

Houston Small Business Advisory Committee Minutes

May 24, 2007

FISCAL YEAR 2007 PRIORITIES

Provide input on TCEQ rules and policies to represent small businesses AND Strengthen partnerships with local elected officials.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – J. Kelly Mowry called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM,. J. Kelly recognized Dolly Arons for her election to Shore Acres City Council

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES REGULATION – SB1265 (March 1st Action Item #1) – Dolly, Jack and Ray want to clarify the wording in SB1265 from the 78th Regular Session. The Environmental Crimes Bill (SB1265) was designed to provide TCEQ oversight/review of enforcement case(s) brought by prosecutors for violations thought to be criminal.

ACTION ITEM # 1 – This item to remain on the agenda.

C2 CERTIFICATE RECOGNITION (March 1st Action Item #2) – Mickie Hillman presented a comparison chart with Houston Region 12 C2 Partners as 18% of total Texas C2 partners, El Paso approaching with 17%.

ACTION ITEM # 2 – SBAC's challenged to get more facilities into C2 program..

MINOR SOURCE RULE (March 1st Action Item #3-4) – Cynthia reviewed the NOX Rules and discussed SBEA outreach efforts. SBLGA distributed the Minor Source Rule booklet to trade associations. Clarence has contacted Dry Cleaners to see if they want to start a small group to review the rule to look for opportunities to give small businesses an exemption similar to the exemptions for ISD's.

ACTION ITEM # 3 – Clarence will talk with Metal Finishers, Foundries, Hotels and Medical Centers. **ACTION ITEM # 4** – Christine will identify what audience the focus was on for the distribution of the Minor Source Rule booklets and provide more details on the outreach efforts of SBEA..

LOCAL PROGRAMS UPDATE ON C2 AND MAJOR ISSUES (March 1st Action Item #5) – Clarence Gray provided the FY 06 SBEA Annual Report to Jack and Kelly. If anyone would like a copy, please contact Clarence.

HB440 (March 1st Action Item #6) – HB440 relating to controlling emissions of air contaminants under the Texas Clean Air Act and providing a penalty, to be reviewed to see how it would impact small businesses. **ACTION ITEM # 5** – This bill did not pass this session.

SB700 (March 1st Action Item #7) – Dolly Arons presented information on SB700 change the definition of Small Business to 500 employees and an annual gross of 6 million. Dolly suggested that we may look at it again in 2 years. This bill did not pass this session.

HB760 (March 1st Action Item #8) – The committee discussed HB 760 relating to the consideration of the cumulative effects of air contaminant emissions in the emissions permitting process. **ACTION ITEM # 6** – This bill did not pass this session.

MAYOR'S OFFICE UPDATE - Karl Pepple discussed several ordinances within the City of Houston, specifically; FOG Ordinance (Fat, Oil & Grease) – requires facilities to install grease traps and clean them regularly, Concrete Ordinance – creating a perimeter around concrete crushers restricting installation near schools, medical facilities, residence. Registration Ordinance – Facilities with more than 1 ton of air emissions to pay a fee, Floodway Nuisance Ordinance – and a Power Washing Ordinance Here's a website for additional information – www.houstontx.gov/enviroment for passed ordinances and suggested you check out the citizens page and the mayor button; www.houstonpowertopeople.com **ACTION ITEM # 7** – Clarence / Cynthia and Karl to check on outreach and keep SBAC in the loop.

TAKE CARE OF TEXAS CAMPAIGN – Clarence provided information on the Take Care of Texas Campaign and the Clean Texas program was discussed. Refer to www.takecareoftexas.com and www.cleantexas.org for more information. **ACTION ITEM # 8** – SBAC's challenged by Kelly to apply for the Bronze level of the Clean Texas program.

TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD (TEEA) – Christine Bergren recognized Sara Metzger as an award recipient for the Texas Environmental Excellence Awards in the Individual category

AUSTIN UPDATE – Melinda Houlihan announced the nomination of Kelly Mowry for the Small Business Environmental Stewardship Award. Melinda also provided an overview of bills of interest to small businesses and local governments. **ACTION ITEM # 9** – Clarence will provide a final list of bills that passed.

See www.sblga.info to find a full list of compliance tools or <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/sblga/sbac.html> for membership lists, meeting dates and directions.

Next SBAC Meeting: To be announced - plan to meet at the Patty Eldredge's Print Museum so be sure to come early and look around