



A Michigan Works! Agency

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MEETING:	DESC Corporate Board Meeting	DATE:	April 27, 2021
VIA ZOOM ATTENDEES:	DESC Board Members: Cal Sharp, Alice Thompson, Chris Phillips, Nicole Sherard-Freeman, Maria Woodruff-Wright, Ric Preuss, Lena Barkley, Chris Uhl DESC Staff: Terri Weems, Elizabeth Hennessey, Stephanie Nixon, Sara Azu, Rebecca Donnelly-Lasecki, Angela Polk, Madelyne Bernard-Diab, Chanelle Manus, Maxie Jones, Karina Moss, Alessia Baker-Giles, Robert Shimkoski, Greg Anderson, Angela Smith, Mel Polk, JaNae' Combs, William Smith, Dana Williams	LOCATION:	Zoom Meeting
		CALLED TO ORDER:	9:45 am
ABSENT:	Excused: Toney Stewart, Mike Aaron, Dannis Mitchell Unexcused: None	ADJOURNED:	10:50 am
PUBLIC ATTENDEES:	John Allen, George Pritchard, Camille Walker-Banks (N-Power)		
FACILITATOR:	Cal Sharp, Board Chair	DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. Welcome & Introductions	<p>Cal Sharp, Board Chair, called the meeting to order and read a statement regarding the state's recent amendment to the Open Meetings Act and how it impacts our virtual meeting. For the purpose of the minutes, all Board members attending remotely identified themselves and the location they were joining from:</p> <p>Cal Sharp from Bloomfield Township, MI Alice Thompson from Detroit, MI Chris Uhl from Berkley, MI Ric Preuss from Detroit, MI Nicole Sherard-Freeman from Detroit, MI Chris Phillips from Detroit, MI Lena Barkley from Detroit, MI Maria Woodruff-Wright from Detroit, MI area</p>	
II. Agenda and Minutes Approval	<p>Cal Sharp asked for approval to the agenda for the April 27, 2021 meeting:</p> <p>Motion: Lena Barkley Seconded: Chris Uhl Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	



	<p>Cal Sharp called for approval of the meeting minutes for the Board meeting on January 26, 2021:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Alice Thompson Seconded: Ric Preuss Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	
<p>III. DESC Board Chair Report</p>	<p>Cal Sharp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed Christian Phillips, the newest member of DESC's Board, and highlighted his accomplishments and suitability as a new Board member. 	
<p>IV. DESC President Board Report</p>	<p>Terri Weems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed two new staff members, Sara Azu and Chanelle Manus, and opened up the floor to any other new staff that were on the meeting session. Angela Smith identified herself as a new member of the Finance team. • Highlighted special programming underway including the Community Health Corps, Family and Friends, and Learn 2 Earn—each having approximately 200 participants. • Shared that promotional efforts are underway for both People Plan programming • Shared that GDYT (Grow Detroit s Young Talent) is doing very well and has approximately 95% of funding secured. • Advised there is a strong likelihood of DESC receiving additional funding from the Federal Government and the State, particularly from the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act). 	
<p>V. MWDB Update</p>	<p>Nicole Sherard-Freeman:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised that Detroit City Council approved the City's 2022 Fiscal Year budget in April and advised that a portion of estimated compliance fees, have been set aside for structured programming to prepare Detroiters for skilled trades. • Shared that discussions had begun with leaders from the Skilled Trades Industry including Ric Preuss, Chris Phillips, Lee Graham, Carlo Castiglione, and Mike Aaron to support trades. • Advised that the City of Detroit is expecting to receive a significant amount of funding from the federal government and State of Michigan due to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and American Families Act expected to be proposed by President Joe Biden. Detroit At Work is expected to receive a portion of these funds where workforce projects are approved by the city of Detroit. Methods of allocation, timing, and dollar amounts are fluid and will become more concrete once traditional budgeting processes are completed. • Shared that Detroit At Work expects to receive normal funding from the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. DESC 	

	<p>President, Terri Weems, is making very conservative estimates about 2022 Fiscal Year appropriations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advised that over half of the requested philanthropic dollars for workforce development were committed, enabling the City to do more innovative and expansive programming, not allowed by traditional program funding streams. 	
<p>VI. Program Services Committee Update</p>	<p>Alice Thompson reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Program Services Committee met on April 12th and received a very thorough, comprehensive update from Program Staff. The Committee discussed several topics, including the SWES YouthBuild contract, Connect Detroit Contract Proposal, and received an update from Program Staff on the Career Centers and Human-Centered Design. The contract proposal for Connect Detroit for coordination of GDYT (Grow Detroit's Young Talent) was reviewed by the Committee and presented to the Corporate Board for consideration. <p>Cal Sharp called for approval of the contract proposal with Connect Detroit:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Chris Uhl Seconded: Lena Barkley Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	
<p>VII. Focus: Hope Contract for Motion and Approval</p>	<p>Michelle Rafferty presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Contract Proposal for Focus: Hope to provide for case management and training of their Advanced Manufacturing Training program. She provided an overview of the program and discussed how the program would make training significantly easier for Detroiters. Finally, she shared that the program was procured through the FOA for Sector Partnership Training. <p>Cal Sharp called for approval of the contract proposal:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Alice Thompson Seconded: Chris Uhl Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	
<p>VIII. Audit & Finance Committee Update</p>	<p>Chris Uhl reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Audit & Finance committee met on Thursday April 22nd and discussed the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget—which will be brought forward during the June meeting, Paycheck Protection Plan Status, and draft findings from the Office of Auditor General findings. 	

<p>IX. Strategy & Operations Update</p>	<p>Michelle Rafferty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed the Foundational Skills Initiative led by the Mayor’s Office of Workforce Development (MOWD) and partnerships to provide Detroiters with the skills necessary to obtain jobs, keep their job, or advance within their careers. Released an RFP last week for the Contextualized Integrated Educational Training (IET) programming. <p>Carmen Bender continued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This IET model will greatly impact Detroiters because it is tailored to partner with Adult Basic Education and specific-industry training while maximizing the following design principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry sector or population focused Maximize accessibility Learner-appropriate Learner cohorts The program will maximize accessibility by providing wraparound and supportive services that the DAW team already provides so well. These services include barrier removal, transportation, and childcare. <p>Board discussion ensued. Ms. Rafferty and Ms. Bender fielded questions from the Corporate Board.</p>	
<p>X. Office of the Attorney General Audit Findings</p>	<p>Terri Weems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed Draft Office of Auditor General (OAG) audit findings and ongoing discussions with the Office to finalize findings and recommendations. Shared that DESC is fully compliant with all applicable requirements that relate to the Workforce Training Fund. Advised that there has been numerous discussion back-and-forth between the OAG and DESC leadership resulting in updates to their report following agreement that OAG did not/does not fully understand DESC’s business. <p>Board discussion ensued. Ms. Weems fielded questions from the Corporate Board.</p>	
<p>XI. Public Comments</p>	<p>There was no public comment.</p>	
<p>XII. Adjournment</p>	<p>Cal Sharp called to adjourn the meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Alice Thompson Seconded: Chris Uhl Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	

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DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:

Printed Name: **Elizabeth Hennessey**

Title: Executive Assistant to the President

Signature: /s/ E Hennessey

Date: 4/30/2021

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: _____ **Initials:** _____

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 26, 2021 @ 9:45 AM
