

Worcester Redevelopment Authority
Citizens Advisory Committee
August 27, 2015
8:00 AM
City Hall, Levi Lincoln Room, 3rd Floor
Worcester, Massachusetts

Present:

John Brissette, Chair, Frank Carroll, Linda Cavaioli, Paul Demoga, Alex Dunn, Allen Fletcher, Michelle Jones-Johnson, Mable Millner

Representative Mary Keefe

Staff:

Heather Gould, Assistant Chief Development Officer, EOED
Jackson Restrepo, Special Project Coordinator, EOED
Amanda Gregoire, Project Manager, EOED
Jane Bresnahan, Principal Staff Assistant, EOED

Mr. Brissette called the meeting to order at 8:25 A.M. Mr. Brissette acknowledged Linda Cavaioli, for hosting the June 4th meeting at the YWCA.

1. Approval of Minutes

Chair Brissette asked the Committee to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2015 meeting. Mr. Fletcher made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Cavaioli seconded the motion.

2. Update on Proposed Urban Revitalization Area (BSC Group)

Chair Brissette introduced Russell Burke from the BSC Group. He reviewed various properties that have been visited by BSC Group and Heather Gould and Jackson Restrepo from the Economic Development Office. Most property owners in the area that BSC and the city met with have ground floor operations with vacant floors above. Most were interested in facilitating some sort of rehab to their properties, however, cited the cost to do so and no end user as obstacles to development. In most cases, the ground floor businesses were flourishing, but the upper floors needed serious rehabilitation. It was also pointed out that one property that was toured consisted of various condo owners within the buildings. Mr. Burke advised the Committee that the BSC Group is still gathering data and the next steps will include identifying the parcels that are vacant or have high development/redevelopment potential. Ms. Gould noted that the City's Streetscape Project is continuing in the downtown area and along Main Street from Courthouse to Courthouse, as well as Salem, Portland, Federal, and Southbridge Streets – new sidewalks, stamped crosswalks, and lighting.

Ms. Gould advised the Committee that a coordinated meeting was in the works with the Worcester Redevelopment Authority and its Citizens Advisory Committee to discuss the Wyman Gordon Property Re-Use.

The meeting will be held on September 16, 2015 at 5:30 PM at the Crompton Collective, 138 Green Street.

A motion was made by Mr. Dunn and seconded by Mr. Fletcher to end the meeting. The meeting ended at 9:15 AM.