



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SOMERVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR**

NANCY A. BUSNACH
CHAIR

**MINUTES
Thursday, June 18th, 2015**

The Somerville Redevelopment Authority met on Thursday, June 18, 2015 in the 3rd Floor Conference Room at City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143.

Present from the Somerville Redevelopment Authority: Nancy Busnach (Chair), Iwona Bonney (Secretary), William Gage, Kate Fichter, and Rebecca Schrumm. Also present were Michael Glavin, Executive Director of OSPCD; Eileen McGettigan, Special Counsel and Sue Thomas, Senior Economic Development Planner, OSPCD.

Nancy Busnach, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Approval of Minutes:

Vote: Approve the May 21, 2015 minutes.

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

2. Update on Assembly Square presented by Michael Glavin

- Michael Glavin explained that there have been minor modifications to the Block 5 development. The condo building will include 130 units of residential condos as opposed to 120 units. Block 5 will also encompass a 155 room key hotel, 22,000 square feet ground floor retail. Block 6 is moving forward with 557,000 square feet and would include 447 residential units and 40,000 square feet of ground floor retail. They will be activating the publicly accessible uses on the ground floor and developing a significant amount of additional housing with the hotel as the commercial component. The City expects Partners to reach their occupancy rate by fall of 2016. Throughout the summer there will be a number of public events such as outdoor markets, summer music series and, in its 8th year, Riverfest. The events conducted at Assembly Row have been very well attended and have been bringing in a lot of attention to the space with the park being one of the main attractions.

Michael Glavin handed out an information brochure that the city has been using to promote opportunities for development and growth within the City to the SRA.

3. Update on Union Square presented by Michael Glavin



- a. Planning for Union Square has been an ongoing effort with a series of meetings through Somerville by Design conducted by OSPCD and City hired consultants. The participatory planning has been very robust. Series of meetings with the Community Advisory Council (CAC) has been very effective as they have been actively involved throughout the Union Square process. The City hopes for the outcome of the planning process to be activated into recommendations for entitlements for the 7 parcels within the urban renewal area. It will help answer questions such as, what can and should be built on those sites and/or what are the amenities that should be provided on those sites as part of the developer's responsibilities and obligations. From those questions, it will enable the City to better understand whether the zoning compliments that plan or whether it needs to be amended. US² has been regularly participating and have underwritten the costs of the consultants for the planning process. The City expects them at the table throughout the process as the master developer to have their thoughts out in the open. Michael Glavin emphasizes that it has been an intense process but a legitimate and fruitful engagement with the community and the developer in a way that we can expect the best product through this process.
4. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation strategy. Ms. Busnach announced that the Board would not be reconvening in open session.
 - Roll Call Vote: Unanimous
5. Other Business
 - Next meeting of the SRA is scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at Somerville City Hall, 3rd Floor, OSPCD.
6. Adjournment of open session at 5:44 p.m.