



FITCHBURG REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
renewing • revitalizing • rebuilding

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## MEETING MINUTES

September 30, 2020  
Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority Office  
166 Boulder Drive, Suite 104 East, Fitchburg, Massachusetts

*This meeting was conducted over Zoom.*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tom Donnelly, Chairman  
Jay Roy, Vice President  
Charles Caron, Treasurer  
Bud Leonhardt, Member  
Laura Bayless, PhD, Member

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Heather Gould, BSC Group  
Jef Fasser, BSC Group  
Tom Skwierawski, Executive Director  
Meagen Donoghue, Executive Director, FRA  
Tony Amico, Facilities Director, FRA  
Jennifer Zumwalt, FRA Consultant

### 1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Treasurer Charles Caron called meeting to order 7:33 a.m.

### 2. GENERAL BUSINESS

#### A. 2040 Urban Renewal Plan Kick-off

BSC Group consultants Heather Gould and Jef Fasser provided a presentation on the process of updating the Urban Renewal Plan and working with the Community Advisory Committee. Ms. Gould then opened the discussion to the Board asking the following questions:

1. Does the Board want to keep the 2020 Plan's objectives, add onto or do away with any?
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2. In terms of the existing plan, does it make sense to consider much of the residential areas?
3. Are there any new areas/properties for consideration?

Mr. Roy asked about retaining the residential area around Fitchburg State University. Mr. Caron noted it gives leeway to redevelop the area down the road. Mr. Skierwarski indicated that if the Plan were to expand to other residential areas, then notification would have to go out to those property owners, which may prove difficult.

Mr. Caron proposed discussing the residential area north of Main Street. Mr. Fasser noted that when a new property is included, it causes people to object to the plan. In other communities, there is more of a focus on old industrial and commercial areas for their plans.

Dr. Bayless noted the City's priorities have shaped Fitchburg State University (FSU) and suggested meeting with Vice President of Finance Jay Bry or President Lapidus. Mr. Leonhardt requested Mr. Bry attend the next meeting.

Mr. Roy asked about expanding the Plan's borders to Water and River Streets, adding the importance of incorporating the Rail Trail.

Other discussion points included providing more open-space for residents along the downtown corridor and making connections to the Nashua River.

Ms. Gould summarized noting her take-ways included: trails connectivity, open space, increased value of property and bringing more attention to the Nashua River.

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:** October 20, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Meagen P. Donoghue  
Executive Director