

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Constructions-Green Jobs Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 12, 2022
2:00-3:00 PM

Present:

Joseph Adamji
Becky Brink Ray
Chris Duffrin
Muneer Karcher-Ramos
Donald Mullin
Elisa Rasmussen
Russ Stark

Absent:

Robert Blake
Jodi Pincus-EA

Staff/Guests:

Quanda Arch, Phyliss Wheatley
Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Elizabeth Campbell, Ryan Companies
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Stevenson Morgan, Ujamaa Place
John O'Phelan, Workforce Solutions
Ralph Jacobson, IPS Solar

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Chair Mullin called the meeting to order at 2:01pm and read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approve March Minutes

Motion (Stark/Duffrin) to approve the March 8, 2022, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Building Green Saint Paul

Morgan acknowledged the partnerships developed since the last cohort and provided an update in moving forward. The Painters' Union is the sponsor. The hands on emphasis of this cohort will enhance the participation level and interest. He explained the curriculum and gave kudos to O'Phelan on his presentation which set the stage for the expectation. Current funding sources were shared and discussion occurred to get to the next stage and the needed support from the WIB as it is built out.

Construct Tomorrow Job Fair

O'Phelan gave an update on the planning of the 9th annual job fair scheduled for May 19. This year's event will be hybrid offering the option to attend in person at the Carpenters Union Hall or virtual. Becker suggested O'Phelan talk with Karen Berg and St. Paul Housing Agency about having library staff assist with computer access and navigators to connect into this event. Mullin is interested in having the Saint Paul Building and Construction Trades Council as a host. The flyer will be available soon.

Goodwill-WIOA Youth Program Partnership

Brink shared a new grant Goodwill-Easter Seals received for a six-month program for YouthBuild construction-trades programming and a summer pilot program for in-school youth with Saint Paul Public Schools.

Committee Work Plan/Project Updates

Becker recapped the work plan initiatives:

Action Work Areas: This committee's action plan goals were reviewed. The ARPA RFP will hopefully be ready for an August 1 release. Becker introduced the promising pathway model developed by RealTime Talent which focuses on the idea of origin-to-gateway-to-target occupations with three tiers of jobs and industries. This model can be used as a reference point as more conversations occur regarding career pathways. Discussion then focused on the Green Career Exploratory Program. The committee should email Milbrandt if interested in formulating a small group to move forward on an Earn & Learn program in Ramsey County.

Community Based Organization (CBO) Convening: Discussion was held as to how to gain insight on the work CBOs are doing in the community and how the WIB can support them in the shifting workforce needs. This will be a small group effort to partner with a community engagement partner to facilitate. A conversation should be had before releasing any RFP. Becker mentioned the Brookings' report that focuses on a more inclusive economy. The link to the report will be shared in the meeting follow up.

Director Updates

Second Chances Month: Becker shared that the County Board proclaimed April as Second Chances month and explained "Art from the Inside", which gives incarcerated artists the opportunity to express themselves through art. Ramsey County is going to have employer focused events throughout the upcoming months, including a County and WIB sponsored community event at Ujamaa Place.

WIOA Growth Opportunities Grant: Becker shared that Ramsey County is applying for a new grant which prepares justice-involved youth and young adults for employment through education and training and funds violence intervention/conflict resolution. She explained timeline and program components. If any member's company is interested in supporting the program, let Becker know and a letter will be sent.

Other

No other items were discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 2-3pm