



SOMERVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

A regular meeting of the Somerville Redevelopment Authority was held on Monday, May 4, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. in the Third Floor Conference Room at City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143.

Board Members Present:

Nancy Busnach
Iwona Bonney
William Gage

City Staff:

Anne Thomas, Esq.
Melisa Tintocalis, Principal Planner

The meeting was called to order at 5:40pm.

Ms. Bonney moved to approve the meeting minutes from March 14, 2011 and Mr. Gage seconded the motion.

1. Updates on Assembly Square (ASQ):

a) Tri Party Agreement: Ms. Thomas stated there had been significant progress made between the City, the State and Federal Realty on the so-called "Tri-Party Agreement". On April 28, 2011, the Board of Aldermen (BOA) approved the issuance of \$25 million in bonds to finance infrastructure improvements within the Assembly Row District Improvement Financing (DIF) District. In addition, the Commonwealth committed \$38 million for the construction of the Orange Line station at Assembly Square and the MBTA went out to bid for the Station on May 2nd. Ms. Thomas also mentioned that Federal Realty's board would be meeting on the evening of May 4th to decide whether to proceed with the Assembly Row development. Given the positive actions by the City and State, Ms. Thomas expressed confidence Federal Realty decision would be in the affirmative.

50 Middlesex Self Storage Facility: The City's Zoning Board approved the project on April 21, 2011 and filed it with the City Clerk on April 27, 2011. The City is

negotiating with property owners for a permanent easement that will allow Foley Street at some future date to connect to East Somerville underneath I-93.

2. Urban Renewal

Ms. Tintocalis said that OSPCD is exploring urban renewal as a development tool and that approval by the SRA would be required in addition to Board of Alderman approval.

Ms. Tintocalis reported that Steven Azar, OSPCD Senior Economic Development Specialist and Project Manager for Assembly Square, will be developing an amendment to the 2002 Amended and Restated Assembly Square Revitalization Plan. The goal is to bring the Revitalization Plan up to date without exceeding the threshold for a “major plan change” under urban renewal regulations. Mr. Gage also suggested that staff try not to exceed the threshold for a “notice of project change” under MEPA regulations.

3. Other Business:

Ms. Thomas explained that Monica Lamboy, Executive Director of OSPCD would be leaving her position at the beginning of June.

4. Adjournment.

Ms. Bonney moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Gage seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm.