



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: June 15, 2015

President Williams called the meeting to order at 3:05p, explained that this is a meeting of the strategic planning group that first met at MITAGS earlier this year, and outlined the agenda for the afternoon, stressing the need to stay on schedule. He then asked Union Cities Coordinator Chris Garlock to introduce intern Sivan Rosenthal, who is working with the Union Cities program in June and July, with a special focus on building the first-ever DC labor intern network.

Audit Report and Financial Overview

Introduced Bond Beebe's Jacqueline Thompson and Alex Helfand. Thompson reviewed 2013/2014 report, taking questions and providing answers.

Review, Discussion and Approval of 2015-2018 Strategic Plan

Discussion ensued. While some tweaks still need to be made there was general support for the specifics of the plan.

Review, Discussion and Approval of Structure Change and Job Descriptions

President Williams asked for confirmation of his sense that there's a consensus to move to a full-time paid Executive Director model, rather than a full-time paid President. He noted that he's checked with the AFL-CIO, which agrees that there's no need for a constitutional change to move to this model. Discussion ensued. Boardman, crediting President William's leadership, said that the Council is one of the best in the US but needs to be more nimble moving forward; he recommended a full-time Executive Director, an unpaid President and an Executive Committee smaller than the existing Board (which would be expanded); the Executive Committee would meet more frequently, the broader board would meet less frequently. More discussion ensued, especially by those with an Executive Director structure. A main concern was how to clarify lines of authority and avoid conflicts between the Executive Director and President.

Question also raised about timing of hiring an Executive Director, i.e. before or after the new leadership is elected in February 2016. More discussion. **MOVED AND SECONDED** to accept the draft strategic plan as amended. Unanimously approved.

Regular Order of Board Business:

President Williams asked Liz Davis (WTU 6) to report. She reported that the Mayor is attempting to reclassify teacher data as not public records and not subject to disclosure; the union believes this information is being used to discriminate against teachers (many of the "ineffective" teachers removed in recent years have been older African-American women) and is opposing this legislation ("Education Evaluation Data Protection"). WTU is asking the DC City Council to hold off on voting to make this temporary provision permanent. They feel the current FOIA is sufficient protection against invasion of privacy. Ed Smith, IAFF 36, noted that access to information goes beyond defending the FOIA and also that the administration has to stop slipping stuff like this into the Budget Support Act. **MOVED & SECONDED** to strongly oppose this action. Approved. President Williams urged Board members to attend the 9:15a press conference on Tuesday on the steps of the Wilson Building.

MOVED AND SECONDED to receive the audit; approved.

Minutes: approved

Financial Report: waived

Correspondence:

- SMART 100 Golf Tournament- \$250 for tee sponsorship
 - CLUW DC- \$275 for half page ad and 2 tickets for the annual Gloria Johnson luncheon
 - National Lawyers Guild DC- \$100 for a half page ad and 1 ticket to their first annual awards event
- TOTAL - \$625**

Union Cities: distributed (see below)

HOUSE VOTES TO STAND WITH WORKING FAMILIES ON TRADE UPDATE (6/14): As expected (see story below), Republicans made a motion to reconsider the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) vote, and may attempt to bring up TAA again as early as next week. The AFL-CIO is urging calls to Congressional representatives Chris Van Hollen and Donna Edwards to thank them for voting against TAA and TPA and Steny Hoyer to thank him for voting against TPA, but expressing disappointment that he voted for TAA. All three should be encouraged to vote

Present: Williams, Reed, Falwell, Boardman, Bunn, Courten, Goldman, Murphy, Renne, Shields, Smith, Tarlau, Allen, Davis, Washington
Excused: Briscoe, Bridges, Jeter, Martin
Absent: Federici, Ratliff
Also attending: Vicky Leonard (LIUNA), Jim Griffin (IBEW 1900), Maya Goines (AFL-CIO), Al Squire (AFT), Mike Wilson (UFCW 400), Donna Edwards (MD/DC State AFL-CIO), Sivan Rosenthal (MWC intern)
Staff: McKirchy, Garlock, Dzdzienny



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“No” on TAA if and when the vote is reconsidered. You can reach your Member of Congress at 1-855-712-8441. Complete report here: <http://www.dclabor.org/home/house-votes-to-stand-with-working-families-on-trade>

JANITORS HIT STREETS THIS WEEK: contract bargaining talks are underway for over 10,500 janitors in the metro DC area. <http://www.dclabor.org/home/janitors-hit-streets-this-week>

LABOR DEMANDS ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY IN MOVE TO PRIVATIZE MONTCO DEPT: UFCW 1994/MCGEO and the Metro Washington Council were among those testifying against the privatization of the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development last week. <http://www.dclabor.org/home/labor-demands-accountability-transparency-in-move-to-privatize-montco-dept>

IUOE 99 AUTHORIZES STRIKE AT SECRET FACILITY: IUOE Local 99 on Tuesday night took their first strike vote in more than 20 years. The union hall was packed to near-capacity with members frustrated by contentious – and thus far fruitless -- negotiations with AECOM, Local 99’s largest signatory. <http://www.dclabor.org/home/iuoe-99-authorizes-strike-at-secret-facility>

JOBS WITH JUSTICE TAKES ON UNPREDICTABLE SCHEDULING: Erratic work schedules adversely affect workers and widen the wealth gap in DC, according to DC Jobs With Justice’s latest report, released last Thursday. <http://www.dclabor.org/home/jobs-with-justice-takes-on-unpredictable-scheduling>

LABOR INTERN NETWORKING PROJECT: Metro Council intern Sivan Rosenthal is working on locating and connecting interns in labor and social justice organizations throughout the metro area. After just two weeks, we have already located more than 70 interns from about 17 different unions and social justice organizations. While continuing outreach to locate such interns, we have been sending the interns information about labor-related events occurring around the city every week, ranging from lectures and panels to rallies. Reaching out to the directors of these internship programs has been very helpful in promoting these events, especially those that occur during the workday. Some directors have already responded by saying that their interns really enjoyed attending the lectures or book

talks. We are also planning several events that will be exclusively for interns, and will give them an opportunity to meet each other and discuss their work and experiences.

2015 DC LABORFEST: This year’s 2nd annual DC LaborFest was a big success, with more events (nearly 60) during the month of May, more participation and very positive response from attendees. The biggest challenge was staffing for so many events, and a gathering is planned for later this year to recruit more volunteers for the 2016 LaborFest.

DC COPE Report: distributed (see below)

The following has been accomplished over the last thirty days:

- Met with the CFO of the District of Columbia, Jeffrey Dewitt along with several of our affiliates. The mission was to discuss the protocol to contracting out and if it is being properly followed. The meeting resulted with the CFO acknowledging that there needs to be better oversight of the contracting out process and that we need to have further dialog to address any issues our affiliates may have. Next steps: A meeting has been set with the Attorney General, Karl Racine for the month of July. The mission of this meeting is to discuss the process of contracting out and to identify what authority his office has regarding this process. Will meet with AFSCME, Council 3 representatives to discuss how they’ve been successful in dealing with the contracting out issue.

- Met with the Chief of Staff, Brian Moore from Chairman Mendelson’s office. This was a follow up meeting to our previous meeting regarding the proposed bill, “Council Contract Review Repeal Act of 2015”. The meeting resulted with Mr. Moore informing me that there has been no movement regarding this bill. He also mentioned, that the Chairman is a little concerned regarding the numerous “Change of order contracts” and the “Retroactive contracts”. These types of contracts can cost the city millions of dollars. Next steps: Will continue to monitor the situation and will meet again in the month of July.

- Attended the Inclusionary Zoning meeting with our ally from Smart Growth and the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development, Brian Kenner. The mission of this meeting was to garner more support within the District government to increase the number of inclusionary Zoning units, in-



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crease the number of units for lower income households and to set maximum rent/purchase price.

- Attended the DC Attorney General's "Consumer Protection Forum on Construction Violations, Foreclosure Scams and Mortgage Regulations". The mission of this meeting was to provide the public with information about the enforcement programs the OAG office oversees and the resources they provide to the residents of the District of Columbia. The meeting resulted in an overwhelming support from the residents to continue to have these forums.

Next steps: Will work with the OAG to compose a flyer to be disseminated amongst our affiliates.

- Attended the DC Jobs with Justice, Report Release & Briefing: on the first-ever citywide study on scheduling practices in the service sector. The mission of this briefing was to provide new research on the impact of employers' scheduling practices. Which results in unpredictable incomes and work schedules that make it difficult to budget, arrange childcare, continue with education or hold down a second job to try and make ends meet. Next Steps: Will continue to have meetings to discuss how to garner more support for this issue and determine how this proposed legislation could be enforced.

- Met with Executive Director, Jacob Feinspan from Jews United for Justice. The mission of this meeting was to discuss common interests of the Labor Council and JUFJ. How we can continue to work effectively together and what are our priority issues for the next six months.

Next Steps: Will continue to have meeting to gauge what progress we're making with our collaborative efforts and identifying what new issues we need to collaborate on.

- Attended the hearing for "Safe Working Conditions for Healthcare Workers Amendment Act of 2015". BILL SUMMARY - As introduced, this bill requires that acute care hospitals, special hospitals, or psychiatric hospitals submit a staffing plan to the Department of Health within one year of the effective date. It requires these medical facilities to establish and implement an acuity system to determine the level of nurse staffing necessary. Acuity staffing models determine a shift's staffing needs based on the complexity of the patients' level of care. The legislation requires that the Department of Health set minimum levels of nurse staffing and registered nurse staff ratios for schools. Among other things, this bill also provides an enforcement mechanism; whistleblower and patient protection rights

and private causes of action; for efforts by UDC-CC to increase the number of nursing graduates and seek funding to develop nurse training opportunities.

Donna Edwards (MD State/DC AFL-CIO) reported on upcoming biennial convention; also noted that the State Fed has budgeted \$60,000 for DC legislative staff but that has to be approved each year and the MD State/DC AFL-CIO is in financial difficulty and needs all the non-affiliates to join up.

President Williams noted that he'll be appointing committees as necessary to carry out the strategic plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15p