

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2018

3:00-4:30 pm

Present:

Ryan Hauschild
James McClean
Greg Mellas
Sean Mullan
Sheila Olson

Absent:

Clarence Hightower-EA

Staff/Guests:

Leon Boeckermann, Ramsey County
Claudia Brewington, Ramsey County
Becky Milbrandt, WIB Staff
Noel Nix, City of Saint Paul
ThaoMee Xiong, City of Saint Paul

Call to Order

Chair Sean Mullan called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

Approve October Minutes

Motion (Mellas/McClean) to approve the October 11, 2018 Policy Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Manufacturer's Outlook Survey

Mullan reviewed the National Association of Manufacturers' Third Quarter Outlook Survey. The survey found 92.5% of respondents were positive about their company's outlook. Mullan noted that strong growth in the manufacturing sector is partially due to offshore manufacturing coming back to the US. While this is good, the skills gap and labor shortages are problematic. Mullan agreed to share future survey results with the committee and the full WIB.

2019 WIB Legislative Platform

Mullan noted that a preliminary draft of the WIB policy statements was distributed. It has been the practice of the WIB to review and support the Ramsey County and MN Workforce Council Association's legislative platforms.

Ramsey County and City of Saint Paul Policy Priorities:

City of Saint Paul: Xiong and Nix presented the City's 2018 Legislative Agenda and potential workforce related proposals for 2019. The City is in the final stages of creating the 2019 Agenda. Some of the proposals discussed were:

- Bonding for the reconstruction of the RiverCenter Ramp and 3rd Street Bridge.
- Support for housing trust funds that will help to attract people to work and live in Saint Paul.
- Increased funding for DEED's Youth at Work competitive grant and MN Youth Program. Both Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul received funding cuts for their youth employment/Right Track initiatives.
- Increased funding for job search assistance, skills training, childcare and other programs that help people find and retain employment, as well as support for a payroll tax credit for job training programs and tax incentives for companies that hire and retain disadvantaged workers.
- A request for full funding of the Local Government Aid gap.
- Additional funding for transit projects.
- Opposition to bills that impede local control.
- Designation of Basic Life Support staff as essential employees.
- Support for the issuance of driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants.
- Support for "ban the box" for housing, re-entry programs, and the 2020 census.

Ramsey County: Brewington reported that the County recently hired a Director of Government Relations, Jennifer O'Rourke. Brewington presented the latest draft of the Ramsey County state legislative priorities but anticipates some minor changes to the document before it goes to the County Board. Some of the County's funding and policy priorities included:

- Increased funding for childcare initiatives and support for childcare providers and licensing.
- Increases in funding for existing housing programs focused on specific populations.
- Support for the continuation of the two percent health care provider tax.
- Funding for the Ramsey County Supervised Release Revocation Prevention pilot project.
- Support for regional workforce efforts lead by the MN Workforce Council Association (MWCA).
- Support for making mandatory enrollment in the SNAP Education and Training program voluntary for SNAP recipients.
- Include Ramsey and Hennepin Counties in the revenue from the Leased Vehicle Sales Tax.
- Support for the 2020 Census.
- Requests for various County and regional capital improvement funds.
- Support for the legislative platforms of other organizations, such as MWCA and the Association of MN Counties.

There was discussion about the purpose and use of the WIB platform. Mullan explained that it has been a guiding document for WIB members to use strategically and to formally support programs such as Outreach to Schools. There was agreement that the City, County and MWCA platforms should supplement the WIB's policy statements because there is already alignment. Mullan suggested that the WIB's platform be finalized in January. It will be shared with the City and County once approved by the full WIB. McClean asked that the WIB be made aware of opportunities to talk and build relationships with local legislators. Brewington stated that there could be opportunities for members to testify at hearings.

MWCA Platform and Advocacy Plan: It was reported that MWCA is still working on its policy platform. It will be shared with the committee when released. There will be an advocacy day but the date has not been determined yet.

2019 Committee Meeting Schedule

The dates were review and approved. Milbrandt will send calendar invites to the committee members.

Other

Mullan reported that he plans to meet with staff from Senators Smith and Klobuchar and Rep. Peterson's offices next week in Washington DC.

McClean agreed to talk to his contacts at Catholic Charities about their legislative platforms and work on benefits cliffs. Watson is familiar with a benefits cliff calculator that she will forward to Milbrandt. All information collected will be shared with the committee.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.