

MINUTES

Small Business Assistance Committee
Greater Southwest Houston Chamber of Commerce
Monday, June 7
11:38 a.m.-1:05 p.m.

PRESENT:

- *Art Beane
- *Valerie Carter
- *Peter Cook, Chair
- *Amy Crawford
- *Danielle Gans
- *Arnold Goldberg
- *Nick Karakulko
- *Dick Myers
- *Jason Novak
- *Amber Reed
- *Katherine Swarts, Secretary
- *Trish Wise, Chamber Staff

PROGRAMS:

- *The next Business in a Bag will be on Thursday, June 17; Chris Glaeser of Escalade Consulting will be the presenter.
- *Robin Phillips of Blue Robin Communications is interested in presenting a workshop on organizing.
- *Valerie suggested "knowing how and when to hire staff" as a future Business in a Bag topic; Trish suggested that that program be presented as a two-part workshop in July.
- *Dick will resume charge of organizing the BB lineup.
- *Low attendance at monthly breakfasts is still a problem; rotating locations has produced little increase.
- *The Committee debated at some length the ideal number and type of monthly programs; the Board of Directors has long used "one morning, one noon, one night" as the monthly standard for large gatherings (not including workshops such as Business in a Bag); however, some members of the Committee favor adding an additional luncheon geared toward networking, and others have suggested discontinuing the breakfast. No definite conclusions or recommendations were reached.
- *The Committee is still seeking a speaker for the planned "history of an entrepreneur" program. Trish suggested the manager of the Chamber's member Chick-Fil-A's.
- *Peter suggested planning an event, perhaps a manufacturing exports seminar, to attract members to the Chamber's suggested Southwest Houston Manufacturing and Technology Alliance.

PUBLICATIONS:

- *Peter brought a "Procurement Opportunities Guide," published by Mastercard, of which he plans to order a limited number of copies to give away first-come-first-served to Chamber members.

*The nature and practicalities of needed improvements to the Chamber website are still a matter of considerable debate. Dick will speak with the Board of Directors (or its Chair) about the feasibility of getting some Committee members on a website taskforce.

*The Chamber hopes to add links to available entrepreneurial services to the website.

*Trish suggested that Committee members independently research the websites of other local Chambers.

*The Committee plans to organize a publications subcommittee soon.

*Art is still in charge of converting documents to electronic format. The Committee's electronic publication plans are moving away from CDs and toward online materials.

The next Committee meeting will be held at the Chamber offices on Monday, July 12, 11:30 a.m