

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Constructions-Green Jobs Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 14, 2021
2:00-3:00 PM

Present:

Robert Blake
Becky Brink Ray
Chris Duffrin
Muneer Karcher-Ramos
Channon Lemon
Donald Mullin
Jodi Pincus
Russ Stark

Absent:

Staff/Guests:

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
Trace Polzin, Ujamaa Place

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

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

Introduction and Welcome

Mullin welcomed everyone to the inaugural committee meeting. Introductions were made.

Background of Committee

This committee’s goals are to align and leverage resources and to position the community for the future of work and investment of dollars. The construction industry is high growth and has a lot of opportunity for both workforce and business inclusion.

Committee Work Plan/Project Updates

Building Green St. Paul: Morgan explained that the goal of this program is to tackle systematic barriers and implement an apprentice readiness program in the community. It will start on October 11. There was discussion about partners’ collaboration to the project, linking partners and their contributions acknowledging everybody that’s been involved in the effort. A flyer has been created and will be shared with group. Goodwill is at a different spot in training for construction as they’ve been in it for 20 years. There is a 12-week program starting with carpentry but embedded to introductions to all trades.

Green Careers Eastside Event: Due to the increase in COVID cases, this event will pivot from an in-person bus tour to a mini conference in early November. The event is in partnership with the Saint Paul Chamber. O’Phelan will reach out to the St. Paul Port Authority.

Ramsey County Means Business: Becker shared some of the features of this robust website, which includes a training dashboard, job board and workforce partner directory. She encouraged committee members to explore the site further on their own. The link will be sent with the meeting follow up. Committee members expressed support for adding all the unions to the partner directory. Mullin and Becker will work on connecting with other programs/organizations, like Helmets for Hardhats, similarly to how Workforce Solutions (WFS) has been working with the local public school districts. It was suggested the committee create a community calendar as a central location for events. It could be housed on the Ramsey County Means Business site.

Construction Green Careers Report: Becker shared the report created for WFS by Real Time Talent that provides a snapshot of the industry today. A barrier for some interested in a construction career is the need for a driver’s license. Mullin would like to find ways for the unions to help. The problem goes beyond the initial license into such things as the behind the wheel training, insurance, fines/suspensions and a vehicle. Behind the wheel could be tied to a mentorship. White Bear Schools has had success with offering drivers’ licenses in the schools.

It was suggested that opportunities to bring some of the construction companies together for some kind of workforce inclusion-type conversation should be added to the committee's action plan.

Director Updates

Becker provided the following updates:

- The Right Track Plus Community Passport Experience was very successful. Thank you to Blake for being a speaker.
 - All WIB committees will continue to meet virtually. Full WIB meetings will return to in-person at some point.
 - The WIB's action planning session is on October 7 from noon to 4:00pm at the Minnesota Humanities Center.
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Other

No other items were discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:01pm.

Next Meeting: October 12, 2021 2-3pm