

# NEVADA COMMITTEE OF BLIND VENDORS MEETING MINUTES

02/09/2023

1:00 PM

## **I. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum:**

**Ivan Delgado Villa, Vice Chair**

Ivan Delgado, Vice Chair  
Harold Petrofsky, Southern Representative  
Joe Urbanek, Southern Representative  
Nels Brown, Northern Representative

A quorum was present at this meeting.

## **II. Verification of Posting:**

**Shehan Peries**

Shehan Peries confirmed that the agenda was posted in a timely and correct manner.

## **III. First Public Comment Session:**

**Ivan Delgado Villa, Vice Chair**

No comments

## **IV. For Possible Action - Vote to Accept the Agenda:**

**Ivan Delgado Villa, Vice Chair**

Ivan Delgado asked for a motion to accept the agenda.  
Joe Urbanek motioned to accept the agenda.  
Nels Brown seconded it.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **V. Welcome and Introduction of Guests:**

**Ivan Delgado Villa, Vice Chair**

South: Ivan Delgado, Harold Petrofsky, Richard Taylor, Vanessa Davies, Jason Birmingham, Jason Bustillo, Bernetta Schlecter, Dion Williams, Miki Yamada, Lyncia Urbanek, Joe Urbanek, Sweet Daughtery, Ryan Barnard, Richard Eberly, Shehan Peries, Chris Mazza, Elizabeth Perring

North: Janette Parish, Nels Brown, Ken Pierson

## **VI. For Possible Action :**

**Ivan Delgado Villa, Vice Chair**

Approval of the minutes for the Nevada Committee of Blind Vendors meeting, November 15th, 2022.

Ivan Delgado asked for a motion to approve minutes.  
Nels Brown motioned.  
Harold Petrofsky seconded the motion.  
Motion passed unanimously.

## **VII. Old Business**

### **Discussion – BEN project and status update:**

**Chris Mazza, BEN Chief**

The Business Enterprises of Nevada is about to open BEN 59, the East Las Vegas Library on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. The Library District, Mesquite Library and now East Las Vegas Library, have been great partners. BEN 59 has been closed since March 2020 and hasn't been a viable site, but the Library has stepped up and we are now able to open.

With the election of a new Governor, who has expressed different views on employees in the office and other items than the last Governor, it could translate into a better situation at the DMV's, stopping with appointment only and starting with walk-ins. While we do not know the outcome, it does not feel like we are adequately serving Nevadans with the current state of appointments/walk-ins at the DMV. What is said during the State of the State still needs to go through legislation, so we will see the outcome over the next 5 months.

As a program, for first 6 months of Fiscal Year 23, revenue was a little over \$4.5 million, 9% above Last Year. It is very exciting and looking forward to seeing what is in store since we do tend to ramp up during the spring and summer months. Reserve is just under \$2.7 Million.

Regarding other sites, we are still waiting on Red Rock Canyon. We are corresponding with them and have sent them the first draft of a permit. They have yet to respond to that. For the City of Las Vegas, 2 buildings are being built by City Hall. They are offering a 2500 sq ft., F&B facility, grey shell, so it would be up to us to build infrastructure. It can typically be very expensive. Last time we looked at something like this was Symphony Park, a 1200 sq ft. facility and it was going to be close to \$1 million. The City of Las Vegas only works in office Monday – Thursday and the area is challenging, but we will do a site survey and look at it.

## **VIII. New Business:**

**Chris Mazza, BEN Chief**

BEN has sites that need operators in Reno/Carson, that are ready to go. These are Reno City Hall, Mills Lane Justice Center, Washoe County Admin Building, LCB Building, Bryan Building, NDOT and Carson DMV. We have no other possible operators who have been presented to us. If anyone knows anyone, let the program know. If someone wants to move up north, Richard Taylor is a good person to talk to. He did it, coming from Las Vegas.

Vocational Rehabilitation is updating their website. The website will have several sections and BEN will have their own. The logo we have is rather old so if anyone has ideas or inspiration for a more modern new logo, we are looking for ideas.

Joe Urbanek asked, what the current Logo is?

Chris Mazza stated that it is the big eye, blue and red, just a bit older looking.

Joe asked if we are looking for a different picture and words.

Chris responded not necessarily, just a more updated and modern look, something that grabs your attention.

## **IX. Second Public Comment:**

**Ivan Delgado Villa, Vice Chair**

Ivan Delgado asked if there are any questions.

Sweet Daughtery asked if we are looking to fill the sites in Reno/Carson before we look at the City of Las Vegas site.

Chris Mazza stated, not necessarily. The City of Las Vegas was just the most recent site presented. The reason we are talking about Reno/Carson is because these sites are ready for an operator right now. They are ready to go, have the equipment and could be very close to being open. The City of Las Vegas and that building isn't even breaking ground until 2024 so likely 2026 before it's even open. The DMV site, over on Las Vegas Blvd and Silverado is looking to break ground 2024, ready 2026. These are both new construction. Existing construction can be challenging. Example being Southern Nevada Housing Authority who we just had a conversation with. While they work every day, they may only spend 2 days in the office which is hard to make a business out of.

Jason Birmingham. BEO I is working on a Master Government Agency Site List. We will work through the list one by one and find untouched buildings with a sizable enough population. If we can add vending, a micro market or fully manned food service we will. This is what we are working on right now. Again, I only bring up Reno and Carson because they are ready to go.

Joe Urbanek asked is this list state and federal?

Chris responded, this is every government agency in Nevada, City, State, County, Municipality, we are looking at all of them.

Ivan asked if any other comments?

Harold Petrofsky stated he had a comment about the retirement. He doesn't think a vendor should have to show proof of putting money in a retirement fund. It is money that is collected from the set aside, it's the vendors own money. If a vendor has a site that needs attention, regular living expenses, you should be able to use the money as seen fit.

Joe asked Chris if there anything in the code or regulations that say that is the way it must be done?

Chris asked Jeanette to confirm that retirement comes from unassigned vending.

Jeanette Parish stated that it is correct.

Chris stated to Harold that he just wanted to make the distinction that the money doesn't come from set aside, but rather comes from unassigned vending

Chris referred Harold to BEN 4.15 Retirement Policy.

Harold stated since it is a BEN policy, it can be changed, to which Chris confirmed. Harold stated that it would need a subcommittee, to which Chris confirmed.

Shehan Peries stated at the end of the policy, it does state needs to go into retirement.

Joe stated that the vendors could vote to change it.

Chris mentioned to Harold that they can look at the policy after the meeting.

Harold stated that they can look closer at it if it is something that everyone wants to do. He asked others where they put their money.

Bernetta Schlecter stated she puts hers into savings account.

Chris confirmed to Harold that it can even be an interest-bearing checking account.

Joe stated that BEN still needs proof.

Ivan asked, with Harold's comment does everyone agree, disagree?

Joe stated since we can put it in checking we should table the discussion until the next meeting.

Ivan stated he agrees for it to be put it on the next agenda.

Sweet asked, BEN just needs proof of where it goes?

Chris stated Yes.

Ivan stated that it was his understanding, when he started, that it needed to be locked up in retirement but like Harold said, sometimes it is needed for emergency and that seems to be the issue at hand.

Chris reads the portion of the policy referring to the need to provide documentation of the deposit of funds into a "retirement fund of their choosing".

Joe stated he thinks in that same federal law it said you can use it for vacation.

Chris said there is not anything about vacation, it's our policy.

Joe stated he understands that for auditing purposes that you would need a paper trail.

Ivan requested for it to be put on the next agenda, to take the next few months to think about what to do with it. He asked if any other comments?

**X. Discussion - Date for Next NCBV Meeting: Ivan Delgado Villa, Vice Chair**

Thursday May 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM

**XI. Adjournment: Ivan Delgado Villa, Vice Chair**

Ivan asked for motion to adjourn.

Joe Urbanek motioned to adjourn.

Harold Petrofsky seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:41pm