

General Membership Meeting
Thursday, October 3, 2024 - 2:30-4pm
Plato Conference Center - 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, MN 55108

WIB Members Present

Jonathan Banks
Becky Degendorfer
Sara Garbe
Jennifer Germain
Hanna Getachew-
Kreusser
Lisa Guetzkow
Katie Kapaun
Chad Kulas
Tony Lusiba
James McClean
Yolanda McIntosh
Koami Pedado
John Perlich
Mary Rick
Sheri Riemers
Trish Stevens
Aalayha Traub
Tracy Wilson

Members Absent

Tom Aasheim
Tami Cybulski-EA
Cheniqua Johnson-EA
Bryan Kuzel-EA
Pamela Maldonado
Rena Moran
Don Mullin
Donna Rapacz-EA
Elisa Rasmussen-EA
Lauren Reynolds-EA
Tanya Velishek-EA
Carly Voshell-EA

Staff/Guests Present

Ismail Ali, Blaze Credit Union
Ama Asantewaa, MNTech
Breanna Galuska, St. Paul Public Schools
Fidelity Goodlaxson, CAPRW
Caroline Karanja, Hack the Gap
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Abdiwahab Mohamed, DEED Asst Commissioner
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Mary Russell, Member-At-Large
Jason Yang, Ramsey County

Call to Order and Announcements

In the absence of the Chair, Chair-Elect McIntosh called the meeting to order at 2:34pm and read the following announcements:

- Welcome to the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County meeting. We especially welcome our partners and guests joining us today.
- 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.
- The next WIB meeting is on Thursday, December 5, from 11:30am-1pm at the MN Humanities Center in Saint Paul. This meeting will include a recognition lunch celebrating the completion of the Inclusive Workplaces Cohort. An Eventbrite registration link will be sent out for this meeting so we can get an accurate count for lunch. Thank you to the Equity Committee for their leadership on the cohort.

Land Acknowledgement

Germain read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approve Consent Agenda

October Meeting Agenda

August Meeting Minutes

WIB Financial Report

Motion (Perlich/Degendorfer) to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Staff Updates

Milbrandt provided updates on the following:

Local Plan & Subsequent Designation Approval: The 2024-2027 Local Plan was approved. Every two-years every Local Workforce Development Area needs to be re-designated to continue receiving funds. An official letter from the governor regarding the Local Plan and redesignation approvals is expected soon.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month: This is an annual celebration in October recognizing the contributions of people with disabilities to the economy and workforce. This year's theme is Access to Good Jobs for All, which reflects the commitment to expanding the number of good-paying jobs for people with disabilities.

Manufacturing Month: October is Manufacturing Month. The manufacturing industry plays an important role in our local economy and is critical to the economic strength and vitality of our state. There is a Manufacturing Month page on the county's website with resources, data and events. One event is the Future of Work manufacturing panel on October 7 at Rondo Library. This is an opportunity for workforce development professionals to learn about the latest trends, technologies and career opportunities in manufacturing.

Upcoming Events:

- **MN Skills Based Hiring Accelerator:** These half day in-person workshops center on candidates capabilities rather than credentials, etc. The upcoming workshop dates are October 29 in Burnsville and November 19 in Minneapolis
- **Youth Works! Networking:** Hosted twice a year by the Youth Committee to bring those who support Ramsey County youth together. Fall event will be held at Rondo Library
- **Career Connect Day:** This will be the third annual event hosted by the St. Paul Area Chamber at the Saint Paul RiverCentre on October 15. This is an opportunity for local high school students to explore future career paths. Once again, transportation for all Ramsey County high school students will be sponsored by the WIB. All WIB and Committee members are asked to spend time in our both talking with students.

Workforce Solutions Leadership Transition: Former Workforce Solutions Director/WIB Executive Director Becker has transitioned to being the County Manager as of September 1. Michelle Belitz is serving as Interim Director. Deputy County Manager Kari Collins is leading the search for a new director. The position has been posted with the hope of having it filled by the end of the year. Input from the WIB on the desired attributes of the new director is being sought and the WIB will be represented on the hiring panel.

Racial Equity Framework Training

As background, McIntosh shared that the WIB's Equity and Executive Committees have been planning to do an equity training with the WIB this year. The Equity Committee considered several options before learning that the County Manager's Office set a goal to provide the county's racial equity framework training to all community members serving on formal county boards and commissioners by 2030. To support this goal, Jason Yang, Planning Specialist with the County Manager's office led today's learning session.

Other

No further items discussed.

Adjourn

Upon conclusion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:59pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 5, 2024, 11:30am-1pm – Minnesota Humanities Center, 987 Ivy Ave E, St. Paul