

**CareerSource Pinellas  
Science Center Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** November 29, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

**Location:** Science Center of Pinellas, 7701 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave N, St. Petersburg

**Call to Order**

Chair Russell Leggette called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. There was a quorum present with the following Science Center Committee members participating:

**Members in attendance**

William Apple, Shri Goyal, Russell Leggette, Michael Logal, Lenne Nicklaus, Scott Wagman.

**Members not in attendance**

Michael Jalazo, John Kearney, Samuel Kolapo, Michael Laverty, Kim Marston, Chad Simpson, Glenn Willocks.

**Staff Present**

Jennifer Brackney, Don Shepherd, Steve Meier, David Miller, Linsey Stiglic, Luna Clarke, Steven Blakey

**Guests Present**

Whitney Creech (phone)

**Action Items**

**Action Item 1 – Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of August 31, 2018 Science Center Committee meeting were presented for approval.

1. **A motion was made by Scott Wagman and seconded by Bill Apple to approve the minutes as presented.**  
⇒ **The motion carried unanimously.**

**Other Administrative Matters**

None

**Discussion Item 2—Science Center Appraisal**

An appraisal of the Science Center property was conducted by Tod Marr and Associates in October 2018. The current appraisal lists the property to be valued at \$3.1 million; however any proceeds from the sale must be set aside to be used towards STEM education, as was stipulated in the purchase agreement closing covenants.

The Board chairman has tasked this committee to come to a resolution about the future of the Science Center. The floor was opened for discussion. It was suggested that the property be used as a potential community center, in light of all the attractions it offers, such as: the white gardens, iguana sanctuary, planetarium, and touch tank. This would also be an opportunity to partner with the city of St. Pete or even Pinellas County, to promote the location as a community center.

Ms. Brackney gave an overview of the programs and services offered at the Science Center. At this time, Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) would like to see a continued focus on sector strategy training programs. However, the preference seems to be for vendors to provide the training, rather than training being done in-house. It was noted that case management and wrap-around services would continue for students enrolled in training. The Cyber Security School will be closed as of January 2019 and will transition to St Petersburg College, where the certifications obtained by the students will be directly tied to an institutional organization. The Mechatronics/ Soldering and Construction classes would also transition to an accredited institutional body. CSPIN could offer tuition assistance for students who are interested in those programs, but would no longer be the training provider for those courses.

A motion was made by Mr. Logal to sell the building. The motion died for lack of a second.

The committee continued to discuss other options for the building. One alternative is to refinance the property. The latest option received from the note-holding financial institution was for a 4% fixed rate, over the course of 15 years. This appears to be an appealing offer, one which could be beneficial, if the decision was to keep the property. The current balance owed on the building is \$609,413 and this amount will be due on December 2019.

Another suggestion was to market the current building and open another CareerSource center in a different area of Pinellas County, such as Largo or Seminole, where there is an opportunity to serve the local residents. Once the property is on the market, there is the possibility that interested buyers will make purchase offers. If, however no acceptable offer is received in a timely manner, this committee can once again return to the drawing board.

Members who have served on the committee over the years made the case that training programs were added at the location at the directive of state officials, because many disadvantaged job-seekers did not have access to formal educational institutions. It was also noted that several field trips have been reserved by Pinellas County Schools, to bring students on STEMe field trips, and that those obligations should be met.

2. **A motion was made by Lenne Nicklaus and seconded by Shri Goyal to continue STEMe field trips until the end of the program year 2019 or until the Science Center building is sold.**  
 ⇒ *The motion carried unanimously.*
3. **A motion was subsequently made by Scott Wagman and seconded by Michael Logal, that CareerSource Pinellas endeavors to sell the Science Center property.**  
 ⇒ *The motion carried with 1 dissent vote from Bill Apple.*

**Information Items**

**Info 1 – Programs Update**

**Cyber Security Program:** Participants Served during PY2018-2019 thru 09/30/18:

Total Students Enrolled	41
Total Students in Training	19
Total Completers	19
Total Student Employed while in Training	7 @ \$21.13/hour
Total Placements	14 @ \$18.45/hour

**Soldering Program:** PY2018-2019 through September 2018

Total Students Enrolled	15
Total Students in Training	0
Total Completers	15
Total Placements	12
Average Wage at Placement	\$12.15/hour

**Mechatronics/Robotics Program:** PY2018-2019 through Sept 2018

Total Students Enrolled	14
Total Students in Training	9
Total Completers	5
Total Placements	3
Average Wage at Placement	\$21.02/hour

**Construction Trades Program:** PY2018-2019 through Sept 2018

Total Students Enrolled	7
Total Completers	3
Total Placements	3
Average Wage at Placement	\$13.60/hour

**Sector IT Training:** PY2018-2019 thru September 30, 2018

**Consists of Python, SQL and JAVA certification training:**

Total Students Enrolled	25
Total Students in Training	10
Total Completers	11
Total Placements	11
Average Wage at Placement	\$27.49/hour

**Other Certification Programs:** Program Year 2018-2019 through October 2018

➤ **MOS Certification Program:**

Total Customers Enrolled	66
Certifications attained	20

➤ **AHLEI Hospitality Certification Program:**

Total Customers Enrolled	66
Certifications attained	64

Note: Multiple Certificates may be earned

➤ **Penn Foster Program:**

Total Students Enrolled	19
New Students Enrolled	6
HS Diplomas attained	6

**StemE Activities and Fall Camp:**

StemE Activities have commenced since the end of the Summer Camp in August. We have 56 fields trips booked to date to serve roughly 2150 youth. To date, StemE has hosted 22 field trips and served a total of 765 youth. Fall Camp was hosted last week during the week of Thanksgiving with 20 in attendance. A wide range of activities were provided to the attending youth within STEM making it another successful camp.

**Info 2 – Facilities Update**

**1. Fire Marshall Report**

- a. Secondary Exits to 3 classrooms

Quote for three doors received. However, rough estimates indicate two of the rooms may be less than 1000 sq. ft. Staff can install doors where needed, however an engineer must re-submit the life plan to the city upon completion.

- b. Drywall Repairs: The repairs are ready for painting. By the city's standards, this is complete.

**2. Pest Control**

- a. Pest Control was initiated internally on 10/1/18. Contract was signed with Orkin and service was started on 10/23.

b. Upon recommendation of the Pest Control service, flora overgrowth has been removed from the perimeter of the building.

**3. Building Inspection**

a. Main Entrance: The beam will be inspected next week to determine minimum thickness.

b. Main Roof: The debris has been removed. No other progress at this time.

c. Exterior Surface: A man-lift has been rented to initiate pressure washing of the building. This is nearly complete. A lift with an articulating arm is needed to get around the chiller area. Duke Energy needs to insulate power lines to clean around electrical service.

d. Electrical: Pinellas County Electric has conducted the repairs listed in the Inspection Report. City Inspector has two additional items for PEC to perform before completion.

e. HVAC: Johnson Controls has changed the air filters on a regular schedule. However, they do not clean the filter cover. This task has been assigned to the cleaning crew to perform on a routine basis.

- The expansion valves need to be replaced and the boiler needs to be repaired. The expansion valves were quoted by Johnson Controls at \$10,000. Seeking additional quotes.

f. Plumbing: Staff tightened several valves to stop leaks. One leak has reappeared, so the seal may need to be replaced. One toilet appears to need a new wax ring.

**Info 3 – Science Center Programs and Services**

An overview of all the services provided at the Science Center was provided. It included the services offered in reemployment assistance, career exploration, veteran services, Wagner-Peyser programs, welfare transition services, supplemental nutrition assistance program and the many employability workshops offered.

**Info 4 – Financial Report**

The statement of activities for the Science Center was provided for the period year from July through October 2018. Total revenues were \$60,895 and total expenses were \$150,430.

**Public Comments**

There were none.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:32 p.m.