



BOARD MEETING SUMMARY DRAFT

Thursday, June 17, 2021 | 9:00-11:00 A.M.

Chair: Mr. William Strahan

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Welcome

Mr. William Strahan called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. **MOTION** was made to approve the consent agenda **ACTION:** the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Strahan mentioned he is grateful for the work in the last quarter around our committees and moving us along for another good year for Philadelphia Works. He thanked the staff for being agile in keeping customers and each other safe, while driving the mission forward for the work we do for the citizens of Philadelphia. Mr. Strahan thanked our partners for the work they and their teams have done as well for the citizens of Philadelphia.

The Honorable James Kenney, Mayor of Philadelphia joined the meeting to thank Mr. Strahan for his service and leadership as Chair of the Board for the past eight years. It is with his leadership that Philadelphia Works has grown into the organization it is today. The mayor extended his heartfelt gratitude to Norma Romero-Mitchell, Thomas “Bud” Tyler, and Peter Turbolino after eight years of service on the board. Mayor Kenney thanked them for helping Philadelphia Works create economic opportunities for Philadelphians through viable employment and training opportunities.

The mayor welcomed new board members Jasmine Sessoms, Stephanie Kosta, Ed Krawczyk, Kimmel Proctor, and Susan Schonfeld. They hail from the private and public sector, bringing industry knowledge that will strengthen Philadelphia’s Works’ ability to do its part in making an attractive landscape for employers to grow their businesses and talented individuals to grow their careers. We thank you in advance for your service to our city.

Economic Update

Unemployment Insurance

The latest information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) as of April 21, 2021, the unemployment rate is 9.2 percent. In March, the rate was 10.6 percent, and in February, 11.2 percent. The unemployment rate and labor force are decreasing. The BLS uses a complex calculation to determine the total number of residents in the labor force in Philadelphia. The basis is asking one survey question; “have you looked for work in the last four weeks?” So, you can move in and out of the labor force. This is not that we lost 44,000 people compared to February 2020 in the labor force, it is a transient number.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS:

Michelle Armstrong
Shari Brightful
Steven Scott Bradley
Manny Citron
David Crossed
Brigette Daniel
Patrick Eiding
Daniel Fitzpatrick
Peter Gonzales
Ed Grose
John Lasky
Richard Lazer
Norma Romero Mitchell
James Nichols
Douglas Oliver
Sarah Steltz
William Strahan
Peter Tubolino
Thomas Tyler
April Walker
Christina Wong

REGRETS:

Emily Bittenbender
Donald Generals
Beatriz Garces

GUESTS:

Wanda Carlo
Waverly Coleman
Patty Day
Damaris Espinosa
V. Grant
James Harris
Heloise Jettison
Honorable James Kenney
Stephanie Kosta
Mackenzie Krott
Edward Krawczyk
Jasmine Sessoms
Jay Spector
Roy Vanderford

...and other guests

[Philadelphia Works Recovery Occupations](#)

Each year Philadelphia Works performs an internal analysis of occupational demand and labor supply for jobs in Philadelphia. We couple this with the benefits of a job for workers and qualities that make a job a good job. This year we modified our approach to be more agile in identifying timely investment opportunities.

This year for recovery occupations, we focused on the WIOA high priority occupation list. The list is essentially another analysis produced by PA Labor & Industry, factoring in demand numbers. You can petition a job that qualifies to be added to the list, and we are actively engaged in that. Our recovery occupations provide family-sustaining wages of \$15 per hour or more; and experienced minimum impact on employment during the pandemic, and in some cases, projected growth.

We used projected numbers through 2022 that include employment numbers through the pandemic to get a good sense of where things are going. There is a focus on middle-skill jobs and low-skill jobs with an opportunity for advancement. Although they are considered low-skill jobs, they are good-paying quality jobs with career pathways. They are also jobs that require an educational level of an associate degree or less, so career-seekers can connect to employment or earn and learn opportunities now.

CEO Report

[Election of Officers](#)

Mr. H. Patrick Clancy introduced the proposed slate of candidates of new officers.

- o Daniel Fitzpatrick – Chairman
- o Stephen Scott Bradley – Co-Chairman
- o Patrick Eiding – Secretary
- o April Walker – Treasurer

MOTION: Mr. Richard Lazer made a motion to elect the new slate of officers. **ACTION:** motion was approved unanimously **ABSTAINED:** proposed new officers.

[Investment Strategy FY22](#)

Ms. Patricia Blumenauer provided an overview of Philadelphia Works initial investment strategy for FY2022. She presented how funds will be used for the PA CareerLink® System (\$23,657,000), Youth System (\$16,842,260) Skills and Employer Based Training Initiatives (\$10,228,952), and Supplemental Services and Other Costs (\$2,285,000) for a total estimated investment of \$53,013,212.

MOTION was made to approve FY 2022 initial workforce investment strategy as presented. **ACTION:** the motion was approved unanimously.

STAFF:

Eleanor Avery
Patricia Blumenauer
Sheila Boornazian
H. Patrick Clancy
Kataney Couamin
John Daly
Maria del Mar Cabiya
Marianne Fuccio
Johnetta Frazier
Tyrone Hampton
Dawn Thomas-Hayward
Sue Hoffman
Zachariah Hughes
Matthew Hutton
Abigail A. Jones
Michael Joynes
Kimberly McCaffrey
Jamie Jelly Murtha
Dale Porter
Charles Ragucci
Hillary Shayne
Timothy Smith
Tyrone Smith

Local and Regional Plan

The board approved the Local & Regional Plans at the June board meeting. After sending the Plans to the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth had a few minor edits. Mr. H. Patrick Clancy stated we need formal approval of the final Plan. Mr. Clancy shared the Plans with the new board members.

MOTION was made to approve the final WIOA Philadelphia, and Southeast Pennsylvania Regional Plans submitted to the PA Department of Labor & Industry May 14, 2021. **ACTION:** the motion was approved unanimously.

More Funding

Mr. Clancy stated Philadelphia Works plans to continue research for more funding, including stimulus money or more opportunities from the state. Philadelphia Works constantly looks for opportunities to make sure there is something out there that can benefit our customers and residents.

Ad-hoc Committee

Mr. Clancy stated we recently decided at the board level to create a new ad hoc committee. Based on internal conversations with the Executive Team and external partners within the city. Several departments and partners are investing in workforce development services. The goal is to map out and coordinate workforce investments across the city to maximize outcomes for businesses and residents. The first meeting of the Workforce Recovery Strategies Committee took place on June 3.

Finance Committee

Ms. April Walker presented Philadelphia Works proposed operating budget for FY 2022, financial statements for 10 months ended April 20, 2021, and FY 2022 Proposed Contracts Excess of \$3MM. She noted all have been vetted and approved by the Finance and Executive Committees.

MOTION was made to approve the financial statements for 10 months ended April 20, 2021, FY 2022 Operating Budget, and contracts in excess of \$3MM **ACTION:** the motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.