



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SOMERVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR

NANCY A. BUSNACH  
CHAIR

MINUTES  
Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The Somerville Redevelopment Authority met on Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 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), William Gage, Katherine Fichter and Rebecca Schrumm. 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 5:36 p.m. by Nancy Busnach, Chair. A quorum was present.

1. Approval of Minutes:

**Vote:** Approve the June 18, 2015 minutes.

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

3. Update on Assembly Square:

- Edward O'Donnell provided an update about Assembly Square, including the fact that Partners HealthCare held a topping off ceremony on Block 10 the last Monday of July. O'Donnell stated that construction of the new Partners HealthCare building continues to move along with the garage now erected; the project remains on schedule and is slated for June 2016 occupancy.
- O'Donnell stated that Federal Realty has obtained a permit for Block 6, which will include housing and ground floor retail. Federal Realty and its contractor have met with City staff to discuss buying and hiring locally.
- Outback is now open. The Assembly Row restaurant is among the first of the chain's new concept which includes a more open layout and inviting atmosphere for families.
- Boston Ventures and Muse Paint Bar have approached the licensing commission for new liquor licenses; if granted, 11 of the 12 special liquor licenses for Assembly Row will have been distributed across a mix of local and national establishments.
- Eileen McGettigan noted that she recently attended an urban redevelopment conference in which Assembly Square was cited as a glowing example of urban renewal.

4. Union Square Update:



- O'Donnell provided an update about Union Square redevelopment, noting that the City's Master Development partner, Union Square Station Associates (US2) has launched a Friday luncheon series to promote local businesses in Union Square.
  - At the end of June, there was an open house for the Union Square Somerville by Design neighborhood planning effort, in which dozens of residents viewed a range of development alternatives prepared by City staff and consultants. Staff are now preparing a draft neighborhood plan that will be released for public comment this fall. It is expected that the neighborhood plan will lead to any proposed zoning changes to be included in the zoning overhaul.
  - The City has prepared a \$20 million TIGER VII application, a federal infrastructure program, for above-grade improvements in Union Square. The City plans to file an application at the state level, through the MassWorks program, in early September. These programs both focus on job creation and development potential, making Union Square a strong match based upon the specified criteria.
  - The City has invited LOCUS, a division of Smart Growth America, to work with the City, Civic Advisory Committee (CAC) and community to create a framework for benefits that would create predictability for development project in Union Square and elsewhere. LOCUS President Christopher Leinberger visited the City last Tuesday and gave a presentation to the CAC, followed by a tour of Union Square on Wednesday. LOCUS's work in Union Square is funded by the Barr Foundation.
5. Other Business:
- The annual RiverFest event will be held at Assembly Row on Saturday, September 12.
  - The SRA agreed to establish the second Thursday of the month as its regular meeting date. Accordingly, the next two meeting dates will be Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. and Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Both meetings will be held at Somerville City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room.
6. Motion to adjourn by Iwona Bonney and seconded by William Gage. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.