

Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee

February 13, 2019

10:00 am

IBEW; 242 Mill Street, Worcester, MA 01602

Meeting Minutes

WJF Oversight Committee Attendance: David Minasian, Isabella Gonzalez-Webster, Karen King, Thomas Maloney, Lauren Morano (proxy), and Carlene Campanale (proxy)

WJF Staff: Kelsey Lamoureux and Theodora Twumasi-Ankrah

Guests: Peter Dunn, Philip Niddrie, and Michael LeBlanc

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

Welcome and Introductions:

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

Discussion of Potential TIF Projects:

- P. Dunn provided a description of the proposed development project and introduced M. LeBlanc, General Manager at PremaTech Advanced Ceramics (PremaTech). The proposed \$4.1M expansion will allow PremaTech to purchase a CVD furnace and Fast Ox Oven, along with necessary support and auxiliary equipment, and additional manufacturing and storage facilities necessary for production. The expansion will initially create a minimum of 6 additional positions that will operate the furnace and ancillary equipment. This number is expected to increase by 8 additional positions by the end of the second year.
- D. Minasian provided a brief description and history of the Jobs Fund and K. Lamoureux described support services and training capacity of the project. K. King requested information about skill requirements necessary for the new positions and relevant shift information. M. LeBlanc noted that trainability and attitude are the two characteristics necessary to be considered and described the different schedules for the furnace during production and non-production periods. T. Maloney inquired about the wage range for the positions and M. LeBlanc stated that the wage range is between \$15-\$35/hr. depending on level of skill and responsibility. C. Campanale noted that PremaTech is already an On the Job Training employer partner of the MassHire Worcester Career Center and K. Lamoureux provided information regarding local manufacturing training programs already operating. P. Niddrie highlighted that PremaTech has a strong history in the community and that partnering with this company will lead to growth of the company and economic development for the City of Worcester.

Approval of January 9th, 2019, Meeting Minutes

- The meeting minutes from January 9, 2019, at 242 Mill Street were reviewed and unanimously accepted via a motion by T. Maloney and seconded by I. Gonzalez-Webster.

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WJF Financial Update:

- K. Lamoureux presented financial updates on the Worcester Jobs Fund, Washington Square, and MA Department of Transportation (DOT) funding and as well as updates on the overall FY 19 Budget.
- C. Campanale provided information on the annual budgeting timeline for the City of Worcester.
- D. Mianasian requested that a summary report be created to show outcome differences between FY 18 and FY 19. I. Gonzalez-Webster suggested that qualitative elements such as client success stories and employer engagement activities also be included in the report. K. Lamoureux offered to prepare a report of FY 19 outcomes.

Participant Outreach Strategies:

- T. Twumasi-Ankrah provided a summary of outreach and recruitment activities. This included a description of types of outreach as well as a list of partner organizations. K. Lamoureux noted that recruitment levels and quality of candidates has improved due to T. Twumasi-Ankrah's outreach efforts. I. Gonzalez-Webster suggested connecting with radio stations and print news organizations to reach the community through non-English languages.

Employer Engagement Objectives:

- K. Lamoureux outlined current employer engagement activities, goals, and objectives. I. Gonzalez-Webster offered to connect K. Lamoureux with local employer contacts who have expressed interest in community engagement within their hiring strategies.

WJF Director Report with Program Updates:

- This item was tabled until the following meeting.

Adjourn:

- A motion to adjourn was made by K. King, was seconded by I. Gonzalez-Webster, and was unanimously approved.

The next monthly meeting will be held Wednesday March 13, 2019 at 10:00 am.

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