

General Membership Meeting
Thursday, April 13, 2023, 2:30 - 4:00pm
Plato Conference Center, 90 W. Plato Blvd., St. Paul, MN

WIB Members Present

Tom Aasheim
Shym Cook
Becky Degendorfer
Karen Gerdin
Jennifer Germain
Hanna Getachew-Kreusser
Lisa Guetzkow
Susan Jambor
Hyon Kim
Chad Kulas
Tony Lusiba
Pamela Maldonado
Camila Mercado Michelli
Rena Moran
Paul Nikstad
Koami Pedado
John Perlich
Elisa Rasmussen
Mary Rick
Tanya Velishek
Ramona Wilson

Members Absent

Gaye Adams Massey-EA
James McClean-EA
Yolanda McIntosh
Sean Mullan-EA
Don Mullin
Sheri Riemers
Trish Stevens-EA
Julie Thiel
Chris Tolbert-EA
Tracy Wilson-EA

Staff/Guests Present

Youssef Abdallah, SRFC
Ama Asantewaa, IT Career Lab
Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Karen Berg, Workforce Solutions
Kristi Cobbs, Workforce Solutions
DeJiohn (DJ) Brooks, World Youth Connect
Norma Carrera-Perez, CLUES
Julia Diaz, RealTime Talent
MacKenzie Diessner, Wildflyer Coffee
Breanna Galuska, Saint Paul Public Schools
Noelana Gates, Ramsey County
Ofir Germanic, World Youth Connect
Lauren Hunter, UnitedHealth Group
Caroline Karanja, Hack the Gap
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Brad Mahr, Workforce Solutions
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions
Stevenson Morgan, Ramsey County
John O'Phelan, Workforce Solutions
Erin Olson, RealTime Talent
Mona Osman
Beth Pacunas, Saint Paul Public Housing Agency
Funlola Soyomokun, Workforce Solutions
Mistura Tihamiyu, SRFC
Danielle Xiong
Serenity Yang

Call to Order & Announcements

Chair Chad Kulas called the meeting to order at 2:36pm and read the following announcements:

- Welcome to the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County meeting. We especially welcome our partners and guests joining us today.
- WIB meetings will be held in this room through October of this year. Restrooms are located directly across from the elevators in the main lobby.
- WIB members and guests are invited to attend any committee meetings. All agendas and minutes are available on the WIB's webpage. All committee meetings are being conducted via video conference. Instructions to participate are included in the meeting invites and are also posted on the WIB's webpage.
- Article 8 of the WIB's Bylaws state that "...members shall not cast a vote on any matter regarding the provision of services by the member or by an entity that the member represents or on any matter that would provide direct or indirect financial benefit to such member or the immediate family of such member". If you believe you have a conflict on any items on today's agenda, please abstain from discussion and voting.
- The next WIB meeting will be on Thursday, June 1, 2023, from 2:30-4pm here in the 1st Floor Conference Center at the Ramsey County Plato Building.

Land Acknowledgement

Paul Nikstad read the land acknowledgement.

Wildflyer Coffee

Diessner shared that Wildflyer is a Minnesota-based specialty coffee company dedicated to compassionate service and an emphasis on dignified employment opportunities for youth aged 18-24 experiencing homelessness. She explained that the program lasts four months and youth work on the shop floor about 20 hours per week. The youth participate in customer service, mental health, financial literacy and other employment skill workshops. The youth are paired with an employment counselor for up to a year after the program ends to help ensure long-term success in staying employed elsewhere. Wildflyer just opened a Saint Paul location in partnership with RS Eden, a long-standing organization that provides a variety of treatment and recovery services for people experiencing homelessness, substance abuse and more. Wildflyer coffee was served at the meeting.

Approve Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consisted of the April Meeting Agenda, February Meeting Minutes, WIB Financial Report January-February, Amended 2023 WIB Budget and 2022 WIB Annual Report.

Motion (Aasheim/Rick) to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Updates

Upcoming Event Highlights – Fair Opportunities Chamber Connect, IJJA Panel, Tech Month: Becker provided a recap of the events that are upcoming in the next few months that the committees have been working on.

Youth Employment Panel Discussion

Panelists Carrera-Perez, Brooks, Tamiya, and Abdallah introduced themselves and shared their backgrounds. Becker moderated a discussion around the barriers/challenges that young people experience in obtaining jobs.

Youth Employment Data Walk

Olson provided a data presentation. All meeting attendees were then invited to engage directly with data posted around the room. They were instructed to talk with one another and add dots to topics that should be considered important as the county develops more opportunities for youth employment. Star stickers were also available to indicate the highest priority items that individuals believe should not be ignored.

Other

No further items were discussed.

Adjourn

Upon conclusion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, June 1, 2023, 2:30-4pm – Plato Conference Center, 90 W. Plato Blvd., St. Paul, MN