

Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee

January 9, 2019

12:00 pm

IBEW; 242 Mill Street, Worcester, MA 01602

Meeting Minutes

WJF Oversight Committee Attendance: Jeffrey Turgeon, Janice Ryan Weekes, Maritza Cruz, Karen Pelletier, David Minasian, Jennifer Brunelle, and Thomas Maloney

WJF Staff: Kelsey Lamoureux and Theodora Twumasi-Ankrah

Guests: Liz Tiley and Peter Dunn

- The meeting was called to order after a quorum was established.

Welcome and Introductions:

- All attendees introduced themselves, their positions and their organizations.

Approval of December 12, 2018, Meeting Minutes

- The meeting minutes from December 12, 2018, at 242 Mill Street were reviewed and unanimously accepted via a motion by J. Weekes and seconded by M. Cruz.

Discussion of Potential TIF Projects:

- P. Dunn presented information on a potential residential HDIP project on Main St. as well as a commercial TIF in the Canal District. P. Dunn highlighted an upcoming workshop on how to register for MBE/WBE/VBE certification on January 16, 2019. M. Cruz requested that the flyer be sent to the Oversight Committee electronically so it can be shared in the community. K. Pelletier noted that this workshop is an important service for local businesses to understand how to become certified.
- M. Cruz requested information on TIF project eligibility and T. Maloney inquired about the possibility of a TIF and historical credits on a single project. P. Dunn explained the process for projects to apply for TIFs and noted that it is possible for projects to be eligible for both tax relief and historical credits if the project is suitable for both programs.

WJF Financial Update:

- K. Lamoureux presented financial updates on the Worcester Jobs Fund, Washington Square, and Department of Transportation funding and as well as updates on the overall FY 19 Budget.

Employer Engagement Options:

- K. Lamoureux provided a list of potential employer outreach strategies including electronic and print options. K. Pelletier suggested identifying specific employers that would be strong partners

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for the Jobs Fund and contacting them directly. J. Turgeon suggested scheduling time to define the objective of the project in more detail at the next meeting.

Night Life Discussion with Director Liz Tiley:

- L. Tiley explained upcoming programs being offered through the Worcester Night Life program. Current programming includes phlebotomy, manufacturing, CDL B, electrical and plumbing training programs, in addition to several recreational offerings.
- J. Weekes inquired if there was a job search assistance component and L. Tiley noted that this element was not part of the programs yet.
- L. Tiley explained the Advanced Manufacturing Training grant will be funding the costs for one cohort of manufacturing students and proposed collaboration with the Worcester Jobs Fund as the soft skills provider. Participant eligibility requirements and employment outlook were discussed. J. Turgeon made a motion to partner with Worcester Night Life on this project, the motion was seconded by D. Minasian and unanimously accepted.
- J. Turgeon suggested researching a model where the Worcester Jobs Fund would consider funding training costs for income-eligible Worcester residents to participate in specific career development courses through Worcester Night Life. K. Lamoureux offered to further develop the idea and report back to the committee.

Training Options:

- K. Lamoureux noted the placement success of the FY 18 EKG & Phlebotomy training program, including 3 graduates earning over \$18.00/hr. K. Lamoureux detailed that there is demand from local residents to offer the training and many employers are interested in hiring mobile technicians. The committee unanimously approved moving forward with a cycle of mobile EKG & Phlebotomy training in FY 19.
- K. Lamoureux provided detailed information on an Office Skills Training Program model offered by the YMCA in Boston and suggested learning more about their model to see which elements are relevant to creating a version of Office Skills training in Worcester.

Participant Outreach Strategies:

- This item was tabled until the following meeting.

WJF Director Report with Program Updates:

- This item was tabled until the following meeting.

Adjourn:

- A motion to adjourn was made by D. Minasian, was seconded by K. Pelletier and was unanimously approved.

The next monthly meeting will be held Wednesday February 13, 2019 at 10:00 am.

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