

Special Note: The following is a summary of the Minutes taken from the Regional Business Development Advisory Council meeting held on March 21, 2013, and does not necessarily provide a detailed verbatim transcription of the Minutes.

MINUTES

REGIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thursday, March 21, 2013, 8:00 A.M.

Clark County Government Center

500 S. Grand Central Parkway, 1st Floor, Pueblo Room

Las Vegas, NV 89155

Members Present:

Kenyatta Lewis, MGM Resorts International - Chair
Yolanda Jones, City of Las Vegas – Vice Chair (Represented by Ed O’Neal)
Yvonne Schuman, Nevada Department of Transportation – Secretary
Amy Shaw, Clark County Department of Aviation
Deborah Laine, Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority
Cristina Lopez, Southern Nevada Water Authority
Dianne Fontes, Nevada Minority Supplier Development Council
Jeanine Pitts-Dilworth, Clark County Regional Flood Control District
Lydia Bilynsky, Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada
Mary Huff, Las Vegas Valley Water District
Penny Marchell, Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority
Rolando Mosqueda, College of Southern Nevada
Terry Hizon, Southern Nevada Health District
Thomas Boldt, Clark County Purchasing and Contracts
Valerie Parker, NAWBO Southern Nevada (Represented by Jacki Ramirez)

Legal Counsel:

Mark Wood, Clark County District Attorney’s Office

Members Absent:

Bramby Tollen, Clark County School District
Frederick James, Las Vegas-Clark County Library District
Jackie Ingram, Urban Chamber of Commerce
James Lopez, Hispanic Business Roundtable
Linda Poling, City of Henderson
Napoleon McCallum, Venetian Hotel & Casino
Sherrie Mayden, University of Nevada Las Vegas
Viveca Rehman, Henderson Library District

Guests:

Berna Rhodes-Ford, Rhodes-Ford & Associates
Jane Lee, Jadon Foods
Juana Hart, J-Hart Communications
Nikki Gomoluh, City of Las Vegas
Russ White, QVegas Business Alliance

I. Call to Order

Kenyatta Lewis, Chair, called the RBDAC meeting to order at 8:09 a.m.

II. Opening Ceremonies

Silent Invocation was conducted followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Certification of Compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law

It was announced that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law. The meeting was appropriately posted at the appropriate locations as listed at the bottom of the agenda.

IV. INTRODUCTIONS

The Council members and guest introduced themselves.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on the Planning for the Committed to Our Community Event

Penny Marchell stated that the event is scheduled for September 12, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This event is to get all the government agencies and suppliers in one place. All of the agencies that are associated with RBDAC are responsible to support any of the activities. She said that this event will be shortened because there will be more interaction.

Kenyatta strongly encouraged all RBDAC members to attend the Committed to Our Community event to greet the business community so that they get to know RBDAC. She mentioned there are many areas the Council can support. Also, **Penny** stated there will be exhibit tables for every government agency. **Kenyatta** suggested that the Council members have flyers in their business area to share with their suppliers. **Dianne** mentioned that the Nevada Minority Supplier Development Council has included the flyer in their newspaper and they are constantly sending it to their membership because it is a valuable annual event.

B. Update on the Legislature BDRs

Penny gave a handout to the members and explained that there are six bills in the Legislature that could possibly affect RDAC dealing with minority outreach and participation. She said AB 151 provides for state funding transportation to establish a minority preference. **Yvonne** made a correction on AB 151 that it should be participation goals because it does not give preference and it is primarily for NDOT and it extends the current federal DBE program to state funded projects.

Penny also stated AB 169 which is basically a collection in reporting demographic data through public works contracts. AB 281 requires prevailing wage records to reflect the ethnicity of each worker if that person volunteers that information. Then there is AB 291 which is a preference in state purchasing for disable veterans. AB 294 is setting up a certification program for emerging small businesses and affects NRS 332 and 333 which would require local agencies in Clark County to provide a report to the Governor's Office of Economic Development. Finally, **Penny** explained that the last BDR was resubmitted from last year and requires preference to local bidders for goods and services. She stated that these bills change constantly, but after March 25, 2013, there will not be any new bills.

C. Communication Committee Update

Dianne Fontes stated that the communication committee met via conference call and discussed creating a newsletter that includes information on BDAC and RBDAC. The newsletter will be named Business Advisory which will be posted in the Clark County's website with an inaugural issue of June 1, 2013. The communication committee thinks the newsletter is a great way to market RBDAC because the business community is not aware of RBDAC, how the Council helps and how often the Council meets. On behalf of the committee, **Dianne** requested a photo from the members and a description on what their job is in the entity they represent.

Jane Lee mentioned that they also met with **Ashok Mirchandani** who is the deputy directory of the State of Nevada Department of Business and Industry. He invited to include all the events for RBDAC and BDAC on their calendar. **Jane** think is it great because it gives the Council more exposure.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of the December 13, 2012 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were unanimously approved with a correction that Jeanine Pitts-Dilworth was present at the December 13, 2012 meeting.

B. Conference Calling Policy

Information regarding the conference calling policy was not provided.

C. Local Disadvantaged Business Presentation (Rhodes-Ford & Associates)

Kenyatta had requested that a local business be given the opportunity to give a presentation to RBDAC at every quarterly meeting. She said that Tom Akers provided a list of the graduates from the Clark County Business Development Program that he thought would be ready to present at the level of doing business. **Kenyatta** invited **Ms. Berna Rhodes-Ford** to present to the Council.

Berna Rhodes-Ford stated she is the owner of Rhodes-Ford & Associates which is a minority, women-owned certified law firm in Las Vegas. There are two attorneys and a staff of four other individuals that work with her. She has been an attorney for 17 years and opened her own business two years ago. Her ultimate goal is to become one of the largest minority-owned law firms in the country. **Berna** said she had the privilege of working with Tom Akers through the Clark County Business Development Education Program (CCBDEP) which supports local disadvantaged businesses by teaching them how to register their companies for certain bid opportunities and introduces them to individuals in Clark County and other people who help local small businesses get opportunities to do business and grow.

Since her participation in the CCBDEP, **Berna** was able to get contracts with UMC and represents them on litigation matters. Some of her other clients include JCPenney and Prudential. Rhodes-Ford & Associates provide their services to corporations and entities. They focus on employment law, litigation matters and they engage in corporate law which is everything from helping individuals form their own company and getting them set up with their governmental documents such as their operating agreement. Also, her company does healthcare law so when doctor's partners have disputes, she helps break the company in a way that is best for her client and for everyone involved.

Yvonne encouraged **Berna** to apply for a DBE certification because it will be useful for her when the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) has legal contract opportunities. **Dianne** also suggested getting MBE certifications. **Berna** said she was going to get the certifications and she will share that information with other disadvantaged and minority businesses so they don't miss the opportunities that are out there.

Ed O'Neal asked her to be an exhibitor at the Committed to Our Community event because she is a resource to the small emerging businesses that could use legal representation.

Berna thanked the RBDAC members for providing her with opportunities.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dianne announced the Nevada Minority Supplier Development Council (NVMSDC) luncheon is on March 21, 2013, at 11:30, in their training development center, on how to grow a multi million dollar business. Also, NVMSDC is hosting their 18th Annual Excellence Award on Saturday, May 18, 2013, at the Paris Hotel.

Kenyatta mentioned that she received a telephone call and a meeting notice from Assemblywomen Irene Bustamante Adams and Assemblywomen Dina Neal. **Kenyatta** and **Yoli** will meet with them to discuss the RBDAC report to the Legislature on Tuesday, March 26, 2013. Also, **Kenyatta** said she will provide feedback to the Council about the meeting.

Amy Shaw announced that on Monday, March 25, 2013, the Clark County Department of Aviation is co-hosting an event with Commissioner Weekly. It is a session on the airport, but also on certification of DBEs and CBEs, as well as purchasing and construction.

Jane mentioned that this year was the inaugural year for the small business competition called Project Vesto which was funded in part by the Governor's Office of Economic Development and by private industries. She said that out of the 230 businesses that applied there are now 12 finalists and only one will win the price of \$100,000 grant which is huge for any small business. **Dianne** mentioned that **Jane** is one of the 12 finalists.

Russ White said his is the publisher of QVegas magazine and president of QVegas Business Alliance which is a non-profit organization. He mentioned that they are the local affiliate for the NGLCC and they are hosting a road show event on Friday, April 19, 2013, at the Monte Carlo.

Kenyatta stated that the ISM Supplier Opportunity Fair is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, 2013, at Brady Industries.

Juana J-Hart said that the Business Opportunity Workforce Development (BOWD) program is accepting enrollment year-round and it is free of charge to the businesses that apply. They also launched a program for the Safe SB team which is the concept that is used to administer the BOWD program. It is live on the radio on KALV, station 1230 am, on Wednesday's at 3:00 p.m. She encouraged the Council to listen to the show because questions are answered regarding the BOWD program and they could also listen to businesses talk about what they have experienced and how their businesses are growing as a result of their participation.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, July 18, 2013, 8:00 a.m., 1st Floor, Pueblo Room, Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV, 89155

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

With twenty-four (24) hours advance request, a sign language interpreter may be available by phoning 455-2426 or TDD 385-7486.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

Notice/Agenda of the above-noted meeting has been posted per Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements at the following locations:

1. Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Pkwy., Las Vegas, NV 89155
2. Clark County District Court Administration, 200 S. 3rd Street, Las Vegas, NV 89155
3. Regional Transportation Commission, 600 S. Grand Central Pkwy., Las Vegas, NV 89106
4. Clark County Aviation McCarran International Airport, 5757 Wayne Newton Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89119