

# **Redevelopment Agency of Woonsocket**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**May 14, 2013**

**Attending Members: Albert Beuparlant, Doug Brown, Steven Thibault**

**Also Attending: Matthew Wojcik-Economic Development Director, Pierre Rondeau, Esq., Linda Plays, Recording Secretary**

**Absent: Paul Gould**

**Call to order: Meeting called to order by Chairman Brown at 8:08 a.m.**

**Review and Approval of Minutes: MOTION was made to approve the minutes of April 23, 2013 as presented MOTION to accept by Thibault and seconded by Beuparlant. All in favor**

**Old Business: Update on Redevelopment area designations. Wojcik said that the information is in the hands of the City Planner for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan. Wojcik said that we also have documentation from Fuss and O'Neil that would support these areas. Chairman Brown asked how long the process would take. Wojcik said he is under the understanding that once it gets the approval from the Planning Board the process should be fairly quick. Rondeau also**

talked about tax sale foreclosures were also used in the past. Wojcik said that's fine if it's sold, but if it's not it goes back to the tax rolls and sits there. Wojcik said that properties that are on the tax list year after year should give an indication of properties that should be considered blight. Beauperlant said fire properties and abandoned properties should be expedited. Wojcik pointed out that there are a lot of bank owned properties in Fairmount. Rondeau said the agency can't sell any property for less than fair market value. He also said that in order for the agency to take possession of a property, it has to be in the designated area. The Chair would like to see the agency be aggressive. Wojcik talked about the transfer of school properties. Chairman Brown pointed out that Social Street School, Fairmount and Fifth Avenue School all have the potential for a developer coming in and renovating the units for quality developments. He said we should focus one project to start with.

Thibault said he still hasn't received his Ethics Forms.

**New Business:** Wojcik talked about the agency having title to 2 assets. One of which is property on Park East Drive. Rondeau said it wasn't a buildable lot, but is below Summer Infant. Wojcik said they are in need of parking. Wojcik has been in communication with them and knows they need to alleviate those parking needs. Summer Infant is currently renting space from another business. Wojcik said it may not generate a lot of money, but it would be some money to be used for "seed" money. Rondeau asked who would pay for the

**engineering work. Wojcik said there is money available in Engineering to do the preliminary work.**

**Wojcik also talked about Gaulin Avenue, a rezoning proposal for South Main Street and the Mechanic Street and the potential buyer for the old Taft Pierce Building.**

**Other Business: None**

**Adjournment: The Chair indicated he would like to meet in two weeks. Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m...**

**Respectfully Submitted by,**

**Linda S. Plays**

**Recording Secretary**