

Westerville Area Chamber of Commerce
Highlights from Chamber Government Relations Committee Meeting
April 4, 2017

Rob Twitchell started the meeting at 3:35PM

Planning for the **Election Academy** will begin this month. Three Thursdays in June have been selected for the program. Janet thanked John with Two Men & A Truck for their sponsorship and Jeff and Matthew for their interest in working to develop the program. Laura expressed interest in participating on the planning team as well. Janet noted we had 21 members registered to attend the **Legislative Forum** this Thursday, April 6. *Overcoming the skilled labor market workshop* was shared. Janet will send as a follow up to the committee after the mtg. Reminder of the topics for the **OCC Annual meeting** were discussed.

Janet referred to the **Government Relations Policy Agenda** that was emailed to the committee with the agenda. She referenced the results of the specific government relations questions asked on membership survey. While the main topics members believe impact their businesses most are the same as results from the survey over the last four years. The order of preference did change slightly. The results are: topic of most concern; business regulations, followed by workforce, taxation, and healthcare.

Members confirmed what topic teams each of them were serving. A recommendation was made to **combine taxation and business regulations**. There was consensus. The committee elected to **not hold a full committee meeting next month**. Part of the reason to not meet was the Ohio Chamber Annual Meeting & Legislative Reception is on the same afternoon, May 2 and it would allow a month for each of the *sub committees to meet to discuss their topic and review the description* of the topic to be described in the Policy Agenda. Janet will send a *contact list of all comm. mbrs. including project team leaders and another electronic copy of the Policy Agenda*. **The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, June 6, 3:30PM**

Lisa Patt-McDaniel Director of the **Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio** joined the meeting. Her bio was provided with the agenda for the committee members.

The Workforce Dev. Brd of Central Ohio is a 501c3 organization. The board is funded primarily through federal government, Dept. of Labor. Funds are sent to the State directly to Lisa's office. The board is made up of 27 central Ohio individuals; 51% of the board members are business owners and the balance are representatives from community organizations, Cols. State, and The Ohio State Univ. Her team is working to understand the needs of businesses from the macro business services to the transactional level. This board is different from JobsOhio and Columbus 2020. Tim Harmon through Columbus 2020 works primarily with business projects/needs that are developed through Cols. 2020. The Workforce Dev. Brd. While the name is Franklin County they touch a total of 11 counties that surround Franklin County. She views her efforts as a regional partnership.

OhioMeansJobs is the state's job board is a state board. Just in Franklin County there are 19,248 jobs open. The concern is 1/3 of residents in Franklin County fall into 'under poverty level'. We have a skills mismatch. Lisa continued to explain "Everyone who can work and wants to work.....needs to work. And that is primarily everyone in the state".

It is important to expose all the opportunities and include a culture of continuous learning. Conversation was encouraged – she believes there are many entities making 'their own' strides in workforce development. Lisa believes we would be even stronger if all the interested agencies would collaborate making a more significant impact across many disciplines. The more collaborative we are in our region's workforce efforts the more responsive we will be to businesses being recruited and retained. Quality workforce is noted as the #1 for Economic Development efforts.

Meeting ended at 5:05PM