



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SOMERVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

NANCY A. BUSNACH
CHAIR

MINUTES
Thursday, February 5, 2015

The Somerville Redevelopment Authority met on Thursday, February 5th, 2015 in the 3rd floor OSPCD Conference Room at City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143.

Present from the Somerville Redevelopment Authority: Nancy Busnach (Chair), Iwona Bonney (Secretary) and William Gage. Also present were Eileen McGettigan as Special Counsel, Edward O'Donnell, Director of Economic Development, and Amanda Maher, Senior Economic Development Specialist, OSPCD.

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Nancy Busnach, Chair. A quorum was present.

1. Approval of Minutes:

Vote: Approve the December 11th, 2014 minutes.

- Motion made by William Gage and seconded by Iwona Bonney.
- Unanimously approved.

2. Update on Assembly Square:

- Edward O'Donnell provided an update about Assembly Square, including that the Assembly Row General Manager, Russ Joyner, unexpectedly passed away on January 1. O'Donnell notes this is a big loss for Assembly Row and Federal Realty.
- O'Donnell states that the Partners building is moving along with construction; the two elevator shafts are currently under construction.
- Tony C's is among the latest restaurants to open at Assembly Row. Tony C's was featured on Chronicle television program recently. SmartBear, Assembly Row's first commercial tenant, has opened and is looking to hire local residents.
- Blocks 5 and 6 are before the Planning Board for consideration; this will add 800,000 s.f. of development with plans to begin construction this spring.

3. Union Square Update:

- Edward O'Donnell explained that Block D2 has been substantially cleared. The City, MBTA, US2 and Parsons Brinkerhoff continue to coordinate as it relates to environmental testing and infrastructure improvements.
- US2 now has Beacon Sales under agreement, making way for the first new development on Block D3.
- Somerville by Design process is ongoing. The events in December were well attended and included multi-lingual representatives. The process will continue in February; a



draft of the neighborhood plan will be presented in May. The final neighborhood master plan is expected in Q3 2015, allowing the developers to then pull permits and begin construction in Q1 2016.

4. Other Business:

- Nancy Busnach noted the passing of longtime SRA Member James F. McCarthy and provided a few remarks in his memory.
- There are now two vacancies on the SRA; a first candidate will soon be submitted by the Mayor to the Board of Aldermen for consideration. The Mayor will review applications for a 5th member.
- Next meeting of the SRA is scheduled for Thursday, March 26th, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at Somerville City Hall, 3rd Floor, OSPCD.

5. Executive Session

- Nancy Busnach announced that the Board would now go into executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation strategy and that the Board would not reconvene in open session.

Vote: Enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation strategy.

- i. Motion made by William Gage and seconded by Iwona Bonney.
- ii. Unanimously approved by roll call vote.

6. Motion to adjourn by Iwona Bonney and seconded by William Gage. Unanimously approved by roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.