

**Workforce Development Board
MINUTES**

October 18, 2023 • 3:00 – 4:30 PM
WorkSource Pierce, Pine Room

Attendees: Dale King, Blaine Wolff, Nathe Lawler, Jenna Pollock, Rachael Pease, Tanya Imke, Dave Shaw, Deanna Keller, April Lynne, Deb Tuggle, Irene Reyes

Staff: Katie Condit, Debbie Lean, Jan Adams, Steve Grimstad, Deborah Howell, Kelly Brickhouse, Sam Bradshaw

- **Welcome**

- Introductions

April called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. Introductions were made. April announced she will be retiring and stepping down from the Board. Tanya Imke was welcomed as a new board member.

- **Public Comment**

None

- **Consent Agenda** (*Board Vote*)

- June 2023 Minutes
 - Finance Report August 2023
 - Updated Bylaws
 - Public Records Request Policy

Due to the lack of a quorum, the October 18, 2023 consent agenda items are tabled until the next meeting.

- **Board Officer Nominations**

April announced that her role as Chair will be up at the end of the year. Irene Reyes has served as Vice Chair for the last two years and graciously accepted the opportunity to step in as the next Chair. Dave Shaw has volunteered to become Vice Chair, supporting Irene's leadership. At this time, there is an open call for additional nominations. A vote will occur at the December 2023 meeting for a new Chair and Vice Chair to begin their roles beginning January 2024.

- **Good Jobs, Great Cities & Green Economy – Katie Condit, Nathe Lawver, Blaine Wolfe**

April reminded the board of the launch of the Good Jobs, Great Cities initiative. The National League of Cities selected Tacoma as one of 16 Cities to participate in a year-long cohort to develop strategies for strengthening pathways into green construction and manufacturing jobs in Pierce County. Katie shared there is a strong collaboration of partners working on a strategic plan and announced we should be hearing soon if we will receive an additional \$3 million. Nathe shared that they started with manufacturing jobs in Pierce County, and it grew to talk about childcare and the needs in that area. Blaine shared that the big takeaway was the work WFC staff have accomplished that put us ahead and how we are in a great position.

- **Minority and Women-Owned Businesses-Construction- Katie, Nathe Lawver, Rachael Pease**

Katie shared that Pierce County is anticipating a minimum of \$1.5 billion in investments in public infrastructure over the next five years. A group is forming to determine how to support minority and women-owned construction businesses best to be competitive and equal players in this space. Nathe shared it is more of a support structure, and there was a lot of discussion on who can assist with the various areas of operating a business. Rachael shared her experience in the private sector and the importance of helping them so they can sustain their business.

- **Artificial Intelligence in Workforce Development – Board Members**

April shared that every day now, we're hearing predictions, warnings, and opportunities about how AI will impact our world. Katie shared that this is also true in workforce development and that when we look at our work, we look at how AI will affect workforce development and understand that it is an opportunity. Still, it will not replace the human touch. A roundtable ensued wherein Board members shared how, if at all, AI is impacting work in their area of expertise.

- **Collaboration for a Cause – Kelly Brickhouse, WorkForce Central**

Kelly shared that there is a lot of excitement around the upcoming Collaboration for a Cause event, which will be the biggest one to date. We will be holding this on November 1st at the Tacoma Dome. This event will be Pierce County's most significant job and resource one-stop with 167 participating vendors. Buses to transport people from hard-to-reach areas will be used. The event announcement is displayed on billboards and buses. There are also flyers in 7 other languages, and interpreters will be present on the event day.

- **Westrock Plant Layoffs – Rapid Response, Sam Bradshaw, WorkForce Central**

Sam Bradshaw has been leading the rapid response efforts to ensure that Westrock Plant workers being laid off due to the unannounced business closure are connected to good jobs and resources as soon as possible. Sam shared that a lot of people are being affected by this closure. There is a lot of shock amongst the workers. Workforce Central Business Solutions staff are there to assist them and help them through steps to get the help they need/want to get, and they believe working with these workers will continue into the first quarter of next year. The Business Solutions team will remain focused on doing all they can to ensure everyone who needs/wants assistance is getting it. On behalf of the WDB, April made a point of thanking Sam and the team. The degree to which the feelings and the impact on the employees are vast, and their work is commendable.

- **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 4:31pm