

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
Matthew McLaughlin

Minutes

Somerville Job Creation and Retention Trust
Tuesday, October 1st, 2019, at 6:00PM
3rd Floor Conference Room, Somerville City Hall

In attendance: Vickie Choitz, Anika Van Eaton, Matt McLaughlin, Thomas Bent, Silvana Dinka, Rand Wilson, Thomas Galligani

Staff Present: Ben Sommer

Meeting began at 6:12pm

1. Approval of September 10th, 2019 Minutes

- Minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Updates and Announcements

- None

3. Prioritizing initial ideas for investment

- The exercise for prioritizing investments was explained. Each board member present created their own ideal package of investment ideas based on the prior two meetings' brainstorm sessions. The ideas would then be tallied and a draft package from the whole board consisting of the most popular ideas would be agreed upon.
- The final tally for ideas was as follows:
 - Contextualized training for English Learners – 5
 - Industry specific training program – 4
 - Online jobs board – 1
 - Career Navigator – 3
 - Student scholarship/gap funding – 3

- Planning, research, and evaluation grants – 6
 - Coordination (ie hiring additional staff) – 5
 - Professional development – 3
 - Support for worker owned coops – 3
 - Develop employer based employee assistance program – 3
 - Wage theft training – 5
 - Job quality and HR training for small businesses – 5
 - IT instruction through CISCO networking academy as SCALE – 3
 - Workforce Innovation Pitch – 1
 - Continuous learning “center” – 2
 - Rapid response and planning - 3
 - Skill Up Somerville competency project - 3
- The most popular ideas were funding for coordination, contextualized training for English learners, job quality and HR training for small businesses, industry specific training programs, and wage theft training.
 - There were several ideas that the group decided could be included in the initial draft package either as an example or could be included in any RFP the JCRT sends out. These were IT instruction through CISCO, planning, research, and evaluation grants, professional development, and gap funding for students in programs.

4. Public forum planning discussion

- A discussion was held on the appropriate format for the November 12th public forum. Tom Galligani suggested that it be an open house setting with stations. Rand Wilson noted that in this setting people don't hear each other. Vickie Choitz suggested the meeting could include both with an open house prior to the presentation and discussion.
- Tom Bent suggested that there could be a separate meeting for members of the development and business community. Tom Galligani mentioned that he had been speaking with brokers about building leasing and what the employment mix might look like with potential tenants.
- Vickie went over draft agenda for the forum. Presentation sections were broken up for different board members and staff to present on.
- A prep meeting will be held on October 16th at 6:30pm.

5. Adjournment

- Tom Bent made a motion to adjourn. Anika Van Eaton seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 8:05pm.