



Minutes for the Joint Session for December 9, 2022

- I. Call to Order and Welcome. The Honorable James Holland, CLEO Chair and Board Chairman Paul Junod welcomed members and guests.
- II. Public Comments. No public comments were offered. Chair James Holland recognized outgoing Chair Angela Kelly-Wiecek for her service.
- III. Approval of Elected Official Consortium Minutes from Nov. 4, 2022 Meeting. Honorable Patricia O’Bannon moved to approve the minutes as presented; Honorable Kelly-Wiecek seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- IV. Approval of Workforce Board Minutes from Sept. 22, 2022 Meeting. Mr. William Auchmoody moved to approve the minutes as presented; Ms. Tina Shreve seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- V. Special Presentation and Discussion – “Connecting the dots: economic development and workforce development”
Mr. Davis thanked both boards for their time and service. The presentations covered both workforce and economic development growth opportunities in the region.

a. The Diamond District Project - Mr. Leonard Sledge, Director of Economic Development, City of Richmond, provided an overview of the Diamond District Project.

Mr. Jason Guillot, Thalhimer – Project Principle. RVA Diamond Partners; republic properties (DC) is a mixed- use development group; provides financing and public finance expertise; creating and developing parks.

Mr. Guillot shared that the District will include retail, multi-use housing and the new ballpark. VCU will occupy space at the ballpark. Some financial assistance will be available to support housing applicants.

Ms. Grace Washington, J&G Workforce Development Services. The company will serve as a consultant to provide workforce development for the project. Employees will need wraparound services. A workforce development plan to hire workers will be developed.

Also identify jobs post construction; required training, and agencies needed to serve targeted populations.

Mr. Mike Hopkins, Emerge Construction, MBE Consultant and Developer

b. Lego comes to Chesterfield. It is estimated that 1,700 jobs will come to the region. Ms. Tina Shreve, CRWDB member and Senior Project Manager, Chesterfield Economic Development shared that Lego will be housed in a 1,700,000 square foot facility. Chesterfield was chosen because the area is ready for occupation. About 500 people will be hired.

VI. Updates of Interest – Brian Davis

State Workforce Restructure Proposal. Restructuring Governor’s administration.

Speaking points –

- New creation of workforce agency. A sole workforce development agency will be under Secretary of Labor. Department of Workforce Development and Advancement. Currently the Secretary of Labor is charged with being responsible for workforce system as a whole but lacks ability to affect.
- VEC currently manages Unemployment Insurance (UI); also has 4 other workforce programs. This proposal will leave UI with VEC but may not have workforce services. The Wagner Peyser and labor market information would move to the new agency.
- The Federal Title 1 program would move from CCWA to new agency. Like things are being moved together.
- The adult education program would move to the Community College System

The legislation has to be released by December 15th then forwarded to the General Assembly for action. If it passes the Assembly, new agencies may be up and running by January 2024.

Local Quarterly Review

- Workforce center traffic reports for July-November 2021 and July-November 2022 were presented
- Almost 58,000 jobs postings for October 2022
- Richmond hired a new workforce administrator
- CRWP will be looking for new, potential site for Chesterfield center
- Ross’ youth program is doing a lot of work experience. Leading state in youth pre-apprenticeships
- On-the-Job training contracts have increased
- Equus Adult training, spending funds on Individual Training Accounts (ITAs)
- Number of work-based learning participants has quadrupled
- 14% of spending on work-based learning
- Dislocated worker funds are increasing. Lower unemployment affects outcomes.

VII. Adjourn. The meeting is adjourned at 12:00 p.m.