

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board

February 7, 2008

Minutes

WIB Members Present

Craig Anderson
Patricia Brady
Amy Brenengen
Joe Crowe
Kathy Engesser
Gerry Flannery
Kirk Hayes
Lee Helgen
Butch Howard
Doug Hubbard
Bill Lowe
David MacKenzie
Tom Macy
Mary McKee
Rob McKenzie
Jackie Mlynarczyk
Bob Morse
Paul Nelson
Mary Russell
Jim Schultz
Dean Shawbold
Libby Starling

Members Absent

Brian Carnes
Mike Chanaka EA
Robert de la Vega EA
Bev Fritz EA
Trixie Golberg
Kristina Hamann EA
Bernie Hesse
Lorrie Louder EA
Jim McDonough
Barbara Mednick EA
Brian Miller EA
Jane Sanem EA
Mark Sorenson
Lori Stone
Rick Vazquez EA
Cynthia Yongvang

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Nancy Homans, City of Saint Paul
Kathy Korf, Workforce Solutions
Janet Ludden, Employer Solutions
Anne Olson, MN Workforce Council Assoc.
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff
Wendy Underwood, City of Saint Paul
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

The WIB meeting was called to order at 2:32 p.m.

Approve Consent Agenda

Approve Minutes from December Meeting

Approve Agenda

Approve WIA Certification for Century College and Goodwill Easter Seals Programs

Motion was made by Kirk Hayes with second by Tom Macy to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

Recognition

Tom Macy was recognized for his eight years of service on the WIB; this will be Tom's last WIB meeting.

It was also announced that Jackie Mlynarczyk plans to retire this summer. Both individuals will be greatly missed.

Approve 2008 Strategic Direction

Motion made by Bill Lowe with second by Amy Brenengen to accept the 2008 Strategic Direction as presented.

Motion carried.

Councilmember Helgen thanked the board for their work on this document, integrating input from various members. He also expressed his interest to continue this work in the new Strategic Plan, to be developed later this year.

Minnesota Workforce Council Association (MWCA)

Anne Olson, Director, MWCA and Patricia Brady, Operations Committee Chair, presented information on the MWCA. The presentation focused on what the MWCA is and why it exists.

The MWCA is business-lead and exists to strengthen the role of WIBs in MN. The WIB Chair and Local Elected Officials are members of the Association. It functions as a central forum for workforce boards across the state to discuss issues, share best practices, and come to a consensus on policy issues. Most activities organized by the MWCA are open to the public and WIB members are encouraged to attend.

WIB members are also able to keep in contact with the MWCA through communications sent to the WIB CEO and forwarded to members, attendance at the Annual Meetings, trainings, and reading the WIB newsletters that are distributed. Members can also respond to requests to advocate on workforce issues, express appreciation and constructive input to the DEED Commissioner and to the Governor's Workforce Development Council.

Invest Saint Paul

Nancy Homans was present from the Saint Paul Mayor's Office to present the Invest Saint Paul initiative to the WIB. Nancy thanked the efforts of all board members and partners who worked to develop a positive and cooperative relationship between the City and County.

Invest Saint Paul is a program that is working with four targeted neighborhoods in Saint Paul that have been affected by a loss of economic development in their areas. These areas are Frogtown, Thomas-Dale, the North End and Dayton's Bluff. The work in these neighborhoods has many layers of effort, with workforce development weaving through all arenas. Specific strategies to which resources are being dedicated are targeted capital investments, coordinated departmental responses to neighborhood needs, engaging community partners at all levels, tackle difficult issues like mortgage foreclosure, the achievement gap and public health disparities, advancement of the state and national urban agenda, leverage and align existing funds and increase community engagement.

The WIB can be a resource for this program to align efforts and accomplish goals within the community. An example of this is the idea of creating a summer youth program in Frogtown; the WIB can identify proper resources to utilize in accomplishing this task. Additionally, the WIB can promote the positive solutions the community has developed. WIB members are able to give any information they think these communities would find helpful to the City; individuals representing the City knock on doors in these neighborhoods to distribute this important information. The WIB can also advocate for additional staff in the libraries and recreation centers to assist in workforce development for clients.

Committee Reports

The Workforce Committee had a spirited conversation on the WIB's strategic direction for 2008. They are also overseeing the Metro Manufacturing Sector Initiative, which is moving forward to accomplish its goal.

The Building Lives ad hoc of the Youth Council has been actively advocating for the funding and support of the Building Lives program. Individuals have met with different legislators and state department commissioners and are feeling positive about possible future support for the program. Additionally, the Council received an update on the Career Pathways Academy in Saint Paul Public Schools. High school students are able to take classes at Saint Paul College, for college credit, that start them on one of six career paths offered.

The CAO Committee is pursuing a consultant to create a fund development plan for the WIB/FWIB; to fund this effort, four proposals have been submitted to local foundations for support.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:10p.m.