

Worcester Jobs Fund
June 10, 2015

Attendance: Leonard Cooper, Karen Pelletier, Frank Kartheiser, Janice Weekes, Jeff Turgeon, Leo Miller, David Minasian, Paul Morano (guest)

- L. Cooper welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order.
- L. Cooper then asked P. Morano to provide an update of local development projects;
 - P. Morano stated the Union Street bio-medical facility project is awaiting the developer to proceed. He also stated that the new Blackstone River Rd. project – renovation of the 600,000 Sq. Ft. building would be a major renovation effort ultimately providing a minimum of 300 jobs with the developer giving his assurances of providing his best effort to hire 50% locally-based contractors and to discuss these efforts with the WJF and Workforce Central. P. Morano also stated he will seek approval from Mike Traynor (City Economic Development Director) to add language into the TIFs Process requiring developers to meet with WJF and Workforce Central representatives regarding construction phase hiring prior to the TIF request being submitted to the City Council (language already exists in the TIF agreements requiring developers to work with WJF and Workforce Central during the post-construction business operational phase).
- Committee Membership & Leadership Update: J. Turgeon reported that Stephanie Stockwell, the Worcester Public Schools coordinator of student employment readiness activities has been appointed to the WJF Oversight Committee by Dr. Boone.
- Proposed WJF Director RFP update; J. Turgeon to send out to the committee the final version of the Director Request For Proposals approved by the City with the edits they made highlighted on the document. Then, pending final committee approval it will be released.
- F. Kartheiser noted the Worcester Community Labor Coalition had a recent meeting with the City Manager which included several items relating to the work of the WJF; the City is committing \$100,000 of matching funds from the sale of land adjacent to Union Station, and that they discussed the need to establish a local list of available local contractors for developers to looking to connect with local businesses. He stated the City Manager also committed to researching other community's Community Benefits Agreements (CBA's) to better acquaint himself with the issue; He and L. Cooper will be coordinating a tour and meeting with Andrew Cortes from the Building Futures program in Providence, RI.

- F. Kartheiser also noted that Clark University appears to be backing away from committing to a written agreement with the WJF, even though they have no major philosophical disagreement with the proposed goals of the agreement. He further stated that there is \$75,000 for the WJF in the state budget, pending final legislative approval.
- The next meeting date was set for Wednesday, July 8th at 11am at the CMWIB office.
- A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn

Meeting notes submitted by: J. Turgeon