

Community Advisory Board on the Living Wage

Feb 15, 2015

Minutes, Living Wage Advisory Board Meeting, February 4, 2015

Members present: Terrence Smith, Nancy O'Brien, Lisa Yanakakis, David Slaney

Also in attendance: Sheila Keady Rawson, Personnel Department,

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm and the Agenda was approved. The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Current City statistics were presented by Sheila Keady Rawson.. Of those 334 employees earning the Living Wage, 82% were working at the DHSP, with the remaining employees working in scattered departments across the City. 4% are over age 65, 60% under age 30. All of the positions are part time or seasonal. The current living wage is \$14.71 per hour, due to change on March 1, with CPI info expected to be available on Feb 22. School Department data was not available for the meeting due to snow. At the request of the Committee, information subsequently received from the School department indicated that 13 of their employees are covered by the living wage. These positions are primarily tutors at the high school who participate in a college readiness program.

Sheila Keady Rawson reminded Committee member that the Ethics Ordinance needs to be acknowledged by all members.

At the request of David Slaney, the proposals for increased publicity for the living wage, and having a decal program for businesses that pay the living wage discussed at the last meeting was submitted to the City Manager. Sheila Keady Rawson reported that the City Manager was intrigued by the proposal, and that he felt it was possible to expand on the publicity and education information regarding living wage, but was reluctant to pledge resources to the decal program, as it appeared to be unenforceable. Mr. Slaney expressed strong dissatisfaction that there had be no response sooner, and that there was still no written response from the City Manager or the Law Department. Sheila Keady Rawson stated she would get a written response from the City manager. Mr. Smith expressed two concerns- one that government would be would be challenged to do something that wasn't compulsory, but did want to make sure the examination of the program was taken seriously.

David Slaney gave an update on the activities of the Commission on Income Insecurity, chaired by Councilor Marc McGovern. The commission has had 4 to 5 meetings, with plans to report back to the City Council. Of particular interest to the Commission is ways to look apply the Living Wage Ordinance to low wage jobs, and encourage hiring preferences of Cambridge residents in private sector Cambridge business. Terry Smith remarked that the Commission meetings were the right place for those types of discussions to be taking place, and was encouraged by the conversations.

The next meeting of the Advisory Board was set for May 6, 2015 at 6:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 pm.

Minutes prepared by Sheila Keady Rawson for consideration by the Board.