



FITCHBURG REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
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166 Boulder Drive, Suite 104 | Fitchburg, MA 01420  
978.345.9602 | [www.fitchburgredevelopment.com](http://www.fitchburgredevelopment.com)

June 3, 2021

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Charles Caron, Chair  
Jay Roy, Vice Chair  
Laura Bayless, PhD, Treasurer  
Bud Leonhardt, Member  
Laura O'Kane, Member (joined at 8:05 a.m.)

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

**ABSENT:** Bud Leonhardt, Member

## 1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Caron called meeting to order 7:30 a.m.

## 2. URBAN RENEWAL PLAN

Ms. Gould discussed the progress made to date, including the CAC's approval of the map, goals, and objectives, as well as BSC identified properties, and created a bike-ped-open space connections map.

Ms. Gould presented via Power Point the 10 goals in which the CSC helped develop. The goals focused on diversity, opportunity to help small businesses and business owners as well as ethnic groups and various ages. Ms. Gould added that the goals do align with the City's priorities, and it shows that the FRA is on the same page.

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Ms. Gould then turned to the properties showing the gateways to downtown, main street, public spaces, and key development parcels. She continued by showing bicycle accommodations and connections.

Mr. Caron asked the purpose of ending at the bridge (Circle Street). Mr. Fasser explained there will be bike lanes on the street to connect further. Mr. Caron and Mr. Roy indicated that Circle Street is now closed. Ms. Gould add it was created to connect open spaces and will add more at a later date.

Ms. Gould then moved onto parcel identification and said the best approach is to focus on Main Street and the gateways would take a lower priority and be focused on later on.

Dr. Bayless asked how the new traffic pattern would flow and how it would affect outdoor dining. Mr. Fasser indicated that parking will be eliminated along Main and Boulder, but the sidewalks would remain. Having said that, the sidewalks in some areas were wider than others, which would allow for outdoor dining. He added the FRA could work on improving the sidewalks and look at where the hydrants are and can relocate to where wider portions to allow for parking options along Main Street. Mr. Fasser also discussed the acquisition of vacant lots and require setbacks to allow for outdoor dining for future developers.

Mr. Caron and Mr. Roy recommended signage and way finding.

Ms. Gould expressed the importance of buy-in from the City with Executive Director of Planning and Community Development Tom Skierwarski helping along the way.

Ms. Gould asked the board to consider a vote on the Plan's Goals and Objectives.

Mr. Caron made a motion to approve goals and objectives set forth by the BSC Group for the 2040 Urban Renewal Plan. Seconded by Mr. Roy. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Roy asked what can the FRA do to make the Plan a reality? Ms. Gould stressed flexibility, communication, and to work in concert with the City. Mr. Fasser added there needs to be a champion to gain the support of municipal officials, may it be elected officials or a department head.

Ms. Gould spoke of next steps stating the critical lift is the properties. She noted there needs to be outreach to the property owners, properties need to be identified as crucial for acquisition versus redevelopment.

July 1, 2021 will be the next Urban Renewal Planning meeting with the Board.

### **3. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Caron made a motion and seconded by Mr. Roy to adjourn the Annual Meeting at 8:21 A.M. The motion carried 4-0.

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:** June 15, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Meagen P. Donoghue  
Executive Director