

General Membership Meeting
Thursday, October 5, 2023, 2:30 - 4:30pm
Plato Conference Center, 90 W. Plato Blvd., St. Paul, MN

WIB Members Present

Jonathan Banks
Jennifer Germain
Lisa Guetzkow
Lauren Hunter
Susan Jambor
Hyon Kim
Chad Kulas
Tony Lusiba
James McClean
Yolanda McIntosh
Rena Moran
Paul Nikstad
Koami Pedado
Elisa Rasmussen
Mary Rick
Trish Stevens
Chris Tolbert

Members Absent

Tom Aasheim
Becky Degendorfer
Hanna Getachew-Kreusser-EA
Pamela Maldonado-EA
Camila Mercado Michelli
Don Mullin-EA
John Perlich-EA
Sheri Riemers
Tanya Velishek-EA
Carly Voshell – EA
Tracy Wilson-EA

Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Karyn Berg, Workforce Solutions
Norma Carrera, CLUES
Kevion Ellis, St Paul Area Chamber
Bre Galuska, St Paul Public Schools
Charie Gill, Workforce Solutions
Phillip McGraw, Plant Bar Cafe
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Stevenson Morgan, Ramsey County
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions
Beth Pacunas, St. Paul Housing Agency
Donna Rapacz, Merrick Inc.
Kyle Rucker, Ruck B Music
Mary Russell, Executive Committee
Aalayha Traub, Knutson Construction
Octavia Treadway, Something Great

Call to Order & Announcements

Chair Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 2:39pm 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.
- 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, December 7, from 11:30am-1pm at the MN Humanities Center in Saint Paul. This meeting will include a special recognition lunch celebrating the completion of the Inclusive Workplaces Cohort. I want to thank the Equity for their leadership on the cohort.

Land Acknowledgement

Rick read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approve Consent Agenda

October Meeting Agenda

August Meeting Minutes

WIB Financial Report

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

Director Updates

Reminders:

Action Plan: Each committee will do a status check-in on its action plan in November.

Committee Assignments: Anyone interested in changing their committee assign should contact Becker or Milbrandt.

December WIB Meeting: The December 7 meeting will at the Minnesota Humanities Center from 11:30am-1pm. An Eventbrite link to register will be sent so an accurate headcount for lunch can be collected.

CareerForce Relocation: A CareerForce Relocation Ad Hoc Committee has been meeting and also went on a tour of the current Saint Paul CareerForce site and the Dakota County and Ramsey County service centers. The timeline and next steps were reviewed. Meetings with key stakeholders and virtual information sessions for partners will be held over the next few weeks. There will also be a workshop with the Ramsey County Board in January to gather input. The WIB will be asked to make a final decision about the relocation in February with a potential move in December 2024.

EDA Recompete Grant: A phase one grant plan application was submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) on behalf of the WIB. There are only two areas in Minnesota that are eligible to apply and one is in Saint Paul. The eligible geography doesn't align with established neighborhoods, council districts or commissioner districts but is near the state capitol. Based on an analysis of the geography, the theory is that people who are already experiencing barriers to economic stability are forced to live in this geography due to housing costs. The proposed plan outlines six strategy themes: wraparound services, enhanced support services, employer engagement, fair opportunities, system's change and equity/accessibility. If the WIB's plan is one of the 20 selected in phase one, an application for phase two will be submitted. If selected in phase two, the award will be up to \$20M over five years. Phase one notices are expected to be released by the EDA in "winter". Becker stated that 2024 will be the year to apply for grants in a strategic way, with the support of many partners. She thanked CAPRW and the city for their thought leadership and partnership on the Recompete Plan.

Labor Market Recap and Local Plan Next Steps

Becker provided an overview of the State, Regional and Local Plans, which were the main topic of a Workforce Development Summit sponsored by DEED and the Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB) last month. She also shared a framework on high performing workforce board from the National Governor's Association. Becker then offered information on the proposed priority industries in Ramsey County for the WIB's consideration. The priority matrix, developed with the help of RealTime Talent, took local uniquenesses into consideration so the identified priority career cluster selections were based on more than the fastest growing industries. Other factors included demand, local concentration, GDP, emerging impacts (such as technology and outside investments), wages, and talent diversity. Based on this analysis, the top priority career clusters included: Public Administration & Education, Health Science, Construction & Architecture, Manufacturing, IT, Business & Finance, and Hospitality. These will be highlighted in the Local Plan along with a bit of focus on the gig economy due to many youth stuck in these jobs.

Entrepreneurship as a Workforce Development Strategy

Becker shared information about entrepreneurship, particularly for youth, and how business ownership can be a path to closing the wealth gap. She then moderated a panel discussion of three entrepreneurs: Kyle Rucker - Ruck B Media, Phillip McGraw - Plant Bar Café, and Octavia Treadway - Something Great. The panelists shared information about their entrepreneurial journeys, barriers they had to overcome and how they see entrepreneurship as a career path for young people.

Other

Becker provided an update on the State's Digital Equity Plan. The proposed plan focused heavily on border-to-border broadband which does not address the needs of urban populations. A 13-page letter expressing concerns about several areas of the plan was sent during the public comment period.

Becker shared information about a new initiative called Unleash Potential. Young people ages 16 and up can invited to monthly employment resource fairs to learn about employment opportunities, training, wealth building and other supportive resources in one place.

Adjourn

Upon conclusion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:03pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 7, 11:30 am-1pm – Minnesota Humanities Center, 987 Ivy Ave E,
Saint Paul