



City of Portland

Fair Contracting Forum Meeting Summary

Thursday, June 22, 2017

City Hall, 3rd Floor, Rose Room

1221 SW 4th Ave., Portland, Oregon

DRAFT

Members were welcomed by Christine Moody and then there were self-introductions. Christine called for announcements:

Pat Daniels said Constructing Hope is having a Graduation Ceremony tonight for 20 students, five of which have jobs already. They are offering a youth program this year with Airway Science. The program will be held at the NW College of Construction for 5 weeks.

Herb Fricke announced he stepped down from his position with The Native American Chamber and the new president is Eddie Sherman.

Nat McCoy recently attended the Nation NAMC convention where members from all over the country discussed issues surrounding minority contractors.

CEIP and FCF Budget Note

The City of Portland CAO, Tom Rinehart thanked Christine Moody for her years of service and said she would be missed.

Tom noted that the Mayor asked him to move forward with the MWESB work already started and to deliver on the construction work for 2017. He provided an update on the CEIP suggesting nothing is final yet but that he and the Mayor are in discussion.

Tom shared information on the FCF Budget Note, to hold regular FCF quarterly meetings where data will be presented and feedback given from members, also, to get everyone at the table for these meetings. The ECPC will be added to the FCF including its mission, they are just waiting to hear from the Mayor.

Members commented that they wanted to read the budget notes. Dante James will send out the language. He indicated that the goal is to fold the ECPC tasks in with the FCF.

For questions see Tom or you can also ask questions of Larry or Dante.

City of Portland Workforce Training Policy and Data

Cathleen Massier went over the current policy for the workforce program. She noted that the current program applies to projects for 200k and above for primes and subs 100k and above. Contractors must document their efforts to meet the requirements. There is a utilization goal of 18% Minorities and 9% Women on projects.

The City administers the same or similar workforce programs for Portland Public Schools, Prosper Portland, Home Forward and Portland Housing Bureaus. They all share the same dollar thresholds although Prosper Portland is a different.

Totals for 2016-2017 will be completed next month. There were larger higher valued projects 2011-2014 that explains the spike in the data in CMGC City projects. There are several CMGC projects underway but are not quite to the construction phase.

Cathleen discussed the participation against goals noting that we've met benchmarks with female participation lagging. She went over the results of the apprenticeship participation 15-20% over the last 6 years. There is more to it if you look at the individual contractors the information shows just a general sense how we are doing.

Cathleen walked the group through tables and data. She pointed out the highlights, and the level of apprentice and journey level participation by ethnicity and gender. Next she discussed contract volume versus training that was being provided on projects.

There was a question on what the data is based on?

Cathleen response was the man hours for the contractors who were subject to the workforce training and hiring requirements, so it's not going to be every contractor working on a project.

There was a discussion on the data and the reason for the spikes and declines.

Have contractors seen a problem hiring workers. Comments from several contractors appeared to agree that it is hard to find workers right now, especially minorities and women.

A request was made to separate the data from primes and subs to see who is doing what in terms of utilization. Cathleen indicated she could do that.

Workforce Policy Updates

Cathleen spoke about the comparisons she has been doing with regards to the workforce policy updates. She noted that many cities in the general vicinity have much higher dollar thresholds, Seattle's for instance is one million dollars Cathleen said that the City is looking at where training opportunities occur on the projects. Her data shows where apprentice opportunity occur and at what project dollar thresholds. Most of the training takes place on projects over \$500 thousand.

There was a discussion on whether or if the City should raise its dollar threshold and the policy as it applies to contractors. There were several suggestions made to increase that dollar amount. Feedback was given on the impact to small contractors trying to find workers on their small projects. It was noted that training on smaller projects is only for a few days sometimes and that is not enough training time.

Some members felt like we would be losing training opportunities if the dollar amount were to be raised. It was suggested that there should be additional people who should have a voice in the issue before anything is decided.

Ken Rust asked what would be a workable dollar threshold. Also, what about projects that have higher labor costs versus material costs, should those be broken out? So, what's the right threshold, should it apply to all pieces of a contract, how do we then take that and move it forward? He asked that Procurement look at the policy taking into consideration the comments that were made and start looking at ways we can begin to change the policy. Then formulate it so that we can have a discussion maybe at the next meeting. Ken said that this conversation should move forward

Next Meeting October 26, 2017 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., Portland City Hall 3rd Floor - Rose Room