

Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee

October 12, 2016

10:00am

IBEW; 242 Mill Street, Worcester, MA

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Leonard Cooper, Leo Miller, Karen Pelletier, Jeffrey Turgeon, Frank Kartheiser, Dania Flores, & Carlene Campanale (proxy).

Guest: Kelsey Lamoureux & Paul Morano.

At 10:12 a.m. J. Turgeon phoned into the meeting.

- The meeting was called to order at 10:34 a.m. after a quorum was established.

City Economic Development Update & Discussion of TIF Project Review:

- P. Morano discussed the status of manufacturing companies that are planning to expand over the next few years highlighting the need for more machinists and CNC operators. K. Pelletier noted a grant opportunity available through MassDevelopment and suggested that it may be beneficial for the Jobs Fund to begin looking at job training opportunities within manufacturing. F. Kartheiser noted that the apprenticeship model has proven to provide strong career pathways and inquired about apprenticeships available in manufacturing. P. Morano noted that manufacturing has the potential to revitalize neighborhood, but many local manufacturing companies are having difficulty finding qualified workers.
- K. Lamoureux presented the current status of the development of an industrial food production training program. The training is projected to be a 2-3 week classroom training with an optional component for participants to earn a Good Manufacturing Practices certificate from Cornell University. L. Miller requested that participants only be trained for positions currently available to avoid queuing and that on-the-job training not be utilized to subsidize production.
- P. Morano requested that Kelsey Lamoureux begin meeting with companies at the Airport Industrial Park.
- D. Flores requested the Jobs Fund to draft Community Benefit Agreements with local companies. P. Morano noted that the City has not approved the Jobs Fund to take this action, but the Jobs Fund is authorized to create non-binding partnerships with local companies that informally include components of Community Benefit Agreements. L. Miller requested periodic meetings with the City Manager in order to discuss this topic.

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Approval of September 14th Meeting Minutes:

- The meeting minutes from September 14th at 242 Mill St. were reviewed and unanimously accepted via a motion by L. Miller and a second by D. Flores.

WJF Financial Report:

- K. Lamoureux discussed the financial reports 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 L. Miller and a second by D. Flores.

List of Recommended Minority Subcontractors and Businesses

- L. Cooper opened a discussion about the possibility of the Jobs Fund creating a list of local Minority Subcontractors and Businesses to provide to companies receiving TIF plans. P. Morano stated that the committee may not be allowed to produce this list. L. Miller stated that local minority or female-owned companies should be given a strong opportunity for local work. K. Pelletier noted that the Chamber of Commerce may be able to compile this list. L. Cooper volunteered to begin working on this list without representing any organization until an organization is able to take responsibility for this task. P. Morano explained that the City of Worcester's current affirmative action numbers are already higher than the Massachusetts standard. L. Cooper suggested that an increase in these numbers would be favorable.

WJF Director Report & Program Updates:

- K. Lamoureux provided updated information on the post-graduation activities for Building Pathways, CDL A, Community Health Worker, CDL B, and Diesel Technician Cycle 1 participants. K. Lamoureux also discussed the selection results for Cycle 2 of the Diesel Technician Training and the preliminary results of the Youth Employment Research Project. K. Lamoureux requested at least 2 Oversight Committee members engage in a working group to develop a screening process for future training proposals. L. Miller suggested that a post-placement survey be sent to employers 3 months after job placement. D. Flores suggested that 30 minutes of the next meeting be allocated for reviewing the screening process for training proposals. K. Lamoureux offered to send out information to the group about the upcoming youth employment research meeting and the screening process working group meeting.

Adjournment:

- At 11:39 a.m. a motion to adjourn was made by L. Miller, was seconded by K. Pelletier and was unanimously approved.

Next meeting will be held Wednesday November 9, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

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