

Equal Opportunity Review Commission

MINUTES

January 16, 2024

12:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting

Commissioners in Attendance: Dr. Karen Hall, Tracey McCants Lewis, Dr. Jennie Sweet-Cushman, Chaquita H. Barnett, Angela Williams, Ivan Usero, Nina Gibbs & Ron Porter

Staff in Attendance: Chuck Durham, Darius M. Wallace, Upasna Goswami & Daniel Moore

I. Introduction: Roll Call

Dr. Karen Hall	Present	Tracey McCants Lewis	Present
Dr. Jennie Sweet-Cushman	Present	Chaquita Barnett	Present
Angela Williams	Present	Ivan Usero	Present
Nina Gibbs	Present	Ron Porter	Present

II. Motion to approve December 2024 minutes unanimously passed.

III. Commission Chair made a call for public testimony.

IV. New Plans

2501-01 Cowley Recreation Center

This is a construction plan submitted by the Department of Public Works. The prime on the plan is Ground Technology, Inc. D'Appolonia. There are two WBEs on the plan- Pashek + MTR & Auros Group with 32.54% participation. Bright Tree Studios, is the Veteran owned business with 2.19% participation. The total project cost is \$668,490.00.

Votes on Plan

Dr. Karen Hall	Present	Tracey McCants Lewis	Present
Dr. Jennie Sweet-Cushman	Present	Chaquita Barnett	Present
Angela Williams	Present	Ivan Usero	Present
Nina Gibbs	Present	Ron Porter	Present

Plan Approved

2501-02 Kennard Field Park -

This is a construction project submitted by the Department of Public Works. There was representation at the meeting from the prime, Cosmos Technologies, an MBE at 51.6 % participation. There are two WBEs on the plan namely UpStudio Landscapes, LLC & Tusick and Associates with 42.4% participation. Urban Terrain, a VOSB stands at 2.9% participation. The total project cost is \$582,946.00.

Votes on Plan

Dr. Karen Hall	Present	Tracey McCants Lewis	Present
Dr. Jennie Sweet-Cushman	Present	Chaquita Barnett	Present
Angela Williams	Present	Ivan Usero	Present
Nina Gibbs	Present	Ron Porter	Present

Plan Approved

2501-03 Frazier St. Steps-

This is a construction project submitted by Department of Mobility and Infrastructure. There was representation from the prime, Independent Enterprises, Inc., a Veteran owned business. The plan has three MBEs namely Cooper Trading Inc., Dream City Trucking & Minniefield Demolition that constitute 13.2% participation. The WBE, Raelyn Enterprises, Inc. comprises 0.5% participation. The total project cost is \$938,650.00.

Votes on Plan

Dr. Karen Hall	Present	Tracey McCants Lewis	Present
Dr. Jennie Sweet-Cushman	Present	Chaquita Barnett	Present
Angela Williams	Present	Ivan Usero	Present
Nina Gibbs	Present	Ron Porter	Present

Plan Approved

2501-04 Community Neighborhood Stewardship -

This is a professional services plan submitted by Department of Public Safety. The project manager and a representative from the prime, Center for Employment Opportunities was present to field questions. The plan has a Veteran owned business at 4.8% participation. The total project cost is \$50,000.00.

Votes on Plan

Dr. Karen Hall	Present	Tracey McCants Lewis	Present
Dr. Jennie Sweet-Cushman	Present	Chaquita Barnett	Present
Angela Williams	Present	Ivan Usero	Present
Nina Gibbs	Present	Ron Porter	Present

Plan Approved

2501-05 West Pittsburgh REACH Neighborhood Mobility Plan-

This is a professional services plan submitted by Department of Mobility and Infrastructure. A WBE, Toole Design Group, LLC is the prime on the plan. E Holding, Inc. is the MBE on this project at 17% participation. The total project cost is \$99,500.00.

Votes on Plan

Dr. Karen Hall	Present	Tracey McCants Lewis	Present
Dr. Jennie Sweet-Cushman	Present	Chaquita Barnett	Present
Angela Williams	Present	Ivan Usero	Present
Nina Gibbs	Present	Ron Porter	Present

Plan Approved

2501-06 Emergency Plumbing Services-

This is a professional services plan submitted by Housing Authority. Representatives from Housing Authority were present to share project information. The prime on the plan is First American Industries. The MBE on the plan is Arimas LLC, and the WBE is BIC Insulation Services at 18% and 7% participation respectively. The total project cost is \$2,200,035.00

Votes on Plan

Dr. Karen Hall	Present	Tracey McCants Lewis	Present
Dr. Jennie Sweet-Cushman	Present	Chaquita Barnett	Present
Angela Williams	Present	Ivan Usero	Present
Nina Gibbs	Present	Ron Porter	Present

Plan Approved

2501-07 Security Camera Maintenance-

This is a professional services plan submitted by Housing Authority. Representatives from Housing Authority were present. The prime on the plan is Xycom Technology Group. Necessary certification is to be maintained throughout the contract period. Mindburn Solution, is the MBE with 4% participation. The total project cost is \$3,477,673.00.

Votes on Plan

Dr. Karen Hall	Present	Tracey McCants Lewis	Present
Dr. Jennie Sweet-Cushman	Present	Chaquita Barnett	Present
Angela Williams	Present	Ivan Usero	Present
Nina Gibbs	Present	Ron Porter	Present

Plan Approved

V. Tabled Plan

2412-05 Moving Services-

This is a professional services plan submitted by Housing Authority. It was tabled previously. The two primes on the plan are Donn Farr Moving and Storage and Metro Moving and Storage. The vendor will perform residential moves for the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh as needed. Representatives from the Housing Authority explained the mandatory certification needed by vendors to offer such services limiting utilization of non-certified vendors. The commissioners recommended capacity building of businesses to enable them to participate in such opportunities. The project cost not-to-exceed \$918,275.00.

Votes on Plan

Dr. Karen Hall	Present	Tracey McCants Lewis	Present
Dr. Jennie Sweet-Cushman	Present	Chaquita Barnett	Present
Angela Williams	Present	Ivan Usero	Present
Nina Gibbs	Present	Ron Porter	Present

Plan Approved

- VI.** As part of Manager's comments, the commissioners were informed of the updated policy to alert the EORC, and bring before them for review the primes who are not fulfilling their goals of making payments to sub-contractors.
- VII.** Letters of Approval to be sent out by Office of Business Diversity.