

Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee

July 12, 2017

10:00am

IBEW, 242 Mill Street, Worcester, MA 01602

Meeting Minutes

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

WJF Program Director: Kelsey Lamoureux

Guest: Paul Morano

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

Approval of May 10, 2017 Meeting Minutes:

- The meeting minutes from May 10, 2017 at 242 Mill Street were reviewed and unanimously accepted via a motion by D. Minasian and a second by J. Turgeon.

Approval of June 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes:

- The meeting minutes from June 14, 2017 at 455 Main Street were reviewed and unanimously accepted via a motion by D. Minasian and a second by J. Turgeon.

Discussion of TIF Projects:

- P. Morano summarized the Harding Green project that is applying for a Tax Increment Exemption (TIE) Plan. The project will include 48 market rate apartments above retail and restaurant space, with the tax relief only being applied to the residential areas. A meeting with the developer, general contractor, and Worcester Jobs Fund will be scheduled during the next few weeks.
- F. Kartheiser asked if any of the apartments will be allocated for low-income housing. P. Morano communicated that all apartments will be provided at market rate.

WJF Financial Report:

- K. Lamoureux presented information necessary for financial planning for Fiscal Year 2018 including known funding sources, anticipated expenses, and potential additional expenses. K. Lamoureux noted an application for the Department of Transportation Pre-Apprenticeship Funding is being developed. D. Minasian supported the creation of a grant application that is consistent with the costs from other applicants. J. Turgeon stated that it is important to turn in an application with a cost that is as competitive as possible, while still being realistic for implementation.

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WJF Director Report & Program Updates:

- K. Lamoureux provided updated information on the post-graduation activities for Worcester Building Pathways, Industrial Food Production, CDL B, and Diesel Technician graduates. K. Lamoureux noted that many graduates from Cycle 2 of Worcester Building Pathways have been offered positions as apprentices or are currently going through the application process to become apprentices. K. Lamoureux informed the committee that the Worcester Jobs Fund has been approved as a SNAP Outreach Provider and that this funding will be available to offset staff costs.
- T. Maloney explained that the Building Trades Council discussed the reasons for the female Building Pathways Cycle 1 graduate leaving her position at the Elevator Constructors. K. Lamoureux noted that all graduates of Building Pathways receive training in best practices for working in non-traditional trades. K. Lamoureux stated that more emphasis can be placed on verifying understanding of work requirements and strengthening retention strategies for future cycles. K. Lamoureux noted that one challenge with placements for Cycle 2 is that some graduates do not have vehicles. J. Turgeon suggested establishing a partnership with a local used car dealership to connect graduates with reasonably priced used vehicles. D. Flores suggested connecting with Dan Ford to see if his shop will be able to help participants with car repairs.

Discussion on Meeting with Other Training Programs:

- K. Lamoureux provided updates on the planning for the Worcester Jobs Fund Workforce Summit. The event will be held in Worcester, at a City of Worcester location, and K. Lamoureux will reach out to local community leaders to see if they are able to speak at the event.

FY 18 Planning:

- K. Lamoureux reviewed the plan for City Council engagement and reminded the members of their commitments to individually engage City Councilors on Worcester Jobs Fund related matters. K. Lamoureux offered to share talking points with the committee members about updates to ensure that the City Councilors all receive the same information around the same time.
- K. Lamoureux provided detailed information regarding the opportunity for the Program Director to receive additional training in soft-skills instruction through the Bounce Program. J. Turgeon noted that the training would be a one-time cost and that the license fee would be a recurring cost. T. Maloney made a motion for \$5,000 to be used for the Program Director to complete the Bounce Train-the-Trainer sessions. D. Minasian seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
- K. Lamoureux presented the option to provide contact center training to local residents to fill the local skills gap. The training would occur over a 3-week period and utilize an online curriculum through the Call Center School. D. Minasian made a motion for up to \$4,500 to be utilized for the contact center training. T. Maloney seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
- K. Lamoureux presented the option to provide weatherization training to local residents to fill the local skills gap. D. Flores and D. Minasian expressed concern regarding the limited earning potential and harsh working conditions for weatherization technicians. D. Minasian made a

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motion to deny funding for the training, unless additional information can be provided. D. Flores seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Adjournment:

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

The next monthly meeting will be held Wednesday August 9, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

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