

Minority Business Commission Meeting

Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 3pm via Zoom

Mr. Mark Menafee called the meeting to order and Ms. Kay Monroe seconded. (Ayes: Menafee, Monroe, Copeland-Whitsett, Hawthorne, Walker)

Present: Mr. Mark Menafee, Ms. Kay Monroe, Ms. Andrea Copeland-Whitsett, Ms. Sarah Hawthorne, Mayor Nikuyah Walker

Absent: Mr. Rek LeCounte, Ms. Zoie Smith

Ms. Hollie Lee presented a power point presentation on Minority Business Development's Activities.

- Recap of BRACE
- Recap of BEF Resiliency Fund
- Virtual GO Start-Up class
- GO Start-Up graduation
- Small Business Relief Grant
- Project Rebound Bag Giveaway
- Minority Business Virtual Expo

General discussion that members would follow up with individual members of the community about the Small Business Relief Grant due on July 17 at 4 pm.

Ms. Copeland-Whitsett suggested a virtual or in-person "application fair" take place in neighborhoods where minority owned businesses are located if the deadline for the Small Business Relief Grant deadline is extended.

Ms. Monroe expressed an interest in providing educational access to business financial education for small business owners. This would help the business owners be prepared to submit financial documents for their business at a moment's notice instead of acting as a barrier to relief programs.

Ms. Hawthorne suggested working with Piedmont Housing Alliance since they offer personal and business financial coaching.

Next meeting is October 22nd at 3 pm.

Mr. Menafee motioned to close the meeting and Ms. Copeland-Whitsett seconded. (Ayes: Menafee, Monroe, Copeland-Whitsett, Hawthorne)