

## **Meeting Minutes - Elected Committee of Managers (E C M)**

The **October 17, 2020** E C M quarterly meeting was conducted through the E C M conference call line due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Instructions to access the conference call line were distributed as follows:**

Conference number: 1-832-917-1510 access code: 172170\* (after the voice prompt)

Press 5\* to be recognized for questions or comments (This will let the conference manager know you have raised your hand and you will be recognized by the E C M Chairman.)

Press 4\* to mute or unmute

NOTE: conference call was recorded

Attendees were urged to register the phone number they would be calling in with in advance with Mr. Tommy Crawford by calling him at 254-654-0119. This helps the E C M recognize who is attending the meeting and helps to make communications more efficient.

**Call to order 9:00 a.m.**

### **Roll call of E C M and Guests**

Mr. Tommy Crawford read a list of audience members names on the call and named each of the E C M Representatives that were present.

**Invocation presented by Laydell Rogers**

## **Business Enterprises of Texas (B E T) Staff Attending**

Lizet Hinojosa, B E T Director and Michael Hooks, Office of Disability Employment Strategies (O D E S)

Chairman Sparks announced an agenda change; remarked on the non-attendance of Mr. Terry Smith from the National Association of Blind Merchants (N A B M) and mentioned that a statement from Mr. Smith will be read later in the meeting by Co-Chair Karla Martinez. Mr. Sparks requested the participation of Mr. Greg Stavinoha to address a motion related to E C M business and requested for Mr. Stavinoha to maintain a voting count. Mr. Stavinoha suggested to unmute each district to facilitate the tabulation of votes out loud. Mr. Stavinoha proceeds to announce the consent as stated in the By-Laws which allows motions by email; he informed everyone that the motion to be read was crafted by Manny Sifuentes. Motion as it was emailed is as follows – “I move that the board authorize a vote to reject the action taken by the Chair regarding the petition submitted by District 5B.” Mr. Stavinoha conveyed this would be a yes or no vote; he remarked that this motion, “To accept or reject the action the Chair took to remove Mr. John Mahler, by the request of his district”, was previously addressed in numerous discussions. Co-Chair Karla Martinez requested and proceeds to re-read the motion in detail. Chairman Sparks explains that a “yes” vote stands if there is agreement with the motion to overturn the Chairs decision; if there is no agreement and those wish to stay with the decision of the Chair then a “no” vote is applicable. Discussions ensued about the voting process. Verification of all E C M members in attendance was requested; a quorum was confirmed. The voting took place by

identifying each committee member and district with their respective vote as follows:

Manny Sifuentes in D1A – No  
Alvertis McClurge in D2A – Yes  
Dwayne Zuppardo in D2B – Yes  
Greg Stavinoha in D3A – Yes  
Laydell Rogers in D3B – Yes  
Jenna Norwood in D4A – Yes  
Rames Gonzalez – not present on call  
Tommy Crawford in D5A – No  
Karla Martinez in D6A – Yes  
Aloha Cook in D6B – No

Votes were tallied as follows to confirm the voting - out of the nine members that voted: 3 voted no and 6 voted yes.

Chairman Sparks addressed that the motion was overturned therefore Mr. Mahler continues to be a member of the E C M committee.

Mr. Dwayne Zuppardo signaled request to speak and was granted. Mr. Zuppardo moved to take a vote of no confidence to remove Mr. Mike Sparks as E C M Chair; was seconded by Mr. Greg Stavinoha. Chairman Sparks acknowledged this request and asked if there is any discussion in the matter. Mr. Tommy Crawford moved to discuss this matter during the next E C M meeting which would grant the opportunity to talk about the details of this action.

Ms. Aloha Cook agreed with Tommy Crawford as to this discussion taking place during a future meeting. Chairman Sparks expressed

his right to have an opportunity for a discussion before any vote is taken and he agreed with Mr. Crawford's recommendation to review this topic during a later meeting.

Mr. Crawford request to proceed with a new motion, to discuss in a later meeting, based under the circumstances from the managers in district 5B, that the E C M move to remove John Mahler from the E C M after a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote as consideration of the evidence that came to light from managers in district 5B. Co-Chair Karla Martinez addressed the committee to state that the issue with John Mahler was completed and a vote was accomplished and is done. Ms. Martinez suggested that Mr. Crawford resolve his personal pertinent issues exclusively with Mr. Mahler.

Chairman Sparks reminded everyone that there is an imperative need to move forward with the meeting on hand.

### **Approval of minutes of last meeting**

E C M Chairperson Mike Sparks called for approval of the July 18, 2020 meeting minutes. Chairman Sparks asked for a motion to approve those minutes. However, a request to speak was made by Alvertis McClurge. Mr. McClurge apologized for changing the topic, but he wanted to address a previous moment when he signaled his request to speak during one of the motions. Mr. McClurge commented his belief to have been purposefully disregarded and was kept muted by Mr. Crawford; Mr. McClurge stated that type of action is unacceptable. Chairman Sparks addressed Mr. McClurge's statement by informing everyone that the hand raising feature during these conference calls sometimes fails due to technical issues. Mr. Sparks offered to give Mr. McClurge an opportunity to

speak. Mr. McClurge took the offer and proceeded to announce his desire to speak was to second the motion set forth by Mr. Dwayne Zuppardo. After a discussion between Chairman Sparks and Mr. McClurge, the request to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Sparks. However, Mr. Greg Stavinoha shared that he had not read them therefore, he is requesting to approve them later. Mr. Stavinoha went on to say that as he was tasked to keep up with all the motions made and has tracked three motions thus fare. Chairman Sparks confirmed that the approval of the July meeting minutes will take place during a separate call.

### **Director's Report**

B E T Director Lizet Hinojosa welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for joining the meeting as she proceeded to report on the program status.

### **Facilities Information**

There are currently 111 facilities in B E T to close out the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. No new facilities opened this quarter. As presented during the previous quarterly meeting, there are 3 pending facilities:

1. Health and Human Services (H H S) Triangle Campus, projected to open December 2020 or Spring of 2021.
2. 1601 N. Congress facility in downtown Austin or as may have been referred to as the Capital Mall, projected opening date of Spring 2021.
3. TxDOT Campus in southeast Austin, projected date of Spring 2022.

Director Hinojosa announced that B E T initiated meetings with the Texas Facilities Commission (T F C) for another facility at 1801 Congress Avenue in Austin. Ms. Hinojosa announced the closure

of one facility this quarter, facility number 2-824-3, the San Antonio State Hospital which closed on June 15, 2020. Due to the pandemic and because of the inability to enter facilities, there were no facilities upgraded this quarter. At the end of the 4th quarter, B E T had 100 assigned managers and 3 unassigned managers. During the 4th quarter, June through August, there were 83 business visitations completed which brought us to 1215 visitations completed during the fiscal year.

**Business Consultant Visitations Completed**

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter: 477

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter: 464

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter: 191 (COVID-19/facilities closed)

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter: 83 (COVID-19/facilities closed)

Year to date total visitations: 1215

Value of equipment ordered and or delivered in support of businesses: \$402,322 (year to date)

**Number of Employees whose disability is blindness in B E T Businesses:**

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter: 8

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter: 10

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter: 8

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter: 8

**Number of Employees with Other Disabilities in B E T Businesses:**

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter: 154

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter: 154

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter: 145

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter: 137

**Number of Employees with No Disability in B E T Businesses:**

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter: 1421

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter: 1442

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter: 1427

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter: 1333

Ms. Hinojosa announced the conclusion of the B E T Directors report and invited Mr. Michael Hooks to give the current B E T financial information with an overview of the B E T funding sources. Mr. Hooks acknowledged getting recent request as he proceeded to provide a basic overview as follows:

The Texas Legislature is the entity that approves the B E T budget, for the Texas Workforce Commission (T W C), and for all other state agencies in Texas. The Texas budget process begins during the year prior to each regular session of the state's Legislature, which are held in odd-numbered years. Every two years, agencies submit an L A R (Legislative Appropriations Request) for submitting a baseline budget; these L A R s itemize the funding of each agency. If there is a huge difference in the submitted baseline budget, the agency must justify any changes. In Texas, budgets are submitted every two years and are referred to as a biennium budget; this approach is then introduced as a Bill. The budgets are listed on the Legislative Budget Board (L B B) website. The current budget that may be found under the L B B site is for the 20-21 biennium. The 2020 budget was recently completed, and the agency is about to go into 2021. Both budgets are about the same; approximately \$2.4 million; Mr. Hooks advised anyone interested to learn more may work with the B E T Director. Mr. Hooks

explained that there will be no new budget for this year. However, during session there will be the budget set for 2022-2023 and as everyone can imagine, it will be challenging and novel due to the loss of many funding sources that can be attributed to the pandemic virus.

Mr. Hooks gave an informative review on the resource that is available on how committee members and managers may personally access the budget information via the Texas Budget process online. Mr. Hooks then proceeded to outline the four funding sources for the operation of the B E T program:

1. Set aside fees – which were set in 2011 as a 5% flat fee (annual number B E T was looking for was \$650K).
2. Commissions from vending machines operated by 3rd party contractors - about \$800K to \$1 million yearly (on state property).
3. Discretionary allotment of Vocational Rehabilitative federal funds to the program; there is NO appropriation for federal funds in the Randolph Sheppard program in the nation (B E T). VR can allot funds to the B E T program; VR usually does pitch in.

NOTE: Mr. Hooks informed everyone that the 3 budget funding sources listed above are what run the B E T program.

4. Commissions from vending machines on federal properties that are operated by 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractors - All of these commissions go to the B E T Trust Fund and have a separate budget therefore; these monies are not used for operation of the B E T program. This is generated and paid out to managers in April

and is known as the Retirement Health Insurance Vacation Sick Leave (R H I V S) payments.

Mr. Hooks continued his report by describing the process for B E T purchases/expenditures using “obligated” or “encumbered” funds. Mr. Hooks also addressed the information that was sent by B E T Director Lizet Hinojosa to the E C M upon their request concerning the current budget; Mr. Hooks reminded everyone the numbers are not set in stone as there may be charges that have not been processed and the occurrence of some lapsed salaries.

A moment for questions was opened with a time limit and a myriad of questions and responses ensued.

### **Chairman’s Report:**

Chairman Sparks began his report by thanking everyone for their attendance and participation. He acknowledged those previous E C M members by name for their hard work along with the current members that are all committed to working through this unprecedented and challenging time. Chairman Sparks expressed the key word during this pandemic as “survival” while he suggested that the E C M along with the State Licensing Agency (S L A), must work together as a team to garnish results and answers in a positive manner. Mr. Sparks took a moment to congratulate manager, Ms. Esta Scott, for her 50 years of service to the B E T program as well as thanking all other managers that have also committed to a longevity of service. Chairman Sparks discussed how one of the objectives is to “change the face of the program” by implementing new service models such as micro markets; later more information to follow with an update from the micro-market committee. Mr. Sparks gave examples of various business models for managers and the B E T program to consider and discussed an

entrepreneurial experience that he and his daughter have recently undertaken. Chairman Sparks closed out his report by citing an update pertaining to the Code of Federal Regulations (C F R) Rules and the E C M's request to submit Rules revisions.

Upon completion of his report, Chairman Sparks invited Co-Chair Karla Martinez to read an email/statement on behalf of Mr. Terry Smith from the National Association of Blind Merchants (N A B M). The email read by Ms. Martinez reflected Mr. Smith's update on issues at a national level. The highlight of Mr. Smith's statement pertained to the 95% vote of confidence towards the House passing a new COVID relief Bill after the election.

Chairman Sparks asked Ms. Martinez to speak about a project that she and Ms. Norma Crosby from the National Federation of the Blind (N F B), have worked on. The project entails the creation of an anonymous survey for B E T managers to use that would measure various topics. The E C M has the final review and approval of the survey before it goes live.

## **District Reports**

Each representative provided a report on events occurring in their district. Chairman Sparks reminded everyone to adhere to a 2-minute time frame per each representative's report. However, the individual committee reports may adhere to a 5-minute limit.

### **District 1A – Manny Sifuentes**

Mr. Sifuentes began his report by commenting that his report would be short. He gave an update on manager Harvey Stavinoha's plight dealing with reduced sales numbers due to the low food service demand at the IRS whereas his vending sales have

remained almost constant. Manager Mac Cantu informed Mr. Sifuentes that he is hanging in there and is waiting on an opening date after COVID. Mr. Sifuentes gave an update on the locations that he is managing commentating that there are many instances where sales dip around 20% due to reported COVID cases within the buildings forcing staff to remain in their cubicles, placing orders in groups for food and employees sent home to quarantine. Mr. Sifuentes mentioned a discussion he had with Business Consultant, Ren'ee Britt, concerning the VA facility being converted into a micro market with a cooking grill. He said that Ms. Britt will be requesting the opening plan procedures for facilities in district 1.

### **District 1B – Chairman Mike Sparks**

Chairman Sparks gave an update on facilities within his district to include the two micro markets at T W C and Lyndon Baines Johnson (L B J); spoke with manager Ruben Aguilar. The roadside vending operations are doing okay; looking at replacing some of the vending machines. Chairman Sparks concludes his report by expressing that things are tough for all managers but knows that the situation will improve in time.

### **District 2A – Alvertis McClurge**

Mr. McClurge reports contacting all managers; did speak with manager Sophia Sparks whom conveyed that she continues to wait on equipment repairs. Mr. McClurge reports communicating with both Business Consultants in reference to Ms. Sparks repair issues and is not aware of any changes with the warehouse as they have been operating under a limited schedule due to the pandemic. E C M McClurge concludes his report by citing the current stagnate course he an all managers are dealing with at this time.

### **District 2B – Dwayne Zuppardo**

Mr. Zuppardo reports on the three major issues that managers in his district are concerned about – when are facilities going to re-open; income assistance and warehouse issues. E C M Zuppardo says that he is unable to have answers as there is so much uncertainty that encompasses each one of those issues. He recommends all that may be feasible is to handle each day at a time.

### **District 3A – Greg Stavinoha**

E C M Stavinoha begins his report by first commending Chairman Sparks for keeping his composure during the start of the meeting; he also congratulated manager Ashley Edward's on the arrival of her new baby. Mr. Stavinoha listed the names of the new managers to the district due to the re-structuring; conveyed not having any contact with managers Roger Best and Ron Boutte due to poor communication options. Mr. Stavinoha shared some history about the NASA facility; talked about how NASA is now struggling; gave details concerning the micro market and the variance permit that is tied to the vending component at NASA. To conclude, Mr. Stavinoha spoke about his financial losses at the facility he manages.

### **District 3B – Laydell Rogers**

E C M Rogers reports on all managers running prisons as on hold due to the closure of visitations during the pandemic; discussed his facility as he was only allowed to go in to move product but realized that the prison guards are not purchasing any items; he reports that the Huntsville Prison is not allowing anyone to enter. Mr. Rogers gave an update on manager Cecilia Wilson as having decent sales

on one side of the highway at the Orange County Vending site. Manager Randy Clutter and Jesse Qualls share the same outcome with E C M Rogers as the other managers operating at prisons that are experiencing no revenue, breaking even or experiencing losses. Mr. Rogers continues his report by commenting that all vending is at a standstill for now; said he has spent some of his personal funds to clean and sterilize vending machines and the thorough cleaning of his storage warehouse. E C M Rogers concludes his report by sharing information that may be speculation regarding prison video conferencing. However, Mr. Rogers expressed his thoughts concerning the return of visitations and his opinion that the prison system would not resort to 100% only video conferencing for visitations in the future.

#### **District 4A – Jenna Norwood**

Ms. Norwood reports reaching out to all in the district to introduce herself. She discussed the Set-Aside letter that was proposed and named the managers that are in favor of it and some that requested more information. E C M Norwood gave a report on managers such as Luis Cantu who said that his sales numbers are so low. Ms. Norwood also mentioned talking with Jerry House about the proposed Set-Aside letter.

#### **District 4B – Rames Gonzalez**

Mr. Gonzalez was not on the call.

#### **District 5A – Tommy Crawford**

Before initiating his report, E C M Crawford asked for clarification as to his reporting on behalf of both sides, A and B, within the district. Chairman Sparks response was that Mr. Mahler would report for district 5B. Mr. Crawford then began his report by commenting that he sent emails out to all managers; received a

response via phone call from manager Mario Valles but was unable to provide Mr. Valles with answers. However, Mr. Crawford talked about his plan to seek out the assistance of other managers to conduct a phone conference call with them for addressing the concerns that Mr. Valles expressed. Mr. Crawford went on to say that he received request from managers whom he represented previously asking for more information on the set-aside proposal; he added that the set-aside idea should be looked at in depth and the managers should be given the opportunity to have their questions answered. Mr. Crawford reiterated the statement that he was asked to convey as to many managers requesting more information on the set-aside proposal.

#### **District 5B – John Mahler**

Mr. Mahler was only able to report on behalf of himself and manager Travis Warren; states receiving a text from Mr. Warren saying that sales are good, and things are picking up; in reference to Mr. Mahler's own operation, he is making zero dollars after expenses. Mr. Mahler said that he and the prison wardens are "playing a game" when it comes to allowing access into the prison. As Mr. Mahler wrapped up his report, he closed by expressing the need for the S L A to aid with building relationships with prison administrations. Mr. Mahler commented that this topic has been discussed.

#### **District 6A – Karla Martinez**

Co-Chair Martinez reports that most of the facilities in the district remain closed except for manager John DeSimone whom reports poor sales volume. Ms. Martinez spoke about manager Maria Bosch and the fatality of her most trusted employee due to the

virus. Ms. Martinez extended a warm welcome to manager Jay Wolf who will be running the Health Department facility; she talked about an issue that manager Myra Escalante was facing involving the Business Consultants. Ms. Martinez explained communicating with the B E T Director, Ms. Hinojosa, about this dilemma and is appreciative of the B E T Director's input which brought about a different approach to the matter thanks to Ms. Hinojosa. Before the conclusion of her report, Ms. Martinez talks about manager, Brandi Bengner at the VA in Waco concerning her continued interest in getting a food truck.

### **District 6B – Aloha Cook**

Ms. Cook reports that most managers in her district agree on the set-aside proposal. However, some managers would like more information. Ms. Cook spoke on behalf of three managers that are operating prison vending facilities; they were informed about getting the guard stations which may bring about \$100 per month in income. E C M Cook continued her report by giving an update on manager Jerry Ramirez who is reporting some sales. Ms. Cook then concludes her report by citing an extensive drop in sales at the USPS facility she manages which may be attributed to the US election and the drama that is taking place as speculation and uncertainty revolve around the future of the USPS.

### **Sub Committees Reports:**

#### **Rules and By-Laws Sub Committee – Greg Stavinoha**

Greg Stavinoha reports that work on the By-Laws has halted. However, he gave an update on the B E T Rules sections that the committee has worked on. The changes have been sent to the

entire E C M committee for review and approval with a November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

### **Website Committee – Greg Stavinoha**

Greg Stavinoha named manager Zach Davis as the main contributor and creator to the E C M website. Mr. Stavinoha also talked about the Blind Biz Network which is the You Tube channel that was created; he commented that they have received request for more videos. Another addition to the E C M social media platform was the new Facebook page called the Blind Entrepreneurs; this is a new networking resource cultivated by Co-Chair Karla Martinez that may be used nationally by other blind merchants. Mr. Stavinoha concludes by mentioning the new sub-committee called the Planning and Goals committee as he discussed the purpose for this committee is to have a clear roadmap in place to facilitate achievement of set goals or to have a step by step plan which may enlighten and help to foster other opportunities.

### **Finance and Budget Sub Committee – Tommy Crawford**

Mr. Crawford began his report by thanking the Chair and other members for organizing, during the pandemic, the COVID Relief Fund for those managers that are not eligible to receive R H I V S payments; he also recognized donors to the COVID Relief Fund by individual names or facility name as he announced the total amount of donations came to \$3,980.00. Mr. Crawford then transitions to presenting the financial status of the committee while giving a detailed breakdown of transactions as he reminded everyone that his financial report was sent to the Chair and is also available via drop box for everyone to review.

### **Election Sub Committee – Tommy Crawford**

Mr. Crawford presented information as a reminder to everyone concerning the submission of election notices that were sent out during the week along with reiterating the change that took place in the year concerning the By-Laws whereas the E C M has the sole responsibility to ensure that the manager rosters are correct.

### **Training of Potential Managers Sub Committee – Aloha Cook**

Ms. Cook gave a brief update to discuss the matter of adding the topics of C F R and portions of the Randolph Sheppard Rules to manager training. Ms. Cook reiterated the importance of weaving those topics into the curriculum to ensure a better understanding of the program; she also suggested the need to include follow-up training and working with the B E T Trainer to track grading, homework and exams. Ms. Cook also affirmed the need to request an extended evaluation period; she proposed that the matter would be addressed and brought to the attention of the B E T Trainer, Mr. Joe Gonzalez, and the Criss Cole Administration staff, to allow the trainees a comprehensive understanding of a food service operation or a vending operation. As Ms. Cook finalized her report, she closed with the information that the Criss Cole Center may have five potential B E T candidates. However, there is no date available, due to the pandemic, as to when the candidates may be accessed by Criss Cole.

### **G S A Sub Committee – Aloha Cook**

Ms. Cook reports getting positive feedback from several folks; she addressed the importance of managers promptly taking action when contacted by the General Services Administration (G S A). Ms. Cook echoed the need for managers to accommodate G S A at their earliest convenience in any and every request. She

mentioned the requirements that G S A has established when facilities re-open. These requirements include pre-packaged cutlery items, pre-wrapped straws and stir sticks, pre-wrapped cups, lids and cup holders along with sanitation stations and a pre-cleaning plan before re-opening. These items and best practices procedures will ensure that dining patrons would limit contaminating areas that are considered high touch. Ms. Cook also addressed information that was given to her by various managers that operate in a G S A facility as to the re-opening guidelines that have been shared with them. Ms. Cook finalized her report by voicing a keen interest in learning the differences between the G S A Health forms and the State Health forms as this information is going to be a topic of discussion to push forth in integrating this into the B E T training program; this request will be proposed to the B E T Trainer, Mr. Joe Gonzalez, and in doing so would allow trainees to learn the demands and differences between a G S A facility and a State facility.

### **Annual Conference Sub Committee – Karla Martinez**

Ms. Martinez reports the intent of setting up the conference to be scheduled in the spring. However, because there has been no decrease with the virus, the conference will need to be pushed out and the consideration has been for something in the summer to be held tentatively at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Fort Worth. Ms. Martinez looks forward to a very busy conference with opportunities for lots of complimentary goodies or promotional giveaways. However, there has been no firm decision yet as the committee is monitoring the pandemic; they want to ensure that there will be no risk.

### **New Facilities Opportunity Sub Committee – Karla Martinez**

Ms. Martinez discussed the continued interest of the committee in exploring food truck opportunities and how they may fit into the B E T program. She detailed the reasons why a food truck may be a viable source of income as they can continue to safely operate even during a pandemic. Ms. Martinez also shared information concerning the committees work in determining which prison commissaries are not being run by inmates as this may be another opportunity that the committee would like to pursue. Ms. Martinez affirmed the committee's objective in looking out for other income sources such as military bases and unmanned vending.

### **Resolutions Sub Committee – Karla Martinez**

Ms. Martinez gave a brief report detailing the work that has begun with the set-aside fee proposal letter. This proposal was set forth to remove the set-aside funds and shift their use elsewhere within the program. Ms. Martinez assured everyone of the committee's intent to seek legal advice to confirm the legality of this action and that it merits benefits to the managers. Another resolution Ms. Martinez touched on was the discussion revolving the beginning inventory request for refunds; she expressed that the request for newly licensed managers to make initial inventory payments does not comply with the Randolph Sheppard act. Ms. Martinez gave an update as to the action that has been taken by the S L A on behalf of Director Hinojosa.

### **Vending Sub Committee – Laydell Rogers**

Mr. Rogers begins his report by providing an update on members that have resigned as he welcomed a new committee member, Mr. Travis Warren. Mr. Rogers quickly transitioned to reporting on the cashless system he and the committee has researched while

highlighting a potential increase in sales by 30 to 40% as one of the great benefits of this system. Another item in the horizon is outfitting all the roadside vending machines with 3G credit card readers. Mr. Rogers mentioned how the impact of the corona virus has led society to feel safer not using cash therefore, the credit card readers make better sense plus, the user usually has a higher propensity to spend more money. Mr. Rogers gave an update on how the cashless system functions. As he concludes his report, Mr. Rogers gave a request for any managers interested in joining the vending committee to contact him directly.

### **Micro Market Sub Committee – Manny Sifuentes**

Mr. Sifuentes reports on behalf of the outcome from a meeting that took place on October 7<sup>th</sup> between the Micro Market sub-committee members and members of the B E T staff. A few of the agenda items that took focus during the meeting revolved around the goal of micro market conversions and the training and development of managers under the micro market business plan. Mr. Sifuentes talked about the committee's intent to become more involved with working together with T W C Procurement and B E T staff on equipment needs when re-structuring any future facility conversions to the micro market model.

**Chairman Sparks asked for input concerning the propensity to schedule the next E C M meeting in person rather than virtually by phone. E C M committee members voiced their opinion towards their desire to have an in person meeting in January. A discussion continued regarding the virtual meeting logistics for those members not travelling due to the virus and how they would still be able to participate via conference call with those members meeting in person.**

**Open floor for Questions and Comments:**

Chairman Sparks announced the opportunity for questions would be next; instructed anyone interested to press 5\* to be recognized for questions or comments.

Before opening the call in lines for questions, Chairman Sparks discussed the request made to publish the new E C M By-Laws on the T W C / B E T website; Ms. Hinojosa confirmed the request and acknowledged that this would be taken care of.

A question and answer session ensued covering a myriad of topics with responses and comments. However, the focus revolved around the action that was addressed early in the meeting concerning the motion towards the removal of an E C M member.

Chairman Sparks thanked the B E T Director, Ms. Hinojosa, for her participation on the call. Before signing off, Ms. Hinojosa mentioned if anyone interested in communicating any new meeting developments, may email her directly.

**Set Date and Location for Next Meeting or Workshop -**

Next meeting will be held tentatively on January 15-16, 2021, in Fort Worth.

**Adjournment -**

Motion made to adjourn and seconded.