

Staff Report to the Board *July 17, 2019*

Administration

On June 26, 2019, CRA Staff issued an Urban Design Consultant On-Call Services Request for Proposals (RFP). The Urban Design Consultant will be an experienced licensed architect and will assist CRA staff in the design review of development projects for a contracted period of three (3) years. Questions about the RFP were received by Staff on July 3, 2019 and answers were posted on the CRA website by July 8, 2019. On July 10, 2019, the CRA received four (4) proposals from qualified Urban Design Consultant candidates. Staff are in the process of reviewing the proposals, and will make a recommendation to the Board at a later date.

Staff have consulted a series of interviews for the open project planner position. Some consideration has been given to potentially creating two positions, particularly with the extra attention required lately on transportation and infrastructure projects in Kendall, as well as numerous strategic planning projects that may be emerging.

Roselli, Clark & Associates were able to complete their onsite work for the 2018 audit in a single day of data gathering, as staff were able to transmit many key documents electronically ahead of time. The final report is dependent upon information from the Cambridge Retirement System which is expected at the end of August. A presentation of the audit is planned for the October Board meeting.

Forward Calendar

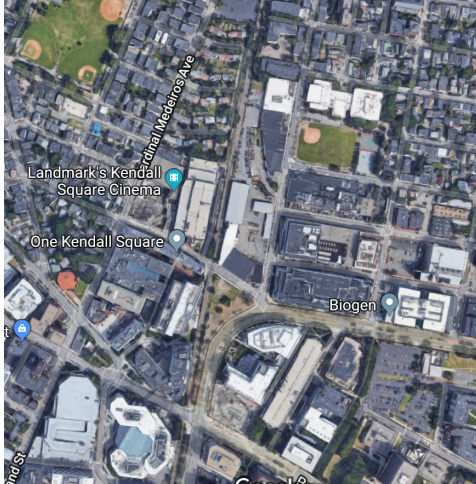
1. Schematic Design for 135 Broadway
2. Workforce Development Study Update
3. Personnel Policy

Housing and Community Improvement Plan

Staff have continued to refine the draft Housing and Community Improvement Plan under guidance from legal counsel. This document will provide a strategic framework for numerous project specific efforts underway and assist staff with deciding new priorities to focus on in the upcoming years.

Third and Binney Civic Space

Moving into the second half of the food truck season, nearly every truck signed on to the rest of the season, except for one operation that is relocating out of state. Staff have begun discussions with an organization interested in hosting pop-up evening beer garden events at Parcel Six, potentially partnering with current food truck operations or other vendors.



Eversource Substation

CRA staff have taken part in a series of recent meetings regarding Eversource's proposal to construct a substation in the Kendall Square area, currently planned for a property along Fulkerson Street in East Cambridge. Most recently, Eversource, the City, and property owners held a meeting evaluating the electricity demand projections and alternative sites in the area, which include the Binney Triangle parcel, often referred to as the Porkchop. The goal is to determine if there are other sites that could be utilized in lieu of the Fulkerson Street parcel.

The City is also working with Eversource to better understand their demand projections to ensure that Eversource's infrastructure planning facilitates future development, while addressing greenhouse gas emission reduction goals and long-term resiliency. Over the next 20 years, the City anticipates continued commercial and residential development, increased electrification of heating systems, increases in energy efficiency, and distributed electrical generation. The City has emphasized that Eversource and property developers need to take all these factors into account when planning for the future electric grid.

Transport Kendall

Working closely with the Kendall Square Association and the City, the CRA has helped distribute and publicize the Transport Kendall plan. Since this effort, over 800 copies of the report have been distributed and over a thousand independent visits to the Transport Kendall website have been recorded (much more than the CRA home site). The Transport Kendall website was designed by the Fenway Group under contract with the CRA and is currently maintained by CRA staff.



CRA staff continue to participate in the design efforts regarding the Grand Junction Path which is maintaining the right-of-way for future transit use. Staff continue to work with the KSA in order to make sure a future rail transit option is to be considered by the MBTA in their transit planning efforts.

Draper and Apollo Celebration

Given the historic link between the Kendall Square Urban Renewal Plan, MIT, NASA, and the Apollo mission, staff felt it important to note the new exhibit and event series to be hosted by Draper Laboratories that began this month. This includes a large-scale replica of the moon in the new Draper lobby, a lunar lander simulator, and an Apollo Landing celebration on July 20th. More information is available at: <https://wehackthemoon.com/events>