

City of Somerville, Massachusetts Job Creation and Retention Trust

Trustees

Thomas Bent
Vickie Choitz
Lisa Cook
Silvana Dinka
Thomas Galligani
Anika Van Eaton
Rand Wilson
Josh Grehan

Minutes

Somerville Job Creation and Retention Trust
Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at 6:00 pm
Culinary Dining Room, Somerville High School
81 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA

Trustees Present: Thomas Bent, Vickie Choitz, Lisa Cook, Silvana Dinka, Thomas Galligani, Anika Van Eaton, Rand Wilson

Staff Present: Ben Sommer

Meeting started at 6:00pm

1. Approval of February 7, 2019 Minutes

Unanimously approved

2. Discussion on Statement of Trust

Ben Sommer answered outstanding questions related to the Statement of Trust:

- Proxy voting or electronic voting: Not allowed by open meeting law. All votes must be taken in person by Trustee.
- Appointments process: The appointments process is at the discretion of the Mayor. Any changes to that process would be outside the scope of the JCRT Statement of Trust.
- Annual Auditing: City's financial audit is sufficient for financial oversight. Additional annual reporting for the trust re-affirmed in the "Operating Procedures".

Additional edits were made to the draft Statement of Trust by OSPCD's legal counsel.

Vote to approve the Job Creation and Retention Trust Statement of Trust:

- Motion to approve made by Vickie Choitz, seconded by Thomas Bent

- Unanimously approved

3. Vote to select Trust Officers

Vote to elect Managing Trustee:

- Motion to elect Vickie Choitz made by Thomas Galligani, seconded by Thomas Bent.
- Unanimously approved.

Vote to select Assistant Managing Trustee:

- Motion to elect Anika Van Eaton made by Silvana Dinka, seconded by Josh Grehan.
- Unanimously approved.

4. Discussion on City-Wide Jobs Board RFP

Vote to delegate a subcommittee to proceed with exploring the City-Wide Jobs Board and reviewing submissions.

- Motion to delegate subcommittee made by Rand Wilson, seconded by Thomas Bent
- Unanimously approved

Thomas Bent, Lisa Cook, Anika Van Eaton, and Silvana Dinka volunteered to be on the Review Subcommittee.

Subcommittee will report back to full Board with recommendations after interviews and price proposals.

5. Other Items Not Reasonably Anticipated

- Rand Wilson passed out an article from the Boston Federal Reserve: “Best Practices for Amplifying Workers’ Voices in an Evolving Economy.”
- Josh Grehan asked about the pipeline of linkage funding and if that could be made available to the Board. Thomas Galligani mentioned the hotel project in Inner Belt as a new development project that was recently approved. Vicky Choitz noted that this would be helpful in order to plan investments and suggested a conversation at the next meeting on the Talent Equity Playbook.
- Lisa Cook spoke about an event a few weeks ago regarding the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and would share the powerpoint slides from that event.
- Anika Van Eaton noted an email correspondence regarding a Trustee appearing on the Somerville Media Center show to discuss the work of the JCRT.
- Rand Wilson gave an update on Royal Hospitality. The topic has been discussed at a City Council Finance Committee meeting recently and a couple workers spoke on the issue. Vicky asked if there was any possibility Royal Hospitality working with OSPCD. Thomas Galligani said that this was possible and that the lease for the space went until 2023 or 2024.

- Vicky Choitz asked about the President of the City Council's designee to this Board and if there were any updates on who that might be. Ben Sommer said he would work to get an update.
- Due to absences the next meeting will be scheduled on Thursday, April 4th, at 6pm.

6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm