

Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Business Advisory Committee June 2023 Meeting Summary

Attendance

Members **Present (6)** Vicki Gray, Angela Hofmann, Margaret Pimentel, Sukia Akiba, Jennie Song, Jason Doo

Absent (5) Nephtaliem McCrary, Zina Thompson, Erinn Pearson, Jaswinder Kaur, Keisha Greaves

City staff **Present (2)** Allyson Allen, Stinley Pierre (CDD)

Others

Welcome & Introductions

Allyson Allen (AA) opened the virtual meeting at 4:00 PM by welcoming members of the BIPOC Business Advisory Committee. Committee members went around and introduced themselves and their businesses.

Discussion

Allyson and Stinley reviewed the slide deck and explained the work done to prepare for the Supplier Diversity Fair planned for Oct 2023.

AA explained the data gathering efforts which include chatting with municipalities, bio/pharma companies, hospitals and higher-education institutions and M/WBEs. Interviews were also conducted with organizations who have long supported supplier diversity including the Greater New England Minority Supplier Diversity Council, Massachusetts Supplier Diversity Office and area community financial development institutions. The next phase of data gathering will confirm participating large institutions, companies, and local diverse businesses so we can analyze the registrations and do the match-making for the event.

SP presented the resource coordination plan which includes offering certification workshops, financial resources, marketing support and a toolkit to share our learnings. These events, planned to support diverse businesses in submitting bids, will kick off in August and be offered leading up to the fair. Lastly, the fair date was announced as a save the date – time to be confirmed later.

Committee members largely agreed with the challenges identified by small businesses. Bids are confusing and a lot of resources. Often times, the bond requirement is prohibitive. Certification is a long time-intensive process and winning bids isn't guaranteed. They expressed excitement about the large companies and organizations who have agreed to participate and underscored the importance of having the right buyers/decision-makers in the room.

Other Committee Items

None

Public comment

None

Meeting adjourned at 5:12 PM.