

Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee

November 8, 2017

10:00am

IBEW, 242 Mill Street, Worcester, MA 01602

Meeting Minutes

WJF Oversight Committee Attendance: David Minasian, John McGovern, Jeffrey Turgeon, Thomas Maloney, Frank Kartheiser, & Karen Pelletier.

WJF Program Director: Kelsey Lamoureux

Guests: Karen King & Howard Lucas

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

Welcome and Introductions

- All attendees introduced themselves, their positions and their organizations.

Approval of October 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes:

- The meeting minutes from October 11, 2017 at 340 Main Street were reviewed and unanimously accepted via a motion by J. McGovern and a second by D. Minasian.

WJF Oversight Committee Membership and Leadership:

- D. Minasian noted that the vacant seat for the Worcester Community Labor Coalition may be filled by a representative from the Central MA Housing Alliance. D. Minasian also stated that the co-chair position is vacant and opened a discussion on the topic. The committee determined that filling the seat for the remainder of the fiscal year would be beneficial. Co-Chair D. Minasian opened nominations for the Fiscal Year 2018 WJF Co-Chair vacancy. F. Kartheiser made a motion to nominate K. Pelletier for election and K. Pelletier accepted the nomination. J. Turgeon seconded the motion and D. Minasian asked for additional nominations and had no reply, therefore he closed nominations. D. Minasian made a motion to elect K. Pelletier as a co-chair. All members voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

WJF Financial Update:

- K. Lamoureux presented financial updates on the Worcester Jobs Fund and Washington Square funding as well as updates on the overall FY 18 budget. K. Lamoureux also summarized the feedback received from the Department of Transportation regarding the pending grant application and stated that action is being taken to fulfill the suggested changes.

WJF Director Report & Program Updates:

- K. Lamoureux highlighted that one graduate of the diesel technician training program was recently hired by the City of Worcester's DPW&P to be a Diesel Mechanic. K. Lamoureux

The City of Worcester does not discriminate on the basis of disability, The CMWIB will provide auxiliary aids and service, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon advance request. Please contact Jeff Turgeon at turgeonj@worcesterma.gov or 508-799-1590, or the ADA Coordinator at disabilities@worcesterma.gov.

reviewed recent events including the WJF Workforce Summit, the submission of the FY 17 Annual Report, feedback from the Councilor-at-Large Candidate's Forum, and discussions with the Economic Development Office related to future planning. K. Lamoureux also announced that the Jobs Fund received the 2017 Workforce Training Partnership of the Year Award from the Workforce Solutions Group. K. Lamoureux reviewed activities related to the Equal Opportunity Grant, CDL training, EKG & Phlebotomy Training, Contact Center Training, Building Pathways Training, and SNAP Outreach.

- D. Minasian noted that the Workforce Summit has built a lot of support for the Jobs Fund with local community leaders. J. McGovern stated that the attention has also brought more consideration, and possibly more funding, for the ESL program at the Adult Learning Center.

Discussion of FY 19 Funding Request:

- K. Lamoureux provided a copy of the Fiscal Year 2019 projected budget with detailed information on programs for Fiscal Years 2016-2018. The committee provided feedback and K. Lamoureux agreed to submit the projected budget to the Office of Economic Development for review.

Discussion of Future Projects:

- K. Lamoureux explained that there is a grant opportunity through the Susan F. Schiro and Peter J. Manus Foundation to support retention efforts for two years after job placement that may align with current retention efforts and that the CMWIB/Jobs Fund may be able to apply for CDBG funding when the RFP is released in November.
- F. Kartheiser reported that Saint-Gobain currently has 125 manufacturing vacancies and there may be an opportunity to collaborate to fill these openings. K. Pelletier offered to connect Saint Gobain with the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce who is working on addressing the manufacturing skills gap. J. McGovern noted that the Adult Learning Center has created three classes for advanced manufacturing students to address this gap as well.
- K. Lamoureux stated that Worcester State University is reaching out to local businesses to see if they have a need for ESL for their incumbent workforce. Their goal is to create groups of employers who would benefit from Workforce Competitive Trust Fund grants to assist with English instruction. There might be an opportunity to collaborate for the Jobs Fund in this effort.
- K. Pelletier noted that there has been a group created to engage biomanufacturing employers looking to relocate in the City and suggested that K. Lamoureux join this group to represent the Jobs Fund. K. Lamoureux agreed to reach out to MassBio to become part of this group.
- T. Maloney asked if there would be additional funding from the federal government for apprenticeship programs aligned with recent comments by the executive administration. J. Turgeon explained that funding will be taken from different areas under the Department of Labor and shifted to apprenticeship, but not necessarily Registered Apprenticeship.

Adjournment:

- A motion to adjourn was made by D. Minasian, was seconded by J. Turgeon, and was unanimously approved.

The next monthly meeting will be held Wednesday December 13, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

The City of Worcester does not discriminate on the basis of disability, The CMWIB will provide auxiliary aids and service, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon advance request. Please contact Jeff Turgeon at turgeonj@worcesterma.gov or 508-799-1590, or the ADA Coordinator at disabilities@worcesterma.gov.