

Workforce Development Council
Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2002

Gary Park called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

New Board member Oscar Garza was welcomed. Oscar is from Othello and owns a towing company and represents business.

Meeting Minutes

Kathy Mertes moved and Frank Noble seconded to accept the May 21, 2002 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed.

Chelan/Douglas Committee Report

Kathy reported Career Quest was successful and attended by more than 300 area youth.

Year end performance was reviewed, and our area is doing great. Improvements have been put in place to increase performance on those measures that were below goal. Other areas in the state had a slow start and continue to struggle with performance. We can be very proud of our area.

The training waiver was approved for another year, but will not be approved next year. Wenatchee Valley College will be invited to continue the office technology program.

Grant/Adams Committee Report

The new incumbent worker grant was discussed. It is about double the amount of the first grant. Dave explained technical class at Big Bend Community College will resume in October and build on the maintenance skills taught last spring. Gary said five Basic American Foods employees attended the first classes and three worked in maintenance positions over the summer. They enjoyed the classes and felt they gained significantly.

The business luncheon was well attended. Trina said the luncheons have several goals. They increase agency visibility in the business community, provide information on productivity issues, and allow us collect information from local business on the services they need. The luncheons are scheduled quarterly and each quarter different employers will be invited. Oscar attended the Moses Lake business lunch and said it was great, but wished more Othello business owners could have attended. It was very productive.

The committee recommended the board authorize staff to move forward with site selection and initial design for a one-stop center. Dave introduced architect Mark Neal. Mark explained he has identified property in Moses Lake known as the Central School site. It is relatively affordable at \$3.19 per square foot. He studied the site, available utilities, and street access and concluded it will meet our needs. The current SkillSource lease expires April, 2004 and WorkSource in November, 2003. Depending upon the approval process, spring of 2004 is the soonest the building would be ready to occupy. SkillSource needs approximately 10,000 square feet and WorkSource 10,000 square feet with some shared areas. A single floor is favored for accessibility and the cost of installing an elevator. The site is central to the business community.

Bill asked if the center needs to be downtown and said locating on the base provides access to the alternative school, college, and Job Corp. Public transportation is available, and it is a large area. Karl and Todd said they prefer the downtown location because it is closer to the more populated areas and customers. Todd explained Big Bend Community College and Job Corp staff are co-located in the WorkSource office. Clients can talk with Job Corp and BBCC staff before they ever visit the campus. This has been a great link to connect customers to Job Corp and Big Bend.

Frank asked how long it would take the state to approve the location. Mark explained that ESD cannot initiate the process but is expected to be a subleasee. Todd explained the Employment Security Commissioner has approved the proposed co-location with SkillsSource in response to the expiring lease.

Frank Noble moved and Dick Niemeyer seconded authorizing staff to move forward with site selection and initial design of a Moses Lake one-stop center. Motion passed.

Okanogan Committee Report

Dick reported performance was excellent. He thanked Dave for cosponsoring the Colville Confederated Tribes educational summit. The summit was very successful and discussed best practices in education. There were a wide variety of people in attendance.

Lucille Pakootas is being recommended by the Colville Confederated Tribes to the Workforce Development Council for membership.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Members present:

Oscar Garza
Dick Niemeyer
Theresa Martinez
Phil Griesse
Gary Park
Bill Bonaudi
Frank Noble
Karl Anderson, alternate
Kathy Mertes
Marcia Henkle
Cheri Rayburn

Members absent:

Mike Baird
Terry Brewer
John Hamilton
Mel Hansen
Dimitri Mandelis
Tom Martinez
Georgia Nelson
Donna Scott
Roger Thieme
Dan Leary
Mike Wade

Committee members:

Todd Dixon

Staff:

Dave Petersen
Trina DeCamp
Laura Hennigh
John Rundell
Cindy Blaufuss

Guests:

Mark Neal