

CRCOG FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

CRCOG, 241 Main Street, Hartford (Conference call option provided)
Thursday, March 12, 2020
9:00 a.m.

Attendees

Stephen Cassano
Brian Heavern
John Carson
Robert Lee
Chris Duffy
Chip Beckett
Mohamed Alkadry
Hedy Ayers
Marcia Leclerc
Doug Fischer
Diane Smith

CRCOG Staff

Lyle Wray
Tim Malone

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by President Steve Cassano. He welcomed the Board and thanked those who called in.

2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes (October 7, 2019 Meeting)

Chip Beckett made a motion to approve the Minutes of October 7, 2019 as presented. John Carson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by voice vote.

3. Update on Member Status

Tim gave an update on expiring member terms. He noted that all member he had reached out to agreed to their extended terms.

4. Action Item: Officer Vacancies

This item was tabled to a future meeting.

5. Future Priorities/Agency Transition

Lyle Wray gave an overview of agency efforts to find a replacement for him when he retires. The agency has started to have a series of interviews with regional stakeholder to aide in determining priorities for the future. A list of already completed interviews was shared with the group. The following comments were made:

- Should add John Patrick
- Should we engage the government sector more?
 - Such as DAS, Statewide HR director, people who are aware of where the state is going.
- Steve Cassano offered to help arrange meetings.
- Mohamed Alkadry suggested adding Gian-Carl Casa and engaging with Connecticut Philanthropy.
- Chris Duffy suggested engaging with the entrepreneur community (an established person and a new person).

6. Work in Progress

- October 31: third in a series of policy discussions
 - Resend flyer to foundation and board
 - Lunch at 11:30 at Hartford Library
 - 75 RSVPs
 - Commissioners and local officials
 - Jay Williams moderating
 - Steve Cassano: when the minimum wage bill was passed, we left 16-18 year olds drifting. Grocery store employment seems to be down. Wasn't addressed by the legislature. Needs to be defined.
 - Chip: every business in a high tax state has to have workforce
 - OCEA makes it difficult for kids to work with equipment
 - Alkadry: there needs to be a comprehensive approach to workforce in the state
 - Need to do it quickly
 - Need to take care of replacing the workforce of government
 - Need a comprehensive gaps analysis
 - Chip
 - Can we talk about the distribution of the workforce and some small business
 - Small businesses can't compete on the regulatory front
 - Will send out the Las Vegas website
 - Half the prosecutors could be lost
 - Alkadry: has someone done a gaps analysis
 - Hard to believe nobody has done it
 - Robert: where should the leadership on this come from?
 - Chip: CRCOG should lead
 - Leclerc: have we talked to them and said that we would be a big part of the state efforts
 - Lyle: need to follow-up with them
 - Alkadry: would be more effective if we get legislative buy-in
 - Would be good to engage early with legislature

- Create a mini-taskforce
 - Robert: we haven't even brought up the workforce development boards
 - Do they need to get reorganized?
 - Alkadry: might want to bring back to the board a proposal for who should be involved in this
 - Steve C: if we can get some top management and just lay it out; state that we have a crisis
 - Alkadry: make sure the key actors are at the table early
- CEDS status update
 - Retention
 - Why is Uhart retaining students?
 - Uconn has outreach people
 - Cassano: community college charges for the degree, many students transfer out
 - Alkadry: evidence based practices are really important
 - P Shapiro: when the incoming president gave his inaugural address, the only college he talked about was Santa Monica Community College
 - I think he'd be very receptive
 - Trinity reducing number of full-payers each year
- Advancing TOD
 - Emily: part of retaining talent
 - Started a new initiative this year
 - TOD Collaborative focusing on state agencies, developers, anchors
 - Had our first meeting in early June
 - Second meeting organized on October 24
 - Group from Harvard coming to help facilitate
 - Will have someone who is inspiring talk about TOD

7. Other Business

8. Adjournment

Chip Beckett moved to adjourn. Seconded by Robert Lee.

Unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30am.