

FINANCE, BANKING & BUSINESS SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021
5:30pm
Zoom Meeting

Call to Order & Attendance Quorum

William Jacobson and Leontyne Brown, subcommittee co-chairs, called the meeting to order at 5:53 pm. Tiffany David, of the City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office, took attendance of participants for the meeting record. Leontyne Brown reviewed some housekeeping items and moved forward to accept the February meeting minutes. Leontyne Brown announced that the subcommittee name change to Finance, Banking, and Business was officially approved. Subcommittee members also agreed to not review the initial priorities due to time restrictions.

February Meeting Minutes

No comments were made about the February meeting minutes; the minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Small Business Survey

Subcommittee members discussed more details and logistics about the small business survey. The survey will be distributed to small business owners, as well as chambers of commerce, organizations and churches. The goal of this survey is to gather more insight about the small business community (challenges, accessibility, business info.) so that the subcommittee can better carry out their priorities. The number of questions, as well as the types of questions are under review.

Discussion:

Subcommittee members debated on which questions were appropriate to add to the survey. Question topics include zip codes, business information, challenges to business owners (particularly minority business owners), challenges under covid (PPP, SVA), understanding the challenges of forming a business for those who provide services but are not officially a business, accessibility to information that would resolve business issues (taxes, permits), and what it will take for a business to survive in the short-term and the long-term. The creation of a focus group was suggested to gather more concentrated and in-depth perspectives from business owners personally since the survey might not be able to get those types of answers. Kathryn McMahon-Klosterman, subcommittee member, also brought up the idea of creating a minority-owned business directory and subcommittee members liked the idea, they are considering adding it as another priority/suggestion to the Mayor.



Mayor's Task Force for Racial & Ethnic Equality

June 12th Action Summit

Kayla Elson reviewed the Action Summit goals and subcommittee expectations. Subcommittees will support in developing content for the Action Summit that highlights what the subcommittee has learned/focused on so far. Subcommittee members also need to figure out what information/feedback they would like to gain from community members at the Action Summit. There will be five rounds of breakouts for each subcommittee that gives the opportunity for community members to comment on each subcommittee area.

Next Steps

Kayla Elson and Tiffany David will finalize the survey questions based on feedback from today's meeting and redistribute it to co-chairs and subcommittee members for review and feedback via email. Kayla Elson will keep members informed regarding Action Summit needs and advertisement. Kayla Elson and Tiffany David will send out a document for subcommittee members to add other contacts to send the survey to. Finally, the creation of a focus group will be further explored by Kayla Elson and Tiffany David.

Adjourn

Leontyne Brown and Bill Jacobson, subcommittee co-chairs, adjourned the meeting 7:01 pm. The next meeting will be on April 14, 2021, 5:30pm on Zoom.

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Leontyne Brown, Subcommittee Co-Chair
William (Bill) Jacobson, Subcommittee Co-Chair

Darren Studstill, Subcommittee Member
Juan Carlos Tagle, Subcommittee Member
Juan Pagan, Subcommittee Member
Kathryn Aisling McMahon-Klosterman, Subcommittee Member

Tiffany David, City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office
Kayla Elson, Justice & Sustainability Associates
Emma Lipsky, Justice & Sustainability Associates

Absent:

None