

MINUTES
DESIGN COMMITTEE OF THE BOSTON CIVIC DESIGN COMMISSION

June 13, 2023

5:00pm, Held virtually via Zoom

Project: **Mary Ellen McCormack Building B**

Present: Commissioner William Rawn, Commissioner Kathy Kottaridis, Commissioner Kirk Sykes and Commissioner David Manfredi

DISCUSSION:

The project team gave an overview of what has been seen in design committee thus far and focused on responding to previous questions from Commissioners about building massing and open space layout.

Commissioners asked about creating a passage between buildings B1 & B2. It currently appears that it is a breezeway, and it would be beneficial to provide a public connection. In addition to public realm comments, there was concern about the proposed retail use facing a park which also has noticeable grade change. Commissioners had reservations about the location of the dog park, expressing that it feels exclusive and maybe could face the Old Colony side. There were no public comments; and commissioners requested more detailed be shared on site context, lighting components and building materials. Overall, commissioners liked the building massing and agreed that the site layout was in good shape.

The Project will continue in design committee.

6:00pm, Held virtually via Zoom

Project: **425 Medford**

Present: Commissioner William Rawn, Commissioner Kathy Kottaridis, Commissioner Kirk Sykes and Commissioner David Manfredi

DISCUSSION:

The project team gave a nice long presentation focused on specific open space use and ground level activation. Commissioners commented on the mix of programming in the area. The industrial and residential mix is plausible, but would need more context to for analysis. The proposed large buildings don't seem to aid in a community feel. Majority of the open space works well, but there are a few places of interest. There were concerns about safety along the outer walkways, adjacent to the lab use buildings. Commissioners ask the team to share more details on lighting, and work on ways to provide more activation and pedestrian traffic. Commissioners appreciate that the goal is to create a connection to the water with boating as a use, and they challenge the design team to

activate and create more engagement for people along the water's edge. Commissioners suggested the project team create design guidelines to orient the project.

There was no public comments.

The Project will return to the full Committee.