

## **Staff Report to the Board** *April 10, 2019*

### ***Personnel***

The CRA will soon advertise for a new planner position to backfill for Alex Levering who has stepped into the Project Management role for Kendall Square. The job posting has undergone thoughtful review by staff to further clarify the role and the professional skills sought by the CRA. It will be circulated later this week in multiple venues in order to attract a broad applicant pool.

### ***Technology***

The office worked through a technological hiccup when a planned building power shutdown interrupted the functionality of the CRA firewall and subsequent access to the CRA server. While everything is up and running, the experience has focused staff to re-evaluate the system which is designed to balance security and stability with ease of data access. Additionally, staff have been retooling the server filing systems to more closely match the new on-site paper records systems put in place by King Information Systems.

### ***Link Kendall / Office Renovation***

The Link Kendall space received donated work stations from Google from their former Three Cambridge Center offices. The rectilinear desks and partitions allow much of the eighth floor to be reconfigured more efficiently, as the CRA had done by retrofitting four of the angular workstations onsite. New carpet is planned for installation on most of the eighth floor in the upcoming weeks.

### ***Forward Calendar***

1. Foundry Schematic Design
2. 135 Broadway Design Review
3. Clover Signage



### ***Transport Kendall***

At the KSA 10th Annual meeting, the CRA announced the publication of the Transport Kendall document. Transport Kendall outlines the key transit improvement recommendations of the Kendall Square Mobility Task Force. It highlights the transportation infrastructure needs of Kendall and recommends ongoing planning for the Grand Junction corridor, comprehensive Red Line upgrades coordinated with the delivery of new vehicles, and expansion of bus routes directly servicing Kendall Square. The report can be downloaded at:

<https://www.transportkendall.org/>

### ***Galaxy Park***

Boston Properties and the CRA will be hosting a pop-up art event in Galaxy Park scheduled for April 22 – 25. Flexetail will be offering a trailer unit free to Great Art Studio (GAS), a non-profit based in Lynn, MA. The goal for the event is to create an “Art Gallery” operated by GAS students.

The Galaxy sculpture will undergo a thorough cleaning by the artist in April before the fountain is turned on for the spring/summer. The CRA has begun a design study of the landscaping in the raised bed area closest to 245 Main (CIC) and will study the feasibility of reconfiguring the stone structure adjacent to the counter-flow bike lane. This area was also recently connected to the free public Main Street Wi-Fi system which stretches from the Broad Canal, across the Grand Junction to New Town Courts.

### ***Grand Junction Park***

An early spring-cleaning effort was needed in the park when a fallen pine tree was removed from the seating area. This was one of the handful of pine trees preserved from the original design. The health of the remaining trees will be watched carefully by CRA staff and Brightview. The CRA has begun preliminary survey work and design discussions with MIT and Veolia to find practical improvements to the triangular section of land immediately adjacent to the railroad tracks along Main Street. This location is where the Veolia and MIT district energy systems share steam through a pair of vaults. The location also hosts some railroad signal equipment.

### ***3<sup>rd</sup> & Binney***

The CRA will provide weekend activation to the civic space beginning the first weekend of May. Little Brook Farm & Garden and the Urban Farming Institute (UFI) will host a Farmer’s Market every Saturday and Sunday from 10AM – 3PM. UFI will provide fresh fruits and vegetables for sale with the help of Little Brook Farm. In addition to accepting cash and debit cards, the weekend market will also accept SNAP and the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP). UFI is familiar with the site as they are the same organization that hosted the Christmas Tree and Holiday accessories market this past December.