



CITY OF DETROIT MAYOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Thursday, June 16, 2022

11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Location: In-person at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters

Proposed Meeting Minutes ***Co-Chairs: Dave Meador & Cindy Pasky***

Call to Order

Co-Chair Dave Meador called the Mayor's Workforce Development Board Meeting to order at 11:17 a.m.

REPORTS

Co-Chair's Report – Dave Meador

Resident Employment Update: Mr. Meador began his co-chair's report with the resident employment update, noting the tremendous progress we've made to bounce back from the drop during the pandemic, citing that in Detroit we're rebounding and growing faster than the rest of the state of Michigan.

He continued with referencing the impact of the great resignation and the work being done to understand and adapt to that change, noting the mayor's agenda and the direction he's giving to Nicole Sherard-Freeman to create opportunities for Detroiters. Mr. Meador then expressed the importance of reaching the folks that aren't in the workforce to help them better understand the opportunities available to them, and to identify barriers at the city and state levels so that we can create more opportunity and put people to work.

Mr. Meador closed his report by acknowledging board member, Dr. Curtis Ivery for his recent nod as CEO of the year by the American Association of Community Colleges.

Executive Director's Report - Nicole Sherard-Freeman

Ms. Sherard-Freeman began her presentation with a recap of the Mackinac Policy Conference, referencing this year's theme: Civility in Public Discourse and How We Make Michigan a top 10 State. She noted how impactful it was to hear leaders at all levels talk about the intersections of the two topics and how it's impossible to consider one without the other.

She continued by sharing highlights from the conference, including the Detroit Center for Innovation, citing it is one of the most aggressive initiatives designed to bring education,

research, housing, and retail to the heart of the city. Noting it's one of the largest investments the city has ever seen, happening right now under the leadership of this board.

She continued with highlighting three MPC panels including "How Covid-19 and Social Change Altered the Role of CEO's" which featured co-chair Cindy Pasky and "A Case Study in Civility," noting that both panels illustrated the changing role of CEO's and other C-Suite leaders in the business sector who are leading complex systems in challenging environments. Lastly, she cited the "Workforce Diversity and Equity as Michigan's Competitive Edge" panel which featured Detroit at Work's Chief Strategy Officer Dana Williams and Lieutenant Governor Gilchrist, among others.

Ms. Sherard-Freeman finished her Executive Director's report citing the importance to continue having bold, open conversations about the intersections of innovation, development, and equity, and to look for new approaches to solve the labor force challenge and labor force participation rate. She noted a few things this board should be intensely focused on including industrial site readiness and addressing barriers that keep folks out of the labor market.

To close the Executive Director's report, Ms. Terri Weems, President of DESC, provided an update on Wagner-Peyser. Ms. Weems stated that the US Department of Labor has proposed rules that will require all states to use State Merit Staff in providing Wagner-Peyser employment services. Ms. Weems explained that the Michigan Works! Agencies across the state and the National Association of Workforce Boards oppose this new rule, as it would impact the system's capacity to support many of the workforce objectives and innovative programs and services that we strive to meet and that we've been tasked to meet by this board. She noted that the Michigan Works! Agencies are collectively working to ensure our workforce boards are made aware and are informed of this proposed change. Ms. Weems closed by citing we're most interested in the Department of Labor updating their proposal to allow us to continue to use Local Merit Staff.

Questions and comments from board members ensued

PRESENTATIONS

Michigan Central Station – Josh Sirefman, CEO, Ford, Michigan Central Innovation District; Luke Polcyn, Deputy Group Executive, Jobs & Economy Team, City of Detroit; Tim Slusser, Chief Mobility innovation Officer, City of Detroit; Dana Williams, Chief Strategy Officer, Detroit at Work

Josh Sirefman highlighted the Transportation Innovation Zone, the role that Michigan Central can play in the community, and how it relates to skills development and workforce development. Mr. Sirefman noted three critical areas of impact: Ecosystem; Solutions; Skills. Mr. Sirefman focused on three strategic initiatives: Pilot Program Training Opportunities; New Curriculum Development; Physical Learning Hub.

Questions and comments from board members ensued

Ms. Sherard-Freeman explained it's the first time the City of Detroit has had a Transportation Innovation Zone, noting it's one of only six places in the nation. Michigan Central Station, the State of Michigan, and the City of Detroit are at the table, noting it's a first of its kind MOU

between those three parties, and was accompanied by a \$1.8 million investment from the state into the Detroit Workforce System.

Luke Polcyn, explained the Governance and Implementation structure of the Public Private Partnership, highlighting the Executive Committee, the Operational Oversight, Coordinating Committee and the four key activation workgroups: Transportation Innovation Zone; Economic Development; Workforce Development; Community Development.

Dana Williams, Chief Strategy Officer for Detroit at Work, explained the project was centered on equity, mobility and innovation and highlighted some of the work planned within the four Activation Workgroups, as well as the importance of the community outreach to let Detroiters know about these innovative workforce opportunities. She noted some of the programs and work already underway including defining career pathways for positions in electric and autonomous vehicle installation, repair and software and coding.

Questions and comments from board members ensued

American Rescue Plan Updates – Meagan Elliott, Deputy CFO, Development & Grants, City of Detroit

Ms. Elliott highlighted the Detroit Future Fund’s North Star Goal, “a resilient city with universally vibrant safe, healthy and beautiful neighborhoods providing equitable and inclusion airy access to economic mobility and social prosperity.” She noted to reach that goal, the APRA funds have been allocated to four project types: Human Services; Capital Projects; City Services; Administrative. Ms. Elliott highlighted 15 buckets of spending that City Council has appropriated for these funds including programs that help improve city services, infrastructure and capital investments and provide greater accessibility for residents to participate in these opportunities. She highlighted rigorous efforts to be compliant and impactful with spending and closed her presentation with a success story from a resident in the Skills for Life program.

Questions and comments from board members ensued

Grow Detroit’s Young Talent – Stephanie Nixon, Chief Program Officer, Detroit at Work

Ms. Nixon, began her presentation with program highlights, noting GDYT placed over 8,000 youth in various work experiences including direct employer placements, industry-led training and pre-apprenticeship programs, Junior Police Cadets and more. With an increase in funding for 2022, GDYT has raised wages to \$15/hr. Ms. Nixon highlighted other program improvements for this year such as free 1:1 financial counseling, career pathway experiences and new education and training experiences for young people.

Questions and comments from board members ensued

Consent Agenda

April Agenda, June Agenda, December 2021 minutes, April 2022 minutes

Co-Chair Dave Meador asked for a motion to approve. Moved by Conrad Mallet. Supported by Alice Thompson. Motion approved.

Public Comment

Co-Chair Dave Meador asked for public comment. No hands were raised.

Adjournment

Co-Chair Dave Meador called for a motion to adjourn. Moved by Alice Thompson. Supported by Conrad Mallet. Meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Attendees

Alice Thompson, Andra Rush, Bill Robinson, Byron Osbern, Calvin Sharp, Carla Walker-Miller, Colleen Allen, Cindy Pasky, Dr. Curtis Ivery, Conrad Mallett, Darienne Driver-Hudson, Dave Meador, Kofi Bonner, Mark Reuss, Mark Gaffney, Mike McLauchlan, Mike Haller, Alycia Meriweather, Nicole Sherard-Freeman, Jan Harrington-Davis, Dana Williams, Josh Sirefman, Luke Polcyn, Meagan Elliott, Stephanie Nixon, Terri Weems, Spencer Lucker, Kevin Johnson, Kevin Naud, Erika Rivers, Hachem Ossieran, John Matton, Madelyn Bernard-Diab, Renard Richmond, Olivia Vaden, Robert Shimkoski, Susan Reinke, Rachel May