

MINUTES
DESIGN COMMITTEE OF THE BOSTON CIVIC DESIGN COMMISSION

February 15, 2022

5:00pm, Held virtually via Zoom

Project: **2085 Washington Street**

Present: Commissioner Kirk Sykes, Commissioner Mimi Love, and Commissioner Eric Howeler

DISCUSSION:

The project team gave an overview of what has been seen in design committee thus far and focused on responding to previous comments from Commissioners concerning treating the building as a gateway, tree preservation, historic district impacts, and articulating a difference between 'Old Dudley and New Nubian'. The massing, parking, and materials were drastically updated since the project was last presented to the commission. Commissioners applauded the changes to the building, including the parking submersion, the rotating of the building massing, and the reduction of building height, all helping to contribute to a sense of place. The building works well as a companion piece to the rest of the intersection. Commissioners commented that the change in material from historic to modern is also successful, although it creates a sense that they are two different buildings so adding a relationship between the two could help tie the two together. The brick portion of the building might also benefit from additional articulation and detail, as it is currently quite simple. For the next design committee meeting showing a log of the architectural materials in the immediate context would be helpful. Additionally, the Commissioners suggested that the design could incorporate more playfulness, and asked if the ramp/stair division of the entry plaza could be reconsidered to make the plaza more usable. Commissioners also questioned if there should be retail space on the ground floor to provide activation and if the design of the plaza should be altered in response.

The Project will continue in design committee.