

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Constructions-Green Jobs Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 9, 2021
2:00-3:00 PM

Present:

Joseph Adamji
Becky Brink Ray
Chris Duffrin
Muneer Karcher-Ramos
Donald Mullin
Jodi Pincus
Russ Stark

Absent:

Robert Blake-EA
Channon Lemon

Staff/Guests:

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Elizabeth Campbell, Ryan Companies
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
John O'Phelan, Workforce Solutions
Stevenson Morgan, Ujamaa Place

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Becker (as Chair Mullin had some connectivity issues) called the meeting to order at 2:03pm. O'Phelan read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approve September Minutes

Motion (Stark/Karcher-Ramos) to approve the September 14, 2021, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

2022 Committee Meeting Schedule

Milbrandt presented the proposed 2022 dates, stating it follows the same schedule as in 2021, with meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 2-3p. Meetings will continue with the Zoom platform. There was some discussion as to whether June should be the non-meeting month, as presented.

Motion (Stark/Adamji) to approve the 2022 Committee Meeting Schedule as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Committee Work Plan/Project Updates

Building Green Saint Paul: Morgan provided a summary of the program and highlights, noting there were several different partners involved and participant attendance was excellent. In about two or three weeks he'll have a detailed picture as to what is needed for continued improvements. Movement through the program was very well done but more hands-on training is needed. At least four participants want to work and the hope is they can be placed soon rather than waiting until next spring. One delay in getting these participants jobs is some are currently obtaining their driver's licenses and/or working through personal issues. Morgan is looking to determine after 30 days who is realistically ready to be successful in a trade. The participants need to be supported as a whole, not just put through a program. Morgan is determining if they have the necessary resources to do another cohort.

Green Careers Eastside Event: Becker stated that Ramsey County is hosting a virtual event on November 19 in partnership with the Saint Paul Area Chamber. She shared an overview of the agenda. The event is meant for employment guidance counselors and educators but anyone who wishes to attend is welcome.

Ramsey County Margaret House – Goodwill Easter Seals

Brink Ray shared an overview of the Margaret House revitalization project. The construction training program is for residents/students to receive hands-on, paid construction training while working on a residential housing project. The 12-week program is a combination of classroom and field work which prepares graduates for a career in construction, with no costs to students. Students learn demolition, framing, insulating, sheet rocking, and many other skills. The program is certified as a WIOA training provider and is

licensed by the MN Office of Higher Education as a private career school. Graduates receive OSHA 10 safety certification, St. Paul College's Continuation Education certificate and prior learning credits towards a 42-credit carpentry diploma. The program has been very successful. Other similar projects are being looked at, working with the County's tax forfeited department.

Director Updates

Becker provided the following updates:

Afghan Resettlement: The County has been in contact with state officials on the resettlement. The refugees will be eligible for WIOA and state funded employment and training services. The state will also provide training to employment providers on Afghan culture and new immigration status. Work is also being done to identify available programming support. Employment intake will occur to assess skills for immigrants with strong English and education to get them into professional jobs sooner that fit their career skill set. The biggest barrier in this resettlement process is housing. Becker will invite Jane Graupman, Executive Director of the International Institute of MN to talk about this further at the December WIB meeting.

EDA Funding: Funding for the Build Back Better Regional Challenge for technical assistance has been submitted. There's a lot of opportunities for Ramsey County in the bioeconomy and bioprinting clusters. The Good Jobs Challenge for collaborative skills training systems and programs deadline is in January 2022.

Action Planning Update: Due to time constraints, Becker will send an email update on this item.

December Committee Meeting: The plan was to cancel is meeting; however, Ralph Jacobson, Owner of IPS Solar, will present information around the solar industry and the types of career pathways available. Other guests are welcome to attend.

Other

No other items were discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:02pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 2-3pm