



CITY OF DETROIT MAYOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Wednesday, March 29, 2022

3-5 p.m.

Location: In-person at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters

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

Call to Order

Co-Chair Cindy Pasky called the Mayor's Workforce Development Board Meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

March 2023 Agenda and December 2022 Minutes

Co-Chair Cindy Pasky asked for a motion to approve the Agenda & Minutes as presented. Moved by Bishop Edgar Vann, supported by Curtis Ivery. Motion Approved.

REPORTS

Co-Chair's Report – Dave Meador & Cindy Pasky

Resident Employment Update: Co-Chair Dave Meador began the co-chair's report with the resident employment update, highlighting January 2023 at 223,423. He noted that while U-M predictions showed projections of returning to pre-Covid numbers (230k), there are some factors contributing to the slower recovery, such as worries about a recession, high interest rates and recent layoffs. Mr. Meador highlighted some of the mayor's recovery efforts including \$100M of ARPA funds dedicated to training and development and job placement, noting the mayor's message that there's a job for everyone that wants to work.

Co-Chair Cindy Pasky provided a board member update, thanking two departing members for their service, Cal Sharp, and John James, while welcoming the board's newest member, Mr. William Kingsley.

Ms. Pasky motioned for approval of the board's expanded Executive Committee to include Alice Thompson, Colleen Allen, Dr. Curtis Ivery, Josh Sirefman and Dr. Darienne Hudson. Moved by Bishop Edgar Vann, supported by Jeff Donofrio. Motion approved.

Acknowledgements and comments from board members ensued.

Executive Director's Report - Nicole Sherard-Freeman

Ms. Sherard-Freeman began her presentation with highlights from the State of the City address, drawing attention to the mayor's previous address where he highlighted 12 blighted industrial sites and noting the administration's current efforts to not just plan for improving each building, but to also include the neighborhood that surrounds them. She talked about the impact on housing value, noting Detroit is now the national leader in closing the racial gap in home values. Ms. Sherard-Freeman also noted the mayor's \$10M commitment, under the leadership of Councilmember Durhal, to approach community violence intervention differently. Leveraging partners who are grassroots and mud roots organizations. She closed with highlighting ways to connect with all the opportunities on the rise, including a new tangled title program that will help Detroiters who have inherited homes from relatives but don't have clear title.

Continuing, Ms. Sherard-Freeman closed the Executive Director's report with a quick mention of the mayor's Charter Mandated meeting in January, noting the mayor dedicated the entire meeting to Workforce, where he highlighted the \$100M Scholarship program, JumpStart and the 18 in-Detroit organizations who are on the ground, working to implement the programs, that under the leadership of the board will change the trajectory of thousands of lives in the city.

NEW BUSINESS

MWDB Disabilities Committee Update – Colleen Allen

Committee co-chair Colleen Allen presented a brief update on the Disabilities Committee giving a nod to her co-chair Bill Robinson. Ms. Allen noted the committee is making great progress in identifying employer partners and streamlining processes. She noted the barriers to those with disabilities and the desire to create a process that makes it easy for organizations to hire people with disabilities. She closed by noting the committee's focus on building a culture of inclusion.

PRESENTATIONS

District Detroit – Ryan Friedrichs, Vice President of Development, Related Companies & Rian English Barnhill, Vice President of Government & Community Affairs, Olympia Development

Ms. English Barnhill began noting the partnership between Related Companies and Olympia Development coming together for this joint venture. Mr. Friedrichs described District Detroit as an advanced innovation and talent-focused community development, propelling job creation and creating opportunity for Detroiters and residents across Michigan.

At the heart of the development is the University of Michigan Center for Innovation, a \$250M academic building and world-class center for education, research, and entrepreneurship.

The presentation closed with a look at the impact District Detroit will have on the city, including 6 new projects (2 mixed-income residential buildings, 3 commercial office buildings, 1 hotel), 18K jobs (12K construction jobs, 6k ongoing jobs after construction), 4 renovated historic projects (2 residential projects, 1 business incubator) and 695 mixed-income residential units (20% earmarked at 50% of the area median income (AMI) and below).

Questions and comments from board members ensued.

\$100M Scholarships – Dana Williams, Chief Strategy Officer, Detroit at Work & Terri Weems, President, Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation

Executive Director Nicole Sherard-Freeman opened this presentation by noting the American Rescue Plan Act funding and how the mayor and city council's commitment to using these funds avails the city an opportunity to support the type of work like District Detroit in ways that were previously impossible. She noted there is tremendous opportunity for Detroiters, and that Dana and Terri will talk about what this system, under the board's leadership, is doing to get Detroiters ready.

Ms. Weems opened the presentation highlighting a few of the programs operating right now including Learn to Earn, a program where you can earn your high school equivalency or diploma and earn up to \$200/wk while doing so. She noted there are 50 different career training programs offered by Detroit at Work including 20 opportunities that offer a stipend so that Detroiters can work and earn an education at the same time. She highlighted a new career guide available in print and online that will assist Detroiters in career planning in high demand industries. Ms. Weems noted the 9 career centers across the city, where residents have access within a 3-mile radius of their home.

Ms. Sherard-Freeman gave a brief rundown of the budget presentation to city council noting how the funding is structured to pay for these programs. Ms. Weems explained the auditing process that monitors how the funding is spent. She continued noting the public workforce system requirements for how the funding is spent and highlighted the ways in which we go beyond the requirements. With additional funding, she noted, we are doing so much more than a traditional Michigan Works Agency would do because of the partnerships that we have because of the additional funding that we have.

Ms. Weems continued with a look at some of the metrics noting that we're serving between 25-30K Detroit residents a year. These numbers have been increasing year over a year over year, and in particular, despite a pandemic, we've had significant gains and increases in the number of people we've reached and helped to train and to place.

Questions and comments from board members ensued.

Ms. Dana Williams provided a look at the city's priority hiring partners, noting that among the many hiring partners we have, there are 14 companies that have made it official and committed, in writing, to making Detroiters a priority in their hiring processes including Amazon, Lear, Dakkota, Majorel and more. She noted over 35K Detroiters have raised their hands to work at these companies and it's resulted in almost 10K that have been hired.

She closed by highlighting the partnership with DPSCD and the support we give for the CTE schools (Randolph & Breithaupt) with equipment needs, programming and instructors. Ms. Williams announced the return of evening adult programming focused on construction, in preparation for all the great work we know is coming.

Ms. Weems closed this presentation with a brief highlight of the programming happening to serve Detroiters including Skills for Life, Learn to Earn, JumpStart, Community Health Corps and Grow Detroit's Young Talent.

Questions and comments from board members ensued.

Public Comment

Executive Director Nicole Sherard-Freeman asked for public comment. No public comment.

Adjournment

Co-Chair Dave Meador called for a motion to adjourn. Moved by Carla Walker Miller. Supported by Dr. Ivery. Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Board Member Attendees

Alice Thompson, Andra Rush, Angelique Power, Bill Robinson, Bruce Dall, Byron Osbern, Carla Walker Miller, Dr. Curtis Ivery, Cindy Pasky, Dave Meador, Bishop Edgar Vann, Michelle Sourie-Robinson, M. Roy Wilson, Mike McLauchlan, Bill Kingsley, Jeff Donofrio, Josh Sirefman, Sandro DiNello, Tonya Adair.