

Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee
February 8, 2017
10:00 a.m.
IBEW; 242 Mill Street, Worcester, MA

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Approval of January 11, 2017 meeting notes, 5 minutes
- WJF Financial Report, 5 minutes
- Discussion of TIF Project Review Process, 5 minutes
- WJF Director Report with Program Updates, 10 minutes
 - Building Pathways Pre-Apprenticeship
 - CDL-Class B
 - Diesel Technician Cycle 2
 - Report to City Council – Feedback from 1/17/17
- Conflict of Interest and Open Meeting Requirements, 10 Minutes
- Potential Future Training Programs, 10 Minutes
- Discussion on Retreat/Meeting with Other Training Programs, 10 Minutes
- Election of Officers, 10 Minutes
- Adjourn

Next Meeting: Wednesday March 8, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

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Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee

January 11, 2017

10:00am

CMWIB; 340 Main Street, Suite 400, Worcester, MA

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Leonard Cooper, David Minasian, Karen Pelletier, Frank Kartheiser, John McGovern, Kathleen Jackson (proxy), & Lauren Morano (proxy).

Guest: Kelsey Lamoureux, Paul Morano, & Dr. Laurie Ross.

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

Approval of December 14th Meeting Minutes:

- The meeting minutes from December 14th at 340 Main St. were reviewed and unanimously accepted via a motion by D. Minasian and a second by K. Pelletier.

WJF Financial Report:

- K. Lamoureux presented the financial report for the Worcester Jobs Fund, Washington Square Project, and Department of Transportation grant. The financial report was reviewed and unanimously accepted via a motion by D. Minasian and a second by K. Pelletier.

Discussion of TIF Project Review Process:

- P. Morano presented information about a pre-approved, South Worcester Industrial Park TIF project on Canterbury Street that will be going before City Council soon. This project is expected to begin in Spring 2017 and transform a 18,800 sq. ft. building into smaller units. This project will be required to adhere to necessary guidelines.

Presentation of Youth Employment Study:

- Dr. Laurie Ross, a guest from Clark University, presented the Youth Employment Study Report findings. The study examined education, training, and employment opportunities available at 17 local, youth-serving agencies and found a strong differentiation between youth based on their age and level of connection. The study concluded that more emphasis needs to focus on training youth for living-wage career pathways and programs need to be better connected to employer partners. L. Ross also presented findings that some direct service providers are in need of more inter-agency connections and an increased ability to offer youth connection instead of strictly employment services. D. Minasian inquired about other living-wage training models in the region. L. Ross noted that Year-Up in Boston, MA has a strong program model and further development of evening programs at Worcester Technical High School could produce more training opportunities. F. Kartheiser explained that the YouthWorks Summer Jobs Program offers a 7-week employment opportunity, but due to the program's requirement to have 80% new participation each year, many youth need more services than the program can provide during one cycle. P. Morano inquired about the study's distinction between part-time and full-time

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employment and noted that many local employers are unable to find individuals to fill their employment vacancies. J. McGovern reported that many youth at the Adult Learning Center have career development challenges due to limited English, limited understanding of local employment culture, and pressure to work rather than continue education. L. Cooper responded that this report highlights many longstanding challenges in youth employment and suggested that the researchers consider current illegal alternatives currently available to youth. D. Minasian suggested that more collaboration needs to occur between agencies at the direct service provider level. P. Morano stated that youth need more exposure to employment opportunities in order to gain the soft skills necessary to be successful in the workplace. K. Lamoureux stated that many youth service providers are unaware of career pathways related to apprenticeship and on-the-job training. K. Lamoureux suggested that the Worcester Jobs Fund consider providing more outreach to the community to increase awareness around in-demand occupations and their respective career pathway opportunities.

WJF Director Report & Program Updates:

- K. Lamoureux provided updated information on the post-graduation activities for Worcester Building Pathways, CDL A, Community Health Worker, CDL B Cycle 1, and Diesel Technician Cycle 1 graduates. K. Lamoureux noted that Cycle 2 of Diesel Technician Training ended on December 22nd and Tri-State Truck is considering several graduates for their apprenticeship program. K. Lamoureux informed the committee that the 6 participants enrolled in Cycle 2 of CDL B training are all attending training and doing well. K. Lamoureux informed the committee that recruitment for Cycle 2 of Worcester Building Pathways is ongoing and that initial Information Sessions have included some strong candidates. K. Lamoureux noted that the Worcester Jobs Fund's 2016 Year In-Review Report was tabled by the City Council on January 10, 2017 and that the Worcester Jobs Fund is developing a grant application for the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund FY'17 Appropriation for additional funding for CDL B training in 2017.

Potential Training Programs:

- K. Lamoureux provided the committee with a proposal for a Good Manufacturing Practices training program. D. Minasian stated that this program would promote local companies, such as Table Talk Pies, to hire graduates directly instead of utilizing staffing agencies and he supports this program, as long as employers have addressed all safety concerns. L. Cooper stated that this training program would allow Worcester residents to secure local employment and start a career pathway. The Good Manufacturing Practices training program proposal was reviewed and unanimously accepted via a motion by D. Minasian and a second by K. Pelletier.
- K. Lamoureux stated that there is still a large portion of the Washington Square funding left to allocate and requested that the committee consider options for how to utilize some of this funding for spring training programs.

Discussion on Holding Meeting with Other Related Training Programs:

- L. Cooper suggested that the Worcester Jobs Fund host a retreat with other related training programs to plan future activities and establish common goals for the future. K. Lamoureux suggested reaching out to Worcester Community Connections to establish a city-wide list of

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training programs and providers. J. McGovern stated that there is not currently enough collaboration between training service providers in Worcester.

Adjournment:

- At 11:43 a.m. a motion to adjourn was made by D. Minasian, was seconded by K. Pelletier and was unanimously approved.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday February 8, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

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