
Allegheny County MBE Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
204 County Office Building, 542 Forbes Avenue
September 20, 2019
12:00 p.m.

Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

Victor Diaz – President, VideoTek Construction, LLC
Marc Little – CEO/President, Minority and Women Educational Labor Agency (MWELA)
M. Gayle Moss – Chair, MBE Advisory Committee
Barbara Parees – Deputy County Manager, Office of the Allegheny County Manager
Roxanne Sewell – President, The LJS Group
Toni Silva – Supplier Relations Director, UPMC
Andréa Stanford – Assistant County Manager, Office of the Allegheny County Manager
Tim Stevens – Chairman, Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP)
James Overton – President/Principal Advisor, Overton Financial Group

Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Brian Burley – Director of Economic Inclusion, Allegheny Conference
Abass Kamara – Partner, Carey Group

Also Present:

Ruth Byrd-Smith – Director, Allegheny County MWDBE Department
Lisa Edmonds – Deputy Director, Allegheny County MWDBE Department

Agenda

- I. Open Meeting**
- II. Introductions**
- III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**
- IV. Director's Report**
- V. Open House Recap**
- VI. Chair's Meeting with County Executive**
- VII. Discussion - Additional Committee Members**
- VIII. Miscellaneous**
- IX. Adjournment**

I. Open Meeting

II. Introductions

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The previous meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the members present.

IV. Director's Report

Ruth Byrd-Smith's report informed the Committee of the following:

- Participated on the panel at the CEIR Conference at Duquesne University
- Emcee at the 11th Annual Celebrate and Share Breakfast - 99th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment (Women's Right to Vote) at the Rivers Club
- Speaker at the Immigrant Business Fair at Duquesne University
- Will be continuing on the Transportation Research Board committee with an emeritus status

V. Open House Recap

Ms. Byrd-Smith briefly discussed the attendance of over 100 guests at the MWDBE Department's 2019 Annual Open House. Ms. Byrd-Smith also noted some of the guest speakers who attended including Lance Chimka, Director of the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development; Jenee Oliver, Business Diversity and Outreach Manager, Allegheny County Airport; and Thomas Klevan, Multimodal Planning Manager, Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission.

VI. Chair's Meeting with County Executive

M. Gayle Moss discussed with the Committee her meeting with County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. Ms. Moss informed the committee of the possibility that the MWDBE Department may fall under a new department.

VII. Discussion – Additional Committee Members

Andréa Stanford informed the Committee that Keyva Clark, President of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh Young Professionals, is interested in a conference meeting with Ms. Moss and potentially other members of the Committee to discuss the recruitment of younger members for the board.

VIII. Miscellaneous

The Committee voiced their concerns in the appointing of a new director for the MWDBE Department. Tim Stevens made a motion to recommend Lisa L. Edmonds as new director of the MWDBE Department, for which the Committee voted unanimously in favor.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.