

General Membership Meeting
Thursday, August 11, 2022, 11:30am - 1:00pm
Minnesota Humanities Center – The Commons

WIB Members Present

Tom Aasheim
Becky Degendorfer
Jennifer Germain
Susan Jambor
Hyon Kim
Chad Kulas
Tony Lusiba
Jim McDonough
Yolanda McIntosh
Sean Mullan
Mary Rick
Trish Stevens
Ramona Wilson

Members Absent

Shym Cook-EA
Karen Gerdin-EA
Lisa Guetzkow-EA
Pamela Maldonado-EA
Gaye Addams Massey-EA
James McClean-EA
Camila Mercado Michelli-EA
Don Mullin
Paul Nikstad-EA
Koami Pedado-EA
John Perlich-EA
Elisa Rasmussen-EA
Sheri Reimers-EA
Julie Thiel-EA
Chris Tolbert
Tanya Velishek
Tracy Wilson-EA

Staff/Guests Present

Nghi Anderson, Phoenix Alternatives Inc.
Nathan Arnosti, Center for Economic Inclusion
Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Larry Bell, Ramsey County
Johanna Berg, Ramsey County
Rachel Dietrich, Spire Credit Union
Cari Dwyer, Science Museum of Minnesota
Rebecca Ervasti, Trellis
Garrett Fuchs, Paul Davis Restoration
Natasha Isaac, Workforce Solutions
Donald Goldstein, The Improve Group
Becky Green, Oak Tree Services
Mike Greenbaum, Newtrax
Benjamin Hering, MN Credit Union Network
Lauren Hunter, MN Dept of Human Services
Zac Kallas, SkyWater Search Partners
Melanie Lugo, Newtrax
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Karin McCabe, McGough Construction
Sara McGarraugh, The Improve Group
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Alicia Morris, Oak Tree Services
John O'Phelan, Workforce Solutions
Nicole Pace, Trellis
Jared Petersen, OurTech Coop
Kurt Rakos, SkyWater Search Partners
Donna Rapacz, Merrick, Inc.
Patricia Reber, Newtrax
Mary Russell, Workforce Innovation Board
Kelley Skumautz, Phoenix Alternatives, Inc.
Jean Smith, Phoenix Alternatives, Inc.
Aalayha Robb, Knutson Construction
Funlola Soyomokun, Workforce Solutions
Solea St. James, McGough Construction
Becky Stewart, The Improve Group
Tony Tolliver, Center for Economic Inclusion
Joy Vander Heiden, Ehlers, Inc.
Deirdre White, Oak Tree Services
Tiffany Wilson, Center for Economic Inclusion
Jodie Zesbaugh, Ehlers, Inc.

Call to Order & Announcements

Chair Chad Kulas called the meeting to order at 11:46am and read the following announcements:

- Welcome to the return of in person meetings of the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County. We especially welcome our partners and guests joining us today.
- Welcome new Member John Perlich. John is the Director of Public Affairs at the Saint Paul Area Chamber. He is not in attendance today.

- Congratulations to all the WIB members recently reappointed by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioner or the City of Saint to serve another term: Tom Aasheim, Jennifer Germain, Susan Jambor, Hyon Kim, Gaye Adams Massey, Camila Mercado Michelli, Paul Nikstad, Elisa Rasmussen, Mary Rick and Trish Stevens.
- 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 is scheduled for Thursday, October 6 from 2:30-4pm here at the Humanities Center.

Land Acknowledgement

Tony Lusiba read the land acknowledgement.

Approve Consent Agenda

No approval conducted for the following due to lack of quorum:

August Meeting Agenda

June Meeting Minutes

WIB Financial Report

Inclusive Workplaces Cohort Recognition

Becker welcomed everyone and provided background on the Inclusive Workplaces Cohort initiative for advancing equity and inclusion within workplaces. She thanked the employer organizations for participating. Commissioner McDonough thanked everyone, especially the WIB leadership and employers, for their participation. He stressed the importance of building a more sustainable workforce and the alignment of this initiative with the County Board's strategic priorities. Table discussions occurred during lunch which focused on the experiences of the employers during the 10-month program, which was facilitated by the Center for Economic Inclusion (CEI). After lunch, Tolliver shared about the experience CEI had leading the cohort through the learning environment which encouraged idea sharing while encouraging accountability through safe and brave spaces for confidentiality. He encouraged all the cohort members to continue to network with each other and mentioned the follow up survey that will be sent soon. SkyWater Search Partners and the Science Museum of Minnesota cohort representatives provided a summary of their experiences being part of the cohort. Each organization was presented with a plaque in recognition of their commitment and dedication to being an inclusive workplace.

Other

No further items were discussed.

Adjourn

Upon conclusion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 6, 2022, 2:30-4pm – Minnesota Humanities Center, 987 Ivy Ave. E., St. Paul