

City of Detroit
Workforce Development Board
Approved Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 14, 2016, 2pm-4pm
Location: MotorCity Casino and Hotel, Salon B

Call to Order

The meeting of the City of Detroit – Workforce Development Board was called to order at 2:08pm by Workforce Development Board Co-Chairs Cindy Pasky and Dave Meador.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Pasky asked for a motion to approve the Draft Agenda as presented. A motion was made and supported to adopt the draft as presented. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting August 22, 2016

Chair Pasky asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the August 22, 2016 meeting of the City of Detroit – Workforce Development Board, which were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. A motion was made and supported to adopt the Draft Minutes of the Meeting. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Opening Remarks

Chair Meador introduced Bruce Dall of Motor City Casino to welcome the meeting. Mr. Dall spoke about the difficulty in meeting the goal of hiring 51% Detroiters and how many individuals move out of the city after securing a good-paying job.

Following Mr. Dall's welcome Chair Meador spoke about the vision of putting 100,000 Detroit residents back to work.

Reports & Presentations

Prison Re-Entry Program: Jeff Donofrio outlined the Prison Re-Entry Program for the Board. He highlighted the goal of training and employing returning citizens, and the high unemployment rate on the population. He introduced Mr. Corey Lenyoun, a returning citizen who completed a training program and was currently working. Mr. Lenyoun shared his biography and detailed his experiences with the Detroit Prison Re-Entry Program.

Jeff Donofrio then played for the Board a video produced by Channel 7 highlighting the blight removal training offered inside the Detroit Reentry Center as a part of the Prison Re-Entry Program.

Co-Chairs Report: Chair Meador presented to a report highlighting recent developments to the Board. He included the 400 individuals who will be trained through five industry partnerships, the \$5.75M in new funding, the expansion of DDOT bus routes, the collaboration with DPSCD on diploma verification, and the improvement in resident employment and unemployment rates.

Detroiters in Jobs (DIJ): Chair Pasky introduced Bob Zhang and LaShawn Thomas from Strategic Staffing Solutions to present the Detroiters in Jobs initiative. Mr. Zhang and Ms. Thomas detailed how DIJ was intended to place and retain Detroiters in jobs for which they are qualified and which employers identified as high turnover. Mr. Zhang and Ms. Thomas talked about the approach their volunteer team took to identify, match and support employees.

Board members asked questions and discussed briefly the barrier of transportation and its relation to attendance, as well as identifying background friendly positions, and working with special populations.

Construction Committee Report: Jeff Donofrio introduced Board member Mark Gaffney, who spoke about the new Construction Basic Skills training, the Prison Re-Entry trainings, and the planned CDL training. He also spoke about the goal to use fees collected as a result of the Executive Order on employing Detroiters to train individuals and the plan to re-open the Randolph school as a world-class CTE center.

Healthcare Committee Report: Jeff Donofrio introduced Board member Jean Meyer to update the Board on the healthcare committee's work to design a common curriculum for Patient Sitter and Patient Care Techs, with the goal of issuing an RFP to identify a training provider.

New CEO: Chair Meador introduced Nicole Sherard-Freeman as the newly selected CEO of Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation, and again reiterated the goal of employing 100,000 Detroiters.

Executive Director's Report: Jeff Donofrio delivered a report outlining the work of the Board and Mayor's Office of Workforce Development in 2017. He highlighted the efforts to build partnerships and capacity in the system and to create more sector-specific training programs. He outlined the goal of aligning several existing programs into a youth strategy, that incorporates Grow Detroit's Young Talent, Linked Learning, and the Detroit Promise.

A major component of this youth strategy will be the reestablishment, through a partnership with DPSCD, of the Randolph CTE center. New investment in the school will rely on corporate, and philanthropic support and support an adult program during evenings and weekends.

The final components of Mr. Donofrio's presentation was the new Detroit at Work brand for workforce development and the SNAP 50/50 reimbursement Program to draw down additional federal dollars to support training and supportive services offered to individuals receiving SNAP benefits.

Old Business

No old business to come before the board.

New Business

Board member Alice Thompson asked the Board to consider the extent to which the Mayor's Workforce Development Board and the DESC board can further align their work.

Chair Meador asked the Board to consider way to further employment options and supports for adults with autism and other disabilities.

Public Comment

Nicole Sherard-Freeman, the incoming CEO of DESC introduced herself to the Board and outlined her vision for putting 100,000 Detroiters back to work.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the City of Detroit – Workforce Development Board Chair Pasky requested adjournment of the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:04pm. Motion Carried Unanimously.