



## CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS SOMERVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**JOSEPH A. CURTATONE**  
**MAYOR**

*NANCY A. BUSNACH*  
*CHAIR*

### **MINUTES** **Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

The Somerville Redevelopment Authority met on Thursday, October 8<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) and Rebecca Schrumm. Also present were Michael Glavin, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning & Community Development, Edward O'Donnell, Director of Economic Development, and Amanda Maher, Senior Economic Development Specialist, OSPCD.

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m. by Nancy Busnach, Chair. A quorum was present.

1. Approval of Minutes:

**Vote:** Approve the September 10, 2015 minutes.

- Motion to approve minutes made by Iwona Bonney; seconded by Rebecca Schrumm.
- Unanimously approved.

2. Update on Assembly Square:

- Edward O'Donnell provided an update about Assembly Square, including that the City has filed a home rule petition for additional liquor licenses (15 for Assembly Row, 50 city-wide). The City attended a hearing last month in which the state legislature seemed open to the request. The City showed that it had already awarded 11 of the 12 special liquor licenses for Assembly Row; with additional development under construction, more licenses will be needed at Assembly Row. The 15 licenses requested for Assembly Row can be used as either full liquor licenses or beer and wine only.
- O'Donnell provided an update regarding Assembly Row construction: Partners Healthcare building and Block 6 construction are ongoing. Block 5 construction expected to begin early 2016.
- Federal Realty has been hosting many events at Assembly Row recently, including a planned "Fashion Night Outlet".
- City officials, including the Mayor and representatives from OSPCD, hosted a delegation from Gwinnett County, Georgia recently, in which the delegation of public officials and businesses toured the Assembly Row project as a model for smart, transit-oriented development.

3. Union Square Update:



- O'Donnell noted that Master Development partner, US2, had a busy summer and fall which included a Friday lunch series that brought together the community and businesses as a way to activate Union Square during daytime hours.
  - Construction at 31 Union Square is ongoing. When complete it will include offices for US2 and co-working location Workbar. US2 hopes to open and occupy the space by the end of October.
  - O'Donnell provided an update regarding the Green Line Extension (GLX): The Baker Administration plans to announce its plans for the GLX by Thanksgiving. The City and US2 have been coordinating with the GLX team to identify opportunities for cost savings. O'Donnell and Michael Glavin took members from the MBTA real estate team on a tour of Somerville today to highlight development potential.
  - The Planning Dept. expects to release a draft of the Union Square Neighborhood Plan by the end of October.
  - O'Donnell handed out a copy of the current Union Square meeting schedule, including the LOCUS schedule. O'Donnell provided an overview of the LOCUS effort, which is designed to help the community develop a community benefits framework that can be replicated in other transformative areas. The process is rooted in fundamental real estate economics, including what level of community benefit the city can realistically expect from development projects. The LOCUS Strategy Leaders will include a wide, diverse group of stakeholders. All meetings will be open to the public. The City is excited about this process, as the LOCUS team includes national experts in the field of equitable development.
4. Consent to Transfer Parcel B, Boynton Yards under 1997 Land Disposition Agreement:  
*Request withdrawn.*
  5. Other Business:
    - The SRA selected its next meeting date: Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at Somerville City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room.
  6. Motion to adjourn by Iwona Bonney and seconded by Rebecca Schrumm. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.