Workforce Development Board (WDB) – Executive Committee

Date       Monday, August 02, 2021
Time       1:00 – 2:00 pm
Place      https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88540493501
            Passcode: 906575

WELCOME

Sammy Totah – Chair
  o  Call the meeting to order
  o  Non-agenda public comment

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Minutes of June 1, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting
2. Membership Nomination – Risa Baron
3. Membership Nomination – Brigette Browning

INFORMATION ITEMS:

5. Audit Committee Update
6. August WDB Meeting Agenda Review

ADJOURNMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT: Members of the public may address the Board on issues on this agenda (three minutes per subject) and/or other items within the Board’s scope. To speak, utilize the “Raise Hand” feature. The SDWP will provide accommodations to persons who require assistance. Questions: (619) 228-2301.
Item #1: Minutes of the June 1, 2021 Meeting

Members Present
Sam Totah (Chair), Phil Blair, Kurling Robinson, Ricky Shabazz, Rick Vaccari

Staff Present
Peter Callstrom, President & CEO
Andy Hall, Chief Impact Officer

Location: Via Zoom

Per Executive Order N-25-20, the requirement to which members of the public shall have the right to observe & offer public comment at the public meeting, consistent with the Brown Act, has been suspended.

All reports, memoranda and letters contained in the agenda or distributed at the meeting shall by this reference become part of the original minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Sam Totah at 12:03pm.

Non-Agenda Public Comment: None

Action Item

Item 1: Minutes of the March Executive Committee Meeting

Motion: Executive Committee approves the meeting minutes

Moved (P. Blair), Seconded (R. Vaccari), Carried unanimously.

Information Items

Item 2: Membership Update

Peter noted Carmencita Trapse’s retirement. She has nominated Jeff Noyes, District Administrator at the DOR, as her replacement. Keith Maddox has retired, and his replacement is expected to be named by the August WDB meeting. Phil overviewed the experience and qualifications of Jeremy Vellon, Workforce Staffing Program Manager at Amazon. Phil will connect Jeremy with SDWP to begin the nomination process.
Item 3:  

June 17th WDB Meeting Agenda Review

The agenda for the June 17th WDB meeting was reviewed.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm.

**Next Meeting:** August 2, 2021 at 12:00 pm.
**Item #2: Membership Nomination – Risa Baron**

**Action Item (Vote Required):**

Executive Committee to approve the following board prospect:

**Risa Baron, Municipal Manager, Republic Services**  
Seat: Private Sector

Risa Baron is an award-winning professional with more than 25 years of experience and success in public affairs, community relations and communications with a focus on solid waste, energy, water, and transportation industry. Her expertise is in community outreach, strategic planning and project management and she excels in forging partnerships and building productive relationships. She joined the Republic Services team in March 2021 as Municipal Manager, working closely with the City of San Diego and cities throughout San Diego County to provide waste and recycling services. In this role, she leads outreach and education efforts to inform communities and engages with elected officials and stakeholders on policy impacting solid waste, recycling, and organics. Her prior experience includes work at the San Diego County Water Authority, SDG&E and Caltrans connecting with local municipalities, state and federal government agencies, school districts, nonprofits, business community on environmental programs and outreach. Baron holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and Public Administration from San Diego State University and has been an instructor at UC San Diego Extension Sustainability Certificate program for many years. She is past President of I Love a Clean San Diego and President-Elect of SDSU Alumni Association. Active in the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce (Public Policy Committee), Downtown San Diego Partnership, and many other local business organizations, Risa has a broad range of contacts across San Diego’s major employers and industry sectors. A resident of Normal Heights, she and her husband own Baron Family Foods, a local small business manufacturing high quality jams and jellies under the “Jackie’s Jams” brand. Jackie’s Jams are crafted with locally grown fruits from Southern California farmers and distributed to retailers throughout the nation including Whole Foods.
Item #3: Membership Nomination – Brigette Browning

Action Item (Vote Required):

Executive Committee to approve the following board prospect:

**Brigette Browning**, Executive Secretary Treasurer, San Diego and Imperial Counties Regional Labor Council
Seat: Labor

Brigette Browning has led UNITE HERE Local 30, a labor union representing more than 6,000 workers in San Diego’s hotel and hospitality industries, since 2007. Since May, 2021, she is also Secretary-Treasurer of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council.

Seeing the potential for having a greater impact on the lives of workers in San Diego, Brigette challenged the existing leadership of Local 30 in 2007 and won the election for union officers in an upset. Among her first actions were to cut her own position’s salary in half, get rid of various perks for union officers, and re-focus the union on grassroots organizing and growth. Local 30 has doubled in size under Brigette’s leadership – and she is determined to double its membership once again. She is hoping to do the same at the Labor Council.

Brigette has also emphasized coalition-building with progressive community groups and like-minded labor unions to deliver better results for San Diego’s hospitality workers. On issues ranging from housing and public transit to environmental justice and health care, Brigette works hard to ensure the needs of Local 30 members are considered in public policy debates around the County.

Under Brigette’s leadership, Local 30 has helped more than 200 union members and their family become U.S. citizens. An advisory board member of the San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium, Local 30 is one of the few labor unions in the United States to be a Recognized Organization by the U.S. Department of Justice – giving the union the ability to represent immigrants before the Department of Homeland Security, immigration courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals. In 2015, Brigette hired a permanent Immigration Coordinator, who is also accredited by the Department of Justice to represent immigrants herself in immigration forums.

In 2018, Brigette led the 162 union workers of the Westin Gaslamp as they went on strike – the first prolonged hotel strike in San Diego history – and negotiated an end to the 35-day strike that resulted in a 40% increase in hourly wage for the lowest paid hotel workers there, among other improvements to pay and benefits for the Westin workers.
Brigette was born and raised in San Diego and grew up in Ocean Beach. She attended UCSD and has degrees in Chemistry and Spanish Literature. Brigette currently resides in Chula Vista with her husband, and children.
Item #4: Membership Nomination – Jeremy Vellón

Action Item (Vote Required):

Executive Committee to approve the following board prospect:

Jeremy Vellón, Military Program Manager, Amazon Workforce Staffing
Seat: Private Sector

Jeremy Vellón is the Military Program Manager for Amazon Workforce Staffing, supporting the hiring of Veterans and Military Spouses throughout North America. Prior to Amazon, he was the Senior Manager, Early Career Programs at ServiceNow.

A graduate of the US Naval Academy, Jeremy served as a US Navy helicopter pilot, earning the rank of Commander. Over his Navy career, he amassed 2,500 flight hours, trained 100 student pilots, and led crisis response for several California wildfires.

Jeremy earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Michigan - Ross School of Business. He is the Founder and President of Navy Gold Lacrosse Club. He serves as Treasurer on the Board of Directors for Zero8Hundred, a 501.c.3 nonprofit supporting veteran and military family transitions.
Item #5: Audit Committee Update

Discussion Item (No Action Required):

Rick Vacarri to update the Executive Committee on the Audit Committee’s July meeting.
**Item #6: August WDB Meeting Agenda Review**

**Discussion Item (No Action Required):**

**Action Item**
1. Minutes

**Report Item**
2. CEO Report

**Action Items**
3. Membership Nomination - Risa Baron
4. Membership Nomination - Brigette Browning
5. Membership Nomination - Jeremy Vellón
6. Career Center RFP Framework (Staff lead: Shaina Gross, VP of Client Services)
7. Contract Action: $374K increase for Access for youth services for City of San Diego’s Back to Work Connect2Careers program (Staff lead: Shaina Gross, VP of Client Services)

**Information Items**
8. Sector Initiatives Introduction (Staff lead: Parina Parikh, VP of Sector Initiatives)
9. Data Analytics Strategy (Staff lead: Shannon Moran, Chief Information Officer)
10. Audit Committee Update