

MINUTES
DESIGN COMMITTEE OF THE BOSTON CIVIC DESIGN COMMISSION

May 30, 2023

5:00pm, Held virtually via Zoom

Project: **76 Ashford Street**

Present: Commissioner David Hacin, Commissioner David Manfredi, Commissioner Catherine Morris, and Commissioner Shauna Gillies-Smith

DISCUSSION:

The project team gave an overview of the project's context and design. Commissioners commented the proposal is a handsome building, it's slim and had good façade details. It acts as a great marker to the new transportation hub. The commissioners were concerned about the scale of the building with in the surrounding area and how it relates to the larger vision. Questions about use of too much concrete as a material was brought up, along with who will maintain the proposed landscape plan.

The Project will continue in design committee.

6:00pm, Held virtually via Zoom

Project: **40 Roland Street**

Present: Commissioner David Hacin, Commissioner David Manfredi, Commissioner Catherine Morris, and Commissioner William Rawn

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. Commissioners commented about the tonality of materials for the building lack a connection to one another. The buildings will act as a gateway into Boston, but currently does not identify as such; and how can this project better relate to the adjacent buildings in Somerville. Commissioners suggested lining Cambridge Street with more retail or active program instead of bikes and parking. Also, what was their intended vision for Cambridge Street from the highway to Crescent Street, in relation to traffic and streetscape design? The Commissioners emphasizes that the proposed multi use/ multipurpose park is well buffered from; and would be more beneficial with a playground, some topography highlights and seating. The area is very family orient and this space doesn't have much of a playful feel, more of a flat and empty space.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Comments about mobility were shared. Resident and cyclist suggested that the east bound bike lane be buffered instead of curb separated option. In response, it was shared that the city of Somerville is currently working on a bike plan and maybe these this project could coordinate with future endeavors.

The Project will return to the full Committee.