

General Membership Meeting
Thursday, December 7, 2023, 11:30am to 1:00pm
Minnesota Humanities Center, 987 Ivy Ave E., Commons Room, St. Paul, MN 55106

WIB Members Present

Jonathan Banks
Hanna Getachew-Kreusser
Jennifer Germain
Lisa Guetzkow
Chad Kulas
Pamela Maldonado
James McClean
Camila Mercado Michelli
Rena Moran
Paul Nikstad
Koami Pedado
Elisa Rasmussen
Lauren Reynolds
Mary Rick
Trish Stevens
Chris Tolbert
Aalayha Traub
Carly Voshell

Members Absent

Tom Aasheim
Becky Degendorfer-EA
Susan Jambor-EA
Hyon Kim-EA
Tony Lusiba-EA
Yolanda McIntosh-EA
Don Mullin
John Perlich-EA
Sheri Riemers-EA
Tanya Velishek
Tracy Wilson-EA

Staff/Guests Present

Sarah Anderson, Star House
Tonya Bauer, St. Paul Port Authority
Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Johanna Berg, Ramsey County
Kristi Cobbs, Workforce Solutions
John Connelly, Twin Cities North Chamber
Marie Cote, SRF Consulting
Blake Downing, Hamernick's
Charie Gill, Workforce Solutions
Breanna Galuska, St. Paul Public Schools
Lisa Greenberg, Designs for Learning, Inc.
Kira Lee Holtzon, Center for Economic Inclusion
Cliff Kallemeyn, Guest
Stephen Klimek, Metropolitan Council
Mark Krug, Design for Learning, Inc.
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Brad Mahr, Workforce Solutions
Jody Martinson, SRF Consulting
Amber McCrea, Guest
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions
Mauricio Montes de Oca, Guest
Stevenson Morgan, Ramsey County
Liz Moscatelli, VHEDC
John O'Phelan, Workforce Solutions
Beth Pacunas, St. Paul Housing Agency
Adrian Potter, SRF Consulting
Julie Ring, Association of MN Counties
Monica Robinson, LS Black
Mary Russell, Executive Committee
Naomi Shapiro, Star House
Mychal Thom, Concordia University Saint Paul
Sherryln Thompson, St. Paul Area Chamber
Elizabeth Tolzmann, Ramsey County

Call to Order & Announcements

Chair Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 11:43am and read the following announcements:

- Thank you for attending today's Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County meeting. This is a very special meeting where we get to recognize the great work of the Inclusive Employer Champions and the organizations who have been part of the Inclusive Workplaces Cohort. Welcome to all of you as well as any other partners and guests joining us today.
- Welcome new members Carly Voshell and Aalayha Traub. In just a few minutes, I will invite them to stand and introduce themselves.
- 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.
- Pending approval of the 2024 meeting schedule, the next WIB meeting will be on Thursday, February 1, from 2:30-4pm at the Plato Conference Center in Saint Paul.

Land Acknowledgement

Tolbert read the land acknowledgement aloud.

New Member Introductions: Carly Voshell, Aalayha Traub

Voshell introduced herself and gave a brief overview of her job as Workforce and Technology Specialist at Harmony Learning Center. Traub also introduced herself and gave a brief overview of her job as VDC Manager at Knutson Construction.

Approve Consent Agenda

December Meeting Agenda

October Meeting Minutes

*WIB Financial Report**

*2024 Proposed WIB Budget**

2024 WIB Meeting Schedule

One Stop Partner MOU/IFA Renewal

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

Inclusive Employer Champions Update

Becker provided a brief overview of the program which is designed to bring intentional collaboration and resource sharing across all workforce services and programming in the county to benefit Ramsey County employers. Impact quotes from Vadnais Heights Economic Development Corp., the St. Paul Area Chamber, and the Saint Paul Port Authority were highlighted.

Inclusive Workplaces Cohort Recognition

Remarks: Becker provided background on the Inclusive Workplaces Cohort program and thanked the WIB for leading this effort. She thanked the cohort organizations participating and a special thank you went to Mary Russell for being the cohort liaison to the WIB over the year. Table discussions occurred during lunch which focused on learning about the experiences of the cohort. After lunch, Holtzon shared about the Center for Economic Inclusion’s experience leading the cohort.

Cohort Reflections: Cote and Potter from SRF Consulting and Thom from Concordia University Saint Paul provided a recap and reflections on their experiences being part of the cohort.

Recognition Presentations: Moran, Rasmussen and Russell presented each organization with a plaque in recognition of their commitment and dedication to being an inclusive workplace. Commissioner Moran thanked everyone, especially the WIB leadership and employers, for their participation. She shared why this is important to the county and how the cohort supports the WIB and County’s strategic priorities.

Recognition of Councilmember Tolbert

Tolzmann, McClean and Rasmussen who have worked with Councilmember Tolbert over the last decade, shared a few words about Tolbert, who steps down as representative from St. Paul’s Ward Three, at the end of the year. Councilmember Tolbert thanked everyone for their kind words and stories and looks forward to the ongoing success of the WIB and Ramsey County.

Director Updates

Becker provided a brief update on the Inclusive Hiring Connection Summit on January 24 and asked all WIB members to attend and participate in a variety of different ways.

Other

No further items were discussed.

Adjourn

Upon conclusion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 12:59pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 1, 2024, 2:30pm-4pm – Plato Conference Center, 90 W. Plato Blvd., St. Paul