

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council Meeting

August 28, 2008

Members Present

Billy Collins
Kirk Hayes
David MacKenzie
Dale Maristuen
Rick Polanski
Jody Yungers

Members Absent

Abe Hassan
Bernie Hesse
Doug Hubbard
Sheldon Jensen
Peter Jessen-Howard
Becky Johnson
Matt Reinartz EA
Dean Shawbold

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB Staff
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff
Carli Stark, WIB VISTA
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Kirk Hayes, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.

Introductions

The WIB's VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), Carli Stark, was introduced. Carli will be serving with the WIB for the next year, with her main responsibilities being fund development and marketing. All members introduced themselves.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by David MacKenzie with second by Jody Yungers to approve the June 26th minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Vern Vick Award

Kirk Hayes discussed the Vern Vick Memorial Award, created by the Youth Council to remember former Youth Council Chair Vern Vick for his dedication to youth in our community. A request for nominations was sent out to all WIB and Youth Council members and seven individuals were nominated. The Youth Council is charged with selecting the individual(s) who will receive the award, with no cap on number of individuals recognized, nor the number of times per year a recipient is selected. Three of the seven nominated took themselves out of consideration, leaving four nominees. Members discussed the parameters set for award recipients; this was intentionally left open so individuals, organizations, staff, Youth Council/WIB members, or others could be recognized if the Council felt the nominee deserving. It was suggested that bios be created for nominees in the future so all members could have some background on the individual up for recognition.

Once a nomination is made and accepted by the Council, the decision moves up to the WIB's Executive Committee for final approval. The individual or organization will be honored at an upcoming WIB meeting.

A paper vote was utilized to determine the awardee(s); members selected their top candidates for this role. The paper votes resulted in the selection of Peter Jessen-Howard as the Vern Vick Memorial Award for the end of 2008. This decision will go the Executive Committee in September, with plans to award at the October WIB meeting, Thursday, October 2nd at 2:30 at the Ramsey County WorkForce Center- Saint Paul.

Update on Building Lives

Mary Jo gave an update on the Building Lives initiative. A meeting has been set up on October 20th for a small group to tour Boys Totem Town with Representatives Ellison, McCollum, Paymar and Senator Moua. At this meeting past Building Lives participants will express what the program has done for them. This will give the legislators an idea of the impact Building Lives can have on this population.

Staff is working on a bridge grant request to the Bremer Foundation and will be ready to submit the request the week of September 8th. Other foundations are being contacted to gauge their interest in providing a bridge grant for this initiative until sustainable funding can be dedicated in the legislature. These funds will supplement the \$200k of extra WIA finding the County has received this year. The County is looking into having Building Lives funding from the legislature to be a key focus of their legislative agenda/lobbying efforts.

Update on WIB Strategic Plan Process

The WIB is working on updating their Strategic Plan, originally created in April, 2003. A meeting was held to plan the process to update on August first. Those in attendance agreed to update the existing plan with WIB and Youth Council members, as well as other partners, in a process that will take no longer than six months. A group of four PhD candidates in Organizational Development at the U of MN have offered to facilitate the WIB's strategic planning process at no cost to the organization. Brenda Norman of the Governor's Workforce Development Council is one of the individuals on this team and has been the main connection between the WIB and the group of students. WIB leadership will meet with these candidates and see if they are a good fit for this project.

A meeting will be held on September 9th focused on insuring business needs are reflected in the WIB's direction and strategic plan. All members, WIB and Youth Council, are welcome to attend.

There was discussion on how the TriWIB meeting fits into the WIB's strategic planning. The TriWIB has defined youth and the emerging workforce as the most important initiative on which to focus, and Mary Jo has informed them on the Building Lives program. This will be discussed at future meetings of the TriWIB.

Review of Committee Structure on the Youth Council

The Youth Council discussed the current meeting and work structure under which the Youth Council operates. The regular council meetings were shifted from every month, to every other month to accommodate the meetings of Youth Council subcommittees that would work on one issue and bring the progress back to the full council. This structure does not seem to be effective for the council and alternatives were discussed.

Members agreed that regular meetings of smaller committees were not effective, though temporary ad hoc committees have been effective at working on specific issues. All agreed to return to the monthly meeting schedule for the full council, with the change of having every other meeting focused around a specific topic on which the council can become educated and discuss action steps, if appropriate.

The next meeting will be held on October 23rd. This meeting will take place at the Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center, and their work will be the meeting focus. This meeting will also serve as the Job Corps Advisory Council.

Other

It was shared that the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Summer Employment Program for youth was highlighted in the newspaper. Approximately 500 youth are receiving work experience this summer.

There was a question of how many of Ramsey County YouthLEAD participants were utilizing the City's summer employment program. Terry Zurn can look into this and report back to the council. The summer program is a great opportunity to utilize in furthering the partnership between the City, County and WIB/Youth Council.

Adjourn

Motion made by Rick Vazquez with second by Dave MacKenzie to adjourn the meeting at 4:45p.m.

Motion carried.

Next Meeting: October 23, Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps