

Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee Meeting

Jan. 13, 2016

10:00am

IBEW; 240 Mill Street, Worcester, MA

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Co-Chair – Leonard Cooper, Co-Chair – David Minasian
Committee Members – Jeffrey Turgeon, Janice Weekes, Frank Kartheiser & Leo Miller

Guests: Paul Morano & Lauren Ross

Meeting Start: 10:00am

- Co-chair Cooper welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order after a quorum was established.
- The meeting agenda was distributed to all.

Approval of Dec. 9th meeting notes:

- The meeting minutes from Dec. 9th at 242 Mill St. were reviewed and unanimously accepted via a motion by Mr. Turgeon and a second by Mr. Minasian.

City Economic Development Update & Discussion of Project Review Process:

- There was a general discussion of the Building Pathways project and the question of whether or not participants could be “Worcester-Fitchburg” residents or have to be Worcester residents only. It was decided that outreach efforts should be focused on Worcester residents only. Flyers and marketing materials will be updated to reflect the change.
- Mr. Morano asked how we will oversee “local hiring” and suggested that contractors be made aware of this part of the agreement.
- Mr. Morano provided an update on the change in TIF policy and reporting requirements. There may be an application fee in the near future. Mr. Morano also went over the state application process and checklist/requirements.
- Mr. Morano also stated that the City can only have contractors commit to permanent jobs. The City can monitor this but they have to define what “best efforts” mean.

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- Mr. Morano needs a list of local vendors (furnishing, equipment etc). He also needs a list of contractors, which someone needs to put together (bid list) that perhaps the WJF committee and Chamber may assist with.

WJF Financial Report:

- Mr. Turgeon presented a handout on WJF expenses and a chart on the different funding pots. He presented the idea of using 50% of the earmark funding for another pre-apprenticeship program (possibly Community Health Worker) and 50% for something else.
- Mr. Turgeon will find out more about the Community Health Worker pre-apprenticeship program and potentially find additional programs to consider that would be tied into local Registered Apprenticeship Programs.

WJF Director Vacancy:

- Mr. Turgeon informed the committee that six candidates will be interviewed for the position on Jan. 19th and 26th.
- Mr. Miller mentioned he may have candidates from the Building Trades but it was agreed that since the City's application deadline had passed, they would not be cleared to interview. It was also discussed that they could potentially be a good fit for instructor roles.

Program Updates and Discussion:

- Mr. Minasian mentioned that Lisa from the Worcester Community Labor Coalition has a list of info session partners. Ms. Ross and Mr. Minasian will talk to Mary Vogel about agenda for info sessions and Ms. Ross will update Building Pathways application.
 - Outreach Session Recap: Mr. Minasian and Mr. Turgeon said there was a great turnout at the outreach session and people seem to be very excited about the opportunity.
 - CDL Training Project: With regard to the initiative directed at providing CDL training to four Worcester residents, Mr. Turgeon explained that four participants have gone through the classes and one additional individual completed a CDL training on his own and needs to take the test at the RMV.

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- Mr. Turgeon also explained that the earmark funds would need to be tied to a pre-apprenticeship program. Mr. Turgeon is working with Dirty Girl Waste Management and Teamsters Local 25. Dirty Girl Waste Management would target women in their recruitment efforts.
- There was a motion to have a meeting with Paul Moosey from the Dept. of Public Works for buy-in. Mr. Turgeon said he would invite Paul Moosey and others to a meeting.
- Mr. Turgeon will follow-up with Worcester Technical High School or Adult Career Tech to see if they will host Building Pathways classes.

New Business:

- The budget for the Building Pathways project was discussed and there was a question regarding the process for charging rent and if there was any flexibility for funds and in-kind match funds. Mary Vogel wrote the budget, so we will be able to find out from her.

Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn at 11:55pm by Mr. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Minasian and unanimously approved.

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