

YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING

February 12, 2024
3:30 pm
MINUTES

STAFF: Handzar, Thoo, Walter

GUESTS: Amanda Otte, College and Careers Pathway Coordinator, San José Public Library; Rick Robles, Project Director, Equus Workforce Solutions; Kayla Nicholls, Youth Programs Manager, International Rescue Committee

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Estill called the meeting to order at 3:36 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Clark (arrived 3:38 pm), Estill, Herrity, Jaquez, Perez (arrived 3:37 pm, left 4:00 pm), Preminger, Vans, Williams

Absent: McGrath

All votes were taken by voice vote.

II. BUSINESS

A. Approval of Minutes

ACTION: Ms. Williams moved, Mr. Herrity seconded, and the committee unanimously approved the acceptance of the November 29, 2023, Youth Committee Special Meeting minutes.

B. Chair's Report

Chair Estill introduced the meeting's guests and briefly discussed his vision for committee member efforts in 2024.

C. Youth Forum Update and Recommendation Letter

Amanda Otte, Co-Chair of the Youth Forum 2.0 and San Jose Public Library College and Careers Pathway Coordinator, reported on the conclusion of the Youth Forum and presented a letter of recommendations to the committee. She highlighted three actionable community-generated recommendations to strengthen the youth and young adult workplace development field in the region. Committee members and staff held a robust discussion about these matters.

D. WIOA Youth Program Update PY 2023-24

Youth and Training Project Manager Mirza Handzar highlighted recent successes within the Youth Program. Equus Workforce Solutions Project Director Rick Robles provided a year-to-date report on enrollments and other metrics for out-of-school youth for the program year. International Rescue Committee Youth Programs Manager Kayla Nicholls provided a year-to-date report on enrollments and other metrics for in-school youth for the program year.

Both partners discussed efforts to support a growing number of youth participants who are unhoused or have unstable housing, as well as new partnerships with community groups and educational organizations that will allow them to expand their reach into various youth populations in the region.

E. Report on CWA Youth Summit

Youth Committee members Sofia Jaquez and Maria Vans shared insights from their recent participation in the California Workforce Association's 2024 Annual Youth Summit.

F. Discussion of 2024 Youth Committee Goals

Chair Estill led an interactive discussion among committee members, guests, and staff around measurable goals and potential collaborative projects for 2024. Three action items were determined reflecting Youth Forum 2.0 recommendations, including connecting the ecosystem of youth-oriented services, the building of an earn-and-learn pathway system, and a demonstration project focused on the recommendation to "connect school and work for Opportunity Youth and system-impacted youth" i.e., foster youth, justice-involved youth, or youth experiencing some form of homelessness.

III. OPEN FORUM

There were no public comments.

IV. OTHER

Strategic Engagement Manager Lawrence Thoo reminded the committee of Brown Act guidelines surrounding meetings and conversations that take place between members outside of the public committee meetings. He also noted that the next meeting of the Youth Committee is scheduled for May 9, 2024. There were no additional announcements or housekeeping comments.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Estill adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

Draft minutes prepared by D. Walter, reviewed by L. Thoo.