.

Agenda Modification/Adoption:

Since Chair Gonzalez was officially on annual leave, she asked that Vice Chair Narang spearhead the January meeting. Vice Chair Narang then took roll and called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm. Barbara Melvin motioned to accept the agenda as delivered. Ray Spaulding seconded the motion, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

Minutes of December 2, 2015 Meeting:

Prior to the meeting minutes vote, Chair Gonzalez asked if the Council had the most up-to-date copy of the minutes from the Dec. 2nd meeting since there was miscommunication among staff about which version was being considered for a vote. Hue Reynolds clarified that the version 2 with the red strike-throughs on the website was the appropriate version to vote upon. This version was also emailed to the Council members prior to the meeting.

Chair Gonzalez made the motion to accept the meeting minutes, version 2, from the December meeting. Barbara Melvin seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Florida Department of Management Services Office of Supplier Diversity Report:

- To date, eight individuals have been recommended for Council membership. OSD is awaiting approval on these individuals and will provide an update to the Council as soon as membership of these individuals have been approved.



- Hue Reynolds also shared that the Office of Supplier Diversity will be hosting two brand new events, called Supplier Diversity Exchanges. On February 11, the event will be held in Pensacola in coordination with the Small Business Development Center at the University of West Florida. On March 22, the event will be held in coordination with the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.
- OSD will also participate in other events as the budget allows, including the Tallahassee-based event hosted by FAMU in May.
- Hue shared that the draft of the Advisory Council Annual Report will go out to members today for their feedback and edits. In addition, OSD is currently working on its Annual Report that is due the first of February. She will provide a copy of the OSD report to the Council members upon its completion.

Council Chair/Vice Chair's Updates:

- Vice Chair Jay Narang commended Chair Gonzalez on the annual report draft. Vice Chair Narang also commented on the article from the *Miami Herald* that was forwarded to the Council members that provides support for what the Council is doing. With Florida having the third highest minority businesses, there will continue to be an influx of wealth and the work that the Council is doing will have a significant impact on the business community.
- Vice Chair Narang also shared that the National Minority Supplier Development Council has formally disassociated from the Central Florida NMSDC. The state will now have one NMSDC that will be spearheaded by Beatrice Louissaint based in Miami.
- Following Vice Chair Narang's comments, Chair Gonzalez highlighted SB 438 proposed by Sen. Bullard that deals with small business participation in state contracting. The similar house version is HB211. Chair Gonzalez suggested that members follow these bills since they tie very closely to the work that the Council does.

Old Business - Committee Reports:

A. Research and Emerging Trends Committee, Barbara Melvin, Chair

Barbara Melvin stated that not much work has been done with the Research and Emerging Trends Committee since last summer because of her transition from Wells Fargo. However, there was review of the state's definition of a small business and considering opportunities for more access to capital for small businesses. She is hopeful that with the addition of new Council members, her Committee can grow. Some of the issues that the Committee would also address include the Microfinance Act and micro-business lending.



Ray Spaulding motioned to approve the Committee's report and the motion was seconded by Augusto Sanabria. The Council accepted the report as presented.

B. State Agency Vendor Diversity Committee, Rhett Frisbie, Chair

Chair of the State Agency Vendor Diversity Committee Rhett Frisbie was unable to attend the meeting. There was no report at this time. However, Hue shared that she and Rhett have met, along with Christine McMillon to discuss the action items that the Committee have been working on.

C. Small Business Participation Study, Cheryl Gonzalez, Chair

Chair Gonzalez provided an update on the Small Business Participation Study. Since the RFP was posted and one response was given in 2013, the Council has not moved on this particular item. During the December meeting, the Council did vote to include this as an action item moving forward. Vice Chair Narang suggested that the Council reach out to colleges or universities that may be willing to conduct such a study pro bono.

Barbara Melvin made a motion to accept the report as presented and the motion was seconded by Ray Spaulding. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. Annual Report, Cheryl Gonzalez, Chair

Chair Gonzalez apologized to the Council for not getting the Annual Report to members last summer. She thanked Hue for getting the information out to the council members for their review during the holiday. Chair Gonzalez asked that if any members had pictures to send, to please send them to Hue for inclusion. Chair Gonzalez also shared the email that she sent to the Governor's office providing a summary of the Annual Report. Hue has since forwarded that communication to the Council.

Chair Gonzalez also wanted to add a congratulatory message about Augusto Sanabria serving as a member of the Enterprise Florida stakeholder group.

Barbara Melvin made the motion to accept the report as presented. Christine McMillon seconded the motion, and the Council approved the report unanimously.

New Business:

Some Council members shared their thoughts for a face-to-face meeting. Two options were presented:

- Fort Lauderdale: Southern Florida Minority Supplier Development Council – 31st Annual Business Expo, April 28-29
- Tampa: Florida SBDC at USF event, May 5



Last year, the Council met in conjunction with the Southern Florida Minority Development Council event in Fort Lauderdale. Chair Gonzalez, Vice Chair Narang and Barbara Melvin suggested that the Fort Lauderdale location would be ideal for them. Ray Spaulding mentioned that FAMU will have its spring graduation during the same time as the Fort Lauderdale event, which would pose a travel issue for him. Other members did not provide commentary either way. Vice Chair Narang asked that Hue take this as an action item and survey the members for their preference.

Public Commentary:

- The representatives from FAMBEO and Leon County did not have any comments to share.
- Chair Gonzalez asked if Michelle Andrewin wanted to provide any updates from FAMBEO. Michelle stated that currently FAMBEO is working to upgrade their website and are in the initial phase of planning a summit and recruiting for new members.
- Augusto Sanabria shared that the stakeholders meeting with EFI will be held Jan. 28 and 29 in Tallahassee. The meetings are open to the public and often times economic development directors participate in these meetings.
- Vice Chair Narang shared that the SFMSDC will be hosting its kickoff meeting and reception event on Jan. 28, from 3:00 – 8:30 pm in Miami. Visit sfmsdc.org for more details.
- Chair Gonzalez also shared that she became a proud grandmother as of Dec. 27, and is visiting with her family in Alaska at this time.

Next Scheduled Council Meeting: Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:02 pm