

Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee

Oct. 14, 2015

11am

IBEW; 240 Mill Street, Worcester, MA

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Leonard Cooper, David Minasian, Leo Miller, Janice Weekes, Dania Flores, J. Turgeon, S. Loosemore

Guests: Paul Morano

- At 11:05 L. Cooper called the meeting to order noting a quorum was present. After recognizing that S. Loosemore did a fantastic job on the Sept. 21st meeting minutes, a volunteer was sought to take minutes for this meeting. J. Turgeon agreed, but expressed concern he would not be able to live up to the high standards set by Mr. Loosemore.
- With a motion by L. Miller and second by D. Minasian, the committee voted unanimously to approve the Sept. 9, 2015 Meeting minutes.
- With a motion by J. Turgeon and second by D. Minasian, the committee voted unanimously to approve the Sept. 21, 2015 meeting minutes.
- P. Morano gave an update to the Committee on City Economic Development projects; He apologized for the Wall Street project moving to the Economic Development Committee without first having the developer meet with the WJF representative(s) due to a mix up on the timing of the agenda for the meeting. This project will now be going to the City Council next Tuesday. P. Morano then discussed the development of a set schedule for the Economic Development (ED) Committee meetings and the process used by developers seeking TIF benefits – namely, a 60 to 90 day process beginning with the developer’s initial application submittal to City Council, followed by the developer meeting with the WJF (to review the agreement’s language regarding local hiring goals), then the ED Committee, followed by a return to the full City Council for approval before final review by the State. Paul noted the current process is not specific on the amount

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of tax relief which allows City officials flexibility to negotiate the terms of these agreements. L. Cooper asked if the agreements included goals for hiring diversity and P. Morano responded that he was unsure of this and would research it. J. Turgeon asked if apprenticeship goals were included and Paul stated they were not but perhaps could be in the future once our program was better established to support this approach. D. Flores noted that in Providence they began their apprenticeship project through goals on City Block Grant projects. P. Morano also reminded the committee that there were typically only two or three TIF applications submitted each year. D. Flores asked about efforts to track results on the agreements and P. Morano stated the State issues reports but with limited information in them, so a local tracking report is being created.

- J. Turgeon gave an update regarding the hiring of the WJF Director. He stated that he and D. Minasian interviewed three candidates and selected Patricia Nixon as the best fit for the position; she is scheduled to start next Monday, Oct. 19th assuming her pre-employment process goes smoothly. L. Miller asked if committee members are allowed to contact Patricia directly regarding WJF related matters and L. Cooper stated this is fine, however, should she receive conflicting messages from the WJF Committee members, this may need to be altered to ensure she has clear instructions on her work priorities. The Committee also agreed that a weekly summary report and monthly report from her would be helpful. D. Minasian will draft a template for these reports.
- The Committee then discussed the Federal and State Dept. of Transportation Projects, & pre-apprenticeship programming. D. Minasian stated the application for the State DOT project (funded through the Federal Transportation Administration) was approved, giving our project \$112,000 to set up a pre-apprentice building trades training program to recruit, train, and place 20 disadvantaged residents (at least half female) over a two year period. The project will receive curriculum guidance from the Boston Building Pathways program. The first cycle is slated to start next Spring and an instructor needs to be hired and a training schedule at building trade training facilities needs to be established, among other

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things. This will be a large focus of Pat's work the first year. This project also sets up Worcester to be included in the State DOT's 5 year plan, but we need to submit the project goals to them. After discussion, a motion was made by D. Minasian and seconded by L. Miller to submit the following goals for new or supplemental building trades training; five each year for years one and two; and 10 each year for years three, four, and five. The Committee approved this motion unanimously.

- D. Flores asked to have a guest speaker come to educate the Committee at a future meeting on construction trades pathways, especially as they relate to women trainees. L. Cooper agreed and asked Dania or other Committee members to help find a suitable speaker.
- J. Turgeon then noted that he had a conversation with MA State Representative Mary Keefe regarding her desire that local residents receive training for a Class A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) as a way to prepare them for the construction industry as well as the Worcester Dept. Public Works jobs anticipated to be opened this year. There was general discussion about the costs associated with CDL training and Jeff agreed to provide more details about this in the near future.
- L. Miller suggested that future agendas include a "new business" item to allow for new topics to be brought forth for discussion. L. Cooper his agreement.
- The Committee then discussed the standing meeting time and agreed that the meetings should be held on the second Wednesday each month at 10am at the IBEW hall. The Committee noted that the second Wednesday next month is a holiday, so the November meeting will be delayed a week to November 18th.
- A motion was made by J. Turgeon to adjourn. It was seconded by S. Loosemore and approved unanimously.

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