

**Worcester Redevelopment Authority
Citizens Advisory Committee
February 13, 2015
8:00 AM
City Hall – Levi Lincoln Room
Worcester, Massachusetts**

Present:

John Brissette, Chair, Jill Dagilis, Vice Chair, Linda Cavaoli, Paul Demoga, Jack Donahue, Alex Dunn, Michelle Johnson, Alec Lopez, Mable Millner, Stacy DuBois-Luster, Deborah O'Malley, Hong Tran,

Staff:

Michael Traynor, Chief Executive Office, WRA
Jackson Restrepo, Office of Economic Development
Erin Cahill, WRA Financial

The WRA Citizens Advisory Committee met jointly with the Worcester Redevelopment Authority. The purpose of the joint meeting was for the Committee to meet the WRA board and for the board to meet the Committee members.

Jef Fasser, BSC Group, delivered a PowerPoint presentation that outlined draft proposed boundaries of the urban renewal area, and the process of preparing and obtaining approval of an urban renewal plan. He also discussed the respective roles of the WRA and the CAC. Mr. Fasser outlined the area of the plan and stated that he will work with the Committee in every step of the urban renewal process.

Mr. Traynor explained to the Committee and the WRA that this plan is not comparable to the Medical City Urban Renewal Plan, the dominant purpose of which was to obtain title to numerous properties by eminent domain to assemble a development parcel for an identified redeveloper. The actions under this proposed plan will be strategic, not every property located within the plan boundaries will be targeted for urban renewal activities. The goal of this plan is to change the fabric of the area downtown and the boundaries outlined in the Plan by incentivizing private investment and replacing non-performing or underperforming property owners. Mr. Traynor explained that the financing aspect of the plan will come into play as the plan evolves. At the present time there is no funding available from the State.

Mr. Pedone introduced City Councilor Frederick C. Rushton, Chair of the City Council Economic Development Subcommittee. Councilor Rushton said that he looked forward to having his Committee involved in the process along with the rest of the City Council members.

Advisory Committee Members proposed additions to the process to include a mailing to property and business owners prior to the first public hearing to discuss the development of a proposed urban renewal plan for the Theatre District and surrounding areas being held February 26, 2015 at 5:30 PM in City Hall

Mr. Traynor advised the CAC and the WRA that he will work with John Hill, Communications Specialist from the City Manager's office to make sure the hearing is well publicized.

Mr. Traynor also informed members that he will provide them with minutes from both meetings (1/22/15 & 2/13/15) along with the PowerPoint presentation.

City Councilor Rushton invited the members to attend the next Economic Development Committee meeting on March 3, 2015 at 5:30 PM in the Esther Howland Chamber.

A motion was made by John Brissette and seconded by Jill Dagilis to end the meeting. The meeting ended at 8:55 AM.