

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council Meeting

March 8, 2007

Members Present

Billy Collins
Andrew Freeberg
Abe Hassan
Kirk Hayes
Doug Hubbard
Peter Jessen-Howard
Peg Killen
David MacKenzie
Dale Maristuen
Rick Polanski
Jody Yungers

Members Absent

Courtney Henry
Dean Shawbold EA

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB Staff
Kate Bates, WIB Staff
Patricia Brady, Workforce Solutions
Lee Helgen, WIB Member
Allan Ige, Workforce Solutions
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions
Jim McDonough, Ramsey County Board of
Commissioners
Paul Nelson, WIB Member

Call to Order

Kirk Hayes called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Discuss Youth Funding Motion from Feb. 22, 2007, Youth Council Meeting

At the February 22 Youth Council meeting Councilmember Helgen made a request in regards to the youth funding requests from the City and County for summer youth employment programs. It was thought that competing proposals in the legislature from the same area wouldn't be looked on positively and there was a request for the Youth Council to support combining the two proposals into one. The Youth Council passed a motion to this effect. There were concerns from the County on this issue and Commissioner McDonough was present at the meeting to discuss reconsidering the motion with the committee.

Since the meeting, the City had moved their request to the general fund, and the County request is still in the Workforce Development fund. The County is also advocating that the MN Youth Program (MYP) funding be increased to \$10 million statewide. At this point, the County is supportive of the City's request, and the City is supportive of the County's request. All of the Workforce Service Areas in the state are behind the MYP increase, and it is felt that this request may have merit. The increase in this fund does include an increase in the workforce tax to employers, as an increase in the Workforce Development fund is necessary.

There was further discussion on why this request is going to the government and the City running workforce programs. There was also discussion on how the MYP funds would be distributed from the County to service providers- this is something the Youth Council will discuss if the funds are approved. The Council remained neutral on the larger issue of the Joint Powers Agreement between the City and County.

A revised motion was distributed regarding support of the request for increased MYP funding.

Motion made by Dave MacKenzie with second by Dale Maristuen to rescind the following motion made at the February 22, 2007 Youth Council meeting: **Motion** made by Dave MacKenzie with second by Dale Maristuen to support merging the County and City summer jobs request to the legislature into one bill and to ask the county commissioners and lobbying staff to work on this effort.

Motion carried

Motion made by Abe Hassan with second by Billy Collins to approve a new motion: The Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board Youth Council recognizes the need to increase employment and employment training opportunities for the youth of Ramsey County and its constituent cities. The Youth Council would like to go on record as supporting a Minnesota Workforce Council Association legislative request for a statewide increase in Minnesota Youth Program funding.

Motion carried.

Adjourn

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:08 pm.

Motion carried.

Next Meeting: March 22, Saint Paul WorkForce Center