



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SOMERVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

NANCY A. BUSNACH
CHAIR

MINUTES
Thursday, May 5th, 2016
Aldermanic Chambers, City Hall

Present from the Somerville Redevelopment Authority (SRA): Nancy Busnach (Chair) Iwona Bonney (Secretary), and Rebecca Schrumm. Also present were Eileen McGettigan as Special Counsel, Sunayana Thomas as Sr. Economic Development Planner, and Benjamin Sommer as Economic Development Assistant.

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Nancy Busnach, Chair. A quorum was present.

1. Approval of Minutes:

Vote: Approve the April 14th, 2016 minutes.

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

2. Union Square Update:

- Greg Karczewski, President of Union Square Station Associates (US2), gave a presentation on US2's progress in the Union Square redevelopment process consisting of Community Engagement, Early Planning, Early Investments, and Next Steps.
- US2's goals consist of gathering community input through local outreach such as email newsletters, informal conversations, focus groups, and participating in and sponsoring local events.
- Planning and predevelopment work include working collaboratively and actively on the Green Line Extension (GLX) and Neighborhood Plan and participating in the community benefits LOCUS process.
- Hope to start construction in early 2017.
- Vision for commercial space includes tenanting with an eye to the innovation ecosystem and providing space for businesses in every stage of business development, as well as space for those in the creative economy.
- Next steps involve the implementation of the Union Square Neighborhood Plan.

- Iwona Bonney asked a question regarding the contingency plan in case the GLX does not move forward. Greg Karczewski responded that he is not considering this.
- Eileen McGettigan said that copies of the US2 presentation will be emailed to those who request it. The presentation would also be posted online.

LOCUS Process:

Sunayana Thomas gave an update on the LOCUS process.

- The LOCUS report has been released. Eileen McGettigan handed out reports to SRA members. The report will be presented to the Union Square Civic Advisory Committee (CAC) at its next meeting.
- The Union Square Neighborhood Plan is online. Eileen McGettigan handed out copies to SRA members.
- Nancy Busnach stated how everyone has been very dedicated to this process and how important it was to gather community input. Nancy said how impressed she was with the US2 team in Chicago with the work they did to stabilize a neighborhood with three and four bedroom units and offering financial support so families could remain. She hopes to see this quality and mentality come to the Union Square development.

The SRA then took questions and comments from the audience.

3. Selection of Date for Next Meeting:

- Next meeting will be June 9th, 2016 at 5:30pm in the 3rd floor conference room of City Hall.

4. Adjournment:

Vote: Adjourn the May 5th meeting.

- Motion to Adjourn made by Iwona Bonney. Rebecca Schrumm seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:49pm.