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A Michigan Works! Agency

MEETING:	DESC Corporate Board Meeting	DATE:	December 13, 2022
ATTENDEES:	DESC Corporate Board Members: Cal Sharp, Alice Thompson, Chris Uhl, Lena Barkley, Ric Preuss, Dannis Mitchell, Nicole Sherard-Freeman, Maria Woodruff-Wright DESC Staff: Terri Weems, Sara Azu, Chanelle Manus, Elizabeth Hennessey, Dana Williams, Sheila Johnson, Traci Sassak, Madelyne Bernard-Diab, Chauncey Samuel, Leslie Griffin	LOCATION:	DESC Corporate Offices
		CALLED TO ORDER:	9:48 am
ABSENT:	Excused: Chris Phillips, Mike Aaron Unexcused: None	ADJOURNED:	10:50 am
PUBLIC ATTENDEES:	Nicole Lickliter, Veronica Sanchez-Peavey		
FACILITATOR:	Cal Sharp, Board Chair	DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:	June 27, 2023

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. Welcome & Introductions	Cal Sharp, Board Chairperson, called the meeting to order.	
II. Agenda Approval	<p>Mr. Sharp asked for approval of the agenda for the, December 13, 2022, meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Ric Preuss Seconded: Chris Uhl Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p> <p>Mr. Sharp asked for approval of the meeting minutes from the October 25, 2022, meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Lena Barkley Seconded: Dannis Mitchell Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	
III. Board Chair Report	<p>Cal Sharp, Board Chairperson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared that he is stepping down as Chairperson of the DESC Board, effective January 28, 2023. He expressed his admiration and pride at how large DESC has grown and how well DESC has met the needs of Detroiters. He emphasized the 	



	<p>importance of partnership with the Mayor’s Office and how that has allowed innovative programming to service Detroiters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He expressed his full support and confidence in the Board of Directors and the direction that the organization is headed. 	
<p>IV. DESC President Board Report</p>	<p>Terri Weems, DESC President:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressed her gratitude for Cal Sharp and his leadership over the years. Mr. Sharp is a large part of the reason DESC has grown as it has and has been successful in its mission. • Presented Cal Sharp with a proclamation and plaque that recognizes Mr. Sharp for his tireless leadership, serving Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation Board, since it's first session in 2012. • Recognized Nicole Sherard-Freeman for being named to the inaugural 2022 Axios Detroit Power Players. • Discussed the anticipated priorities of the new majority in the State Legislature following recent election results, and how they were expected to positively impact workforce development efforts. <p>Nicole Sherard-Freeman, Group Executive, Jobs, Economy & Detroit at Work added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are only 10 people that are recognized in this list, but this is a testament to the work that this Board, Terri Weems’ and Dana Williams’ leadership, Stephanie Nixon, Madelyne Bernard, and her Economic Development Team. <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	
<p>V. Mayors Workforce Development Board Update</p>	<p>Nicole Sherard-Freeman, Group Executive, Jobs, Economy & Detroit at Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognized Cal Sharp before giving her report and shared that everything that she’d detail in the update, our economic development activity is due in no small part to Cal Sharp. • Expressed gratitude to Mr. Sharp on behalf of the Detroiters whose lives are changed because of your leadership, who feel the impact of his leadership. • Shared the latest Bureau of Labor Statistics metrics and shared that resident employment increased slightly. She shared concerns that persist around labor force participation and the work the Mayor’s Office is doing to improve the numbers, including the Jumpstart Initiative. • Provided an update on the status of the American Motors Corporation headquarters over on Plymouth that has been acquired by North Point. She shared that this project is expecting to add several hundred jobs for Detroiters. • Detailed updates on the JP Morgan Chase Onshoring Project led by Dana Williams, Chief Strategy Officer, including the increased jobs and commitment from the company based on initial success of the initiative. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed the Mayor’s Jumpstart first-of-its-kind initiative to engage the long-term unemployed. She shared that DESC was selected by the City to serve as Program Administrator and detailed the major tenets of the program. She discussed that in partnership with community-based organizations, the expectation was to directly work with residents who have been unemployed for six-months or longer and work directly with them to alleviate barriers and help them obtain employment. She detailed the complexities of the program and work with partners at the State of Michigan to ensure that participants who received public assistance would not be negatively impacted. <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	
<p>VI. Audit & Finance Committee Update</p>	<p>Traci Sassak, DESC Chief Financial Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided an update on the status of the DESC Audit based on the impact of large-scale changes in the department. Detailed progress of City of Detroit and federally required submissions of financial statements by December 31, 2022. She shared that once the statements are finalized, those results would be shared. Shared that once the DESC Audit is finalized, work would resume on the single audit, which would be due by March 31. She expected the opinion on our financial statements to be clean. There are opportunities to improve controls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DESC’s Finance Team hired 7 new staff members since July who would be picking up additional work. DESC’s Finance Team has implemented new best practices which include journal entry documentation that allows full implementation and integration into Launchpad, DESC’s proprietary system. <p>Ms. Sassak fielded questions from the Board.</p>	
<p>VII. Program Services Committee Update</p>	<p>Alice Thompson, DESC Board Secretary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided an overview of the Program Services Committee meeting she led and discussed 2 contracts being brought to the Board for approval. <p>Ms. Thompson introduced Chauncey Samuel, Manager, Development and Employer Engagement:</p> <p>Ms. Samuel presented for review and approval the WIOA & Summer Youth Employment candidate for Youth Employment Coordinator, Connect Detroit, as the hub GDYT provider in the hub and spoke structure in place.</p> <p>Ms. Samuel fielded questions from the Board.</p>	

	<p>Cal Sharp, Board Chairperson, asked for approval of the agenda for the Connect Detroit contract:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Chris Uhl Seconded: Lena Barkley Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p> <p>Ms. Thompson introduced Madelyne Bernard-Diab, Chief Operations Officer:</p> <p>Mrs. Bernard-Diab presented for approval a contract with All-Ways Transport to provide Lyft transportation dispatch services for DAW customers in PATH, WIOA and other programs as needed. They are a legacy provider of Lyft services to customers to get to and from work, bring their children to school or daycare.</p> <p>Mrs. Bernard-Diab fielded questions from the Board.</p> <p>Cal Sharp, Board Chairperson, asked for approval of the agenda for the Connect Detroit contract:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Ric Preuss Seconded: Lena Barkley Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	
<p>VIII. Jumpstart Update</p>	<p>Terri Weems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided a brief overview of the new Jumpstart initiative, anticipated expectations around upcoming training for the IDO’s (community-based training organizations), and DESC’s role in serving as program administrators for the program. <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	
<p>IX.</p>	<p>Board Members, DESC Staff Past and Present gave tribute to Cal Sharp, Outgoing Board Chairperson.</p> <p>Mr. Sharp was presented with tokens of DESC’s appreciation of his service and guidance.</p>	
<p>X. Public Comments</p>	<p>There was no public comment.</p>	
<p>XI. Adjournment</p>	<p>Mr. Sharp called for a Motion to Adjourn the meeting:</p>	

	Motion: Ric Preuss Seconded: Chris Uhl Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously	
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DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:

Printed Name: Elizabeth Hennessey

Title: Administrator, Special Projects

Signature: /s/ E Hennessey

Date: 1/9/2023

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: June 27, 2023 **Initials:** EMH

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 @ 9:45 AM