



Minutes of the Agenda Legal and Regular Meeting  
Of DBE Expansion Committee of the Southside Economic Development District

– September 7, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

The legal and regular meeting of the DBE Expansion Committee was held on September 7, 2023, at 10 a.m. in room 117 of the Business Building at ULM.

Present were: Tony Little, chairman; Roosevelt Wright, Jr.

Absent was Tyrone Goodin.

Also present were Mrs. Sonya Jacobs, a DBE consultant, and members of her staff. Ms. Mondrian Dixon and Dr. Dorothy Nairne, grant writers, as well as Christopher Lewis

There was a quorum.

An invocation was offered by Mr. Wright.

Mrs. Jacobs reported that the roofing work on the Arizona facility is complete, but other exterior work is needed. Since the building is exposed, she said it appeared to present an emergency situation that should be addressed quickly.

On motion of Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. Little, the committee unanimously agreed to recommend to the SEDD board that an emergency be declared for the purpose of repairing the exterior and interior of the Arizona complex. JDS consultants will be authorized to seek quotes and proceed judiciously to get the building secure and ready for occupancy.

Dr. Nairne reported that SEDD has three grants in the queue. She said she expects to hear whether our application for the DBE center has been approved this month. In addition, she said two other grants are being pursued. She said one of the grants, the Solar for All grant, is also being pursued by the City of Monroe, the State of Louisiana, and another organization called Hope.

She said since both the city and SEDD were seeking to serve the same demographic, SEDD could either partner with the city and share the grant of \$25 million if awarded, or it could proceed independently of the city. In that instance, SEDD would need to show how it is better

situated to serve the Southside than the city, considering the city's lackluster history with dealing with the problems of the Southside demographic. She said she would write the grant either way the SEDD desires it to be done.

Mrs. Jacobs presented a proposed registration form for the SEDD website integration and explained how it helps collect data and prepare those interested in qualifying for government contracts to prepare themselves.

She announced that the Metro Regional Black Chamber of Commerce Black Wealth Expo will be held on September 21, 2023. The cost for SEDD to have a booth is \$350.00.

She also noted that future plans for DBEs include a business training class for capability statements and registrations and certifications. She explained capability statements and other particulars that would help DBEs become eligible for government procurement participation.

After 1:40 minutes of discussion, the meeting adjourned.