

MINUTES

Somerville Redevelopment Authority

Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

(Virtual Meeting)

Software: GotoWebinar

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C. 30A, s. 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this meeting of the Somerville Redevelopment Authority was conducted via remote participation.

Present from the Somerville Redevelopment Authority (SRA): Phil Ercolini (Chair), William Gage, Iwona Bonney, Ben Ewen-Campen, Patrick McCormick and Emily Hedeman. Also present were Eileen McGettigan as Special Counsel, Tom Galligani as Director of Economic Development and staff to the SRA.

Phil Ercolini, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM. Open session commenced. A quorum was present. This meeting was video recorded.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at the Meeting

I. Revised Draft SRA-Council Memorandum of Agreement

Discussion and Actions Taken

1. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

2. SRA/Council MOA

Eileen McGettigan explained that Emily Hedeman gave a good summation at the last meeting. The only time the City Council has any say in eminent domain is right now, when the Council must vote to adopt an urban renewal plan. Once a plan is approved there cannot be changes to the properties designated to be taken without going through the entire approval process again. The Council is involved to provide money for the takings, but the SRA takes the vote to make the takings under an urban renewal plan.

We do not need to mention the 7th member as the position has been filled, but we should leave the section about filling vacancies quickly because it makes it less difficult to have a quorum for our meetings.

Mr. Bill Gage asked if this MOA is just for the Winter Hill development.

Eileen McGettigan explained that this will be the procedure for all urban renewal plans going forward.

Ben Ewen-Campen asked Ms. McGettigan if these changes have been discussed with Councilor White.

Eileen McGettigan explained that Councilor White was told of the nature of the changes that she would be making, but he has not seen the specific wording yet. Councilor White spoke to his attorney about the use of the term *ex officio*, and his attorney indicated that it was appropriate given the context.

Ben Ewen-Campen asked Ms. McGettigan if it was discussed that the Council would provide the funding but not vote on the taking.

Eileen McGettigan confirmed that the matter was discussed.

Ben Ewen Campen asked for definition and explanation about the meaning of “*ex officio*”.

Patrick McCormick explained that this term is used to describe the City Council President’s position on the school committee. It is analogous here.

Phil Ercolini asked if there is a motion to approve the revised draft MOA.

Motion to Approve by Patrick McCormick, seconded by Iwona Bonney.

Roll Call Vote:

Iwona Bonney, Yes

Ben Ewen-Campen, Yes

Bill Gage, Yes

Emily Hedeman, Yes

Patrick McCormick, Yes

Phil Ercolini, Yes

3. Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair

Mr. Galligani explained that the new member has not officially been sworn in, but she is in attendance.

Christine Stone introduced herself and expressed excitement to join the board. She expects to be sworn in next week.

Tom Galligani provided a brief overview of the public safety building meeting scheduled to be held and what next steps will be. He indicated that SRA members might be interested in attending the meeting.

4. Adjournment

Next Meeting Date – April 21, 2021 – 5:30pm - Virtual Meeting

Motion to Adjourn by Iwona Bonney. Bill Gage seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Iwona Bonney, Yes

Ben Ewen-Campen, Yes

Bill Gage, Yes

Emily Hedeman, Yes

Patrick McCormick, Yes

Phil Ercolini, Yes

Meeting Adjourned