

## Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee

November 26, 2019

10:00 a.m.

IBEW Local 96, 242 Mill St. Worcester, MA 01602

### Meeting Minutes

WJF Oversight Committee Attendance: Karen Pelletier, Janice Ryan Weekes, Fred Taylor, Karen King and Thomas Maloney.

WJF Staff: Kelsey Lamoureux and Theodora Appiah.

Guests: Peter Dunn and Ethan Brown.

- The meeting was called to order after a quorum was established.
- All attendees introduced themselves, their positions and their organizations.

#### Approval of October 24, 2019 Meeting Minutes:

- The meeting minutes from October 24, 2019 at 242 Mill Street were reviewed and K. King made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by T. Maloney and unanimously approved.

#### TIF Project Updates:

- E. Brown provided a summary of the status of several projects including Chatham St. and the Washington Sq. Hotel, highlighted the expansion of the diverse business directory and provided updates on compliance activities.
- P. Dunn detailed updates to the TIF policy, forms and procedures. K. Pelletier suggested that community members reach out to City Counselors to provide them with clarification on TIF projects and developments. K. King inquired about the timeline of projects being presented before the Jobs Fund committee and City Council. P. Dunn noted that each project has its own timeline and that the goal is to have the project leaders meet with the Jobs Fund committee prior to City Council approval, but that process is not always possible. F. Taylor shared a concern about project leaders meeting with the Jobs Fund after the project has already been approved. P. Dunn offered to try to have the project leaders meet with the Jobs Fund before the City Council vote. K. King inquired about whether the developer and general contractor will be meeting with the Jobs Fund regarding the Washington Sq. Hotel Project. P. Dunn noted that the general contractor for the project is not yet finalized, but the developer will be scheduled to meet with the Jobs Fund before the project is presented to City Council.

#### Compliance and Monitoring Update:

- P. Dunn noted that the Ad Hoc Monitoring Committee will have their first meeting to begin working on monitoring the approved diversity goals for publically funded construction projects.

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K. Pelletier requested the schedule for the meeting and P. Dunn stated that when a meeting is scheduled, interested individuals will be contacted.

#### WIF Financial Update:

- K. Lamoureux presented financial updates on the Worcester Jobs Fund, Washington Square, and Department of Transportation (DOT) Funding and as well as updates on the overall FY 20 Budget.
- K. Lamoureux stated that funding from DOT will be renewed in January 2020 and will fund the February 2020 cycle of Worcester Building Pathways Pre-Apprenticeship.
- F. Taylor suggested pursuing different funding sources and K. Lamoureux mentioned that the MCRWB constantly looks to secure additional funding streams, but no current grant requests appear to overlap with the Jobs Fund project.
- J. Ryan Weekes requested an update on the CDL training site and K. Lamoureux stated that local training space at the WRTA is in high demand and different possible locations are being discussed for future cycles in spring 2020.
- K. Lamoureux described ongoing discussions regarding a possible partnership with UMass and the Jobs Fund to develop a pipeline for entry level Medical Assistant positions. J. Ryan Weekes shared that UMass is creating projects through the Anchor Mission Initiative by connecting with community partners to build pathways into the organization.

#### Building Pathways Outreach Planning:

- K. Lamoureux presented the Building Pathways outreach goals and flyers to committee with a request to assist the program with sharing the information with community groups. K. Lamoureux provided outcomes on the Trade Women Tuesdays Events and plans for 2020.

#### WJF Director Report:

- K. Lamoureux provided updates on the active programs, completed programs, SNAP Employment & Training, SNAP Outreach, and a demographic breakdown of FY 20 training program participants.
- J. Ryan Weekes inquired about the process of tracking job placements across the programs. K. Lamoureux described the efforts to connect past and current graduates with employment opportunities and noted that one graduate's placement outcome was highlighted in the Chamber Exchange quarterly newsletter.
- K. Pelletier suggested including a financial literacy training program to support families within the community. K. King mentioned the importance of financial literacy and her experience offering these classes to clients.

#### Ad Hoc Committee Planning:

- K. Lamoureux opened a discussion on the process for providing updates on the Ad Hoc Monitoring Committee to the Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee. F. Taylor was selected to provide monthly updates on the activities of the Ad Hoc Monitoring Committee to the Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee.

#### Other Items/Announcements:

- K. Pelletier opened the floor for additional announcements, but none were presented.

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Adjourn:

- A motion to adjourn was made by K. King, was seconded by J. Ryan Weekes and was unanimously approved.

The next monthly meeting will be December 20, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

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