

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
Thursday, April 4, 2019, at 6:00 pm
Tufts Administrative Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA
Second Floor Atrium meeting room

Trustees Present: Matt McLaughlin, Thomas Bent, Lisa Cook, Silvana Dinka, Thomas Galligani, Anika Van Eaton, Rand Wilson, Josh Grehan

Staff Present: Ben Sommer

Meeting started at 6:00pm

1. Approval of March 5th, 2019 Minutes

Unanimously approved

2. Funding pipeline and Talent Equity Playbook discussion

This item was taken out of order, switching with item 3.

Ben presented on the linkage funding pipeline and the Talent Equity Playbook Strategies.

Josh Grehan noted that special consideration should be taken to think about what this board can fund that others will not, capacity building being one of them.

Rand Wilson recommended reaching out to the ICA-Group regarding succession planning for small business owners, as a possible partnership for the Good Jobs strategy of the Talent Equity Playbook.

Tom Bent asked for a more detailed description of workforce development programs.

- Vote: To adopt the Talent Equity Playbook strategies or amended strategies as investment priorities for the JCRT

Thomas Galligani made a motion to approve. Lisa Cook seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Discussion on City-Wide Jobs Board RFP

This item was taken out of order, switching with item 2.

- Review Sub-committee report out

Thomas Bent reported that both proposals were good overall. Skillist had not been in business long. Skillsmart had experience working with cities.

Lisa Cook reported that local experience is important. Lisa liked that Skillsmart has the ability to switch between Spanish and English. Noted that for Skillsmart, customer engagement was low.

- Question for vendor interviews

Anika Van Eaton noted that both proposals have significant expectations of staff involvement and wondered how they envision the City-vendor roles playing out.

Silvana Dinka surmised that computer literacy may be a barrier to potential employees using these platforms.

Josh Grehan had a question regarding the skills-based format of the platforms and wondered about the education process for employers.

Josh Grehan would like to know more about ongoing maintenance costs and how that would figure into the price proposal.

Ben Sommer will work with the City's Purchasing Department to set-up interviews with the vendors.

4. Updates and Announcements

The Boston Consumer Price Index has increased 2.1% from March 2018 to March 2019. The enabling jobs linkage ordinance states that jobs linkage increases annual based on the Boston CPI in March. Jobs Linkage, due to the 2.1% increase, will increase from \$2.46 to \$2.51 a square foot.

5. Other Items Not Reasonably Anticipated

6. Adjournment

Meeting is adjourned at 7:10pm