

MINUTES
Thursday, May 21, 2015

The Somerville Redevelopment Authority met on Thursday, May 21, 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, and Kate Fichter. Also present were Edward O' Donnell, Director of Economic Development, OSPCD; and Amanda Maher, Senior Economic Development Specialist, 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 April 30, 2015 minutes.

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

2. Update on Assembly Square presented by Edward O' Donnell

- Partners continue construction of their building at Assembly Row; the company has recently told the City that it anticipates moving their first employees to the site in June 2016. FRIT will break ground in early - to mid- June on Block 6, which includes approximately 450 new apartment units and about 40,000 square feet of retail. Block 5 will break ground this fall, and will include a 140 key hotel, approximately 120 condos and approximately 20,000 square feet of retail. FRIT recently held another job fair and gave one day of early access to Somerville residents only. FRIT and the City continue their efforts to help residents' access employment at Assembly Row businesses.

3. Update on Union Square presented by Edward O' Donnell

- The first Somerville by Design open house was held on May 13th and was well attended. There will be a follow up meeting on June 24th (tentative) to explore the D-blocks in greater detail. Meanwhile, US2 continues its conversations with community stakeholders and has been actively engaged in the planning process. We expect an exciting commercial tenant announcement in the very near future, which will add to the daytime employment base in Union Square. The City is also in the process of finalizing plans for a Public Benefits Agreement

process, which will be announced in the near future. The goal is to take an innovative approach to PBAs, using a model that is uniquely tailored to Somerville's needs but that could be replicated in other neighborhoods - and cities - as development takes root.

4. Other Business

- Next meeting of the SRA is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at Somerville City Hall, 3rd Floor, OSPCD.

Motion to adjourn by Iwona Bonney and seconded by William Gage. Meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.