

Youth Council
Thursday, July 13, 2006

Minutes

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Youth Council Chair Paul Paradzinski called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Members present: **Paul Paradzinski**, Chair, Craig County; **Wanda Anthony**, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys WIA Youth Program; **Laura Elliott**, Junior Achievement, Roanoke; **Jennifer Unroe**, 4-H Youth Development;; **Harriet Woodward**, Alleghany/ Covington Department of Social Services; **Bill Zimmerman**, Diversion Program

Members absent: **Jodylee Edsall**, Roanoke County Schools; **Becky Johnson**, MeadWestvaco; **Ron Jones**, TAP This Valley Works; **Russ Merritt**, Franklin County YMCA; **Marion Vaughn-Howard**, Roanoke Department of Park and Recreation Youth Services Division; **Michele Wells**, Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services; **Billy Writ**, Old Dominion Job Corps/Richmond

Staff present: **Doloris Vest**, WDB president; **Anne Cooney**, administrative assistant

Guests present: **Sandra McMinnis**, Virginia Western Community College; **Stuart Mease**, City of Roanoke; **Lisa Meek**, Old Dominion Job Corps

There was no quorum.

II. Presentations

Sandra McGinnis, Career Placement Officer at Virginia Western Community College discussed the colleges

Hall Associates Career & Employment Assistance Center: The Center's goal is to coordinate with programs assisting youth, plus building relationships with businesses and industries in surrounding counties. More than 450 employers – many of them technology businesses – registered and posting jobs with VWCC; 700 students and alumni are also registered. .

Technical Scholars Program: VWCC introduced the program this year and will conduct its first Technology Summit October 3, 2006. The summit will bring 25 students from each of 10 high schools to the VWCC campus for special sessions on technology careers and information on the scholars program, which features links to employers.

Career Counselors provided by Virginia Western are serving in three area high schools to assist students in exploring careers and selecting appropriate training.

Stuart Mease, Special Projects Coordinator in the City of Roanoke's Office of Economic Development discussed the city's efforts to attract and retain many of the 60,000 college students in this area to stay in this area to work and live. Efforts face two major challenges:

Perception that there is nothing to do in the greater Roanoke and New River Valley areas based on lack of knowledge about what cities and towns have to offer.

Lack of knowledge about available jobs. The city will stress the importance of networking with employers in the area and to maintain contact with the students.

III. Approval of Minutes

Because there was no quorum, approval of minutes for March 14, April 11, and May 11, 2006 was postponed until the next Youth Council meeting.

IV. Reports

A. Youth Programs – Goodwill Industries of the Valleys:

- Ms. Anthony reported Goodwill's efforts to recruit more older youth was showing success. The summer work effort for younger youth was reduced this year serving approximately 30 individuals.

B. WDB Board Update:

Ms. Vest reported the following:

- LWIA III exceeded 16 of the 17 mandated performance measures in PY2005-06 and met the remaining measure. Area 3 is now eligible to apply for bonus money from the state.
- Area II (New River Valley area) is conducting a day-long youth forum, "Highlight the Emerging Workforce," in early August. Any Area III Youth Council members should contact Ms. Vest if interested in attending.
- The Employer Advisory Committee is planning a region-wide spring event, to be conducted by Ken Gray, author of *Other Ways to Win*, which focuses on career training outside traditional four-year colleges.
- Danny LaBlanc, Senior Advisor to the Governor for Workforce, will attend the Board's August 4 meeting at the Goodwill corporate office. Mr. LaBlanc will be one of the guest speakers at the August youth forum in the New River Valley.
- Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act and funding for 2007 is on hold in the House of Representatives. There is no indication of when the House will act on this matter.

V. Unfinished Business

Mr. Paradzinski suggested that work on the Youth Council's timeline, mapping out the coordination of youth-services information, be deferred until the August Council meeting. Ms. Vest asked the members present to take several youth services information sheets back to their areas and follow up with each service, updating the data noted on the sheets.

Guest Lisa Meek, a career counselor with the Old Dominion Job Corps, attended today's meeting of the Youth Council. Ms. Meek is interested in becoming a Council member and described some of the work underway in her area. Ms. Meek also announced the Community Relations Committee Quarterly Breakfast on August 9, at the Job Corps Center in Monroe.

VI. New Business

None.

VII. Announcements

Next meeting: Thursday, August 17, at 9 a.m. at the Roanoke Higher Education Center.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Anne M. Cooney
Anne M. Cooney, administrative assistant

7/27/06
Date