

Staff Report to the Board *January 20, 2021*

Forward Calendar

- Annual Report / Annual Meeting
- Amended Investment Policy
- 2021 Budget Revision

Project Updates

325 Main Street Construction

With structural steel construction complete, crews are working to complete slab work on the upper penthouse floors, and to continue fireproofing and the installation of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing on the lower floors. The basement level concrete slab has been poured, allowing crews to deliver more materials through the lower-level loading dock, rather than via Main Street. Curtain wall installation is also making rapid progress. Crews have completed the installation of the lower apertures and are installing panels up to level seven.

Starting on Monday, January 18th, the public pedestrian connection between 325 and 355 Main Street, connecting Main Street and Pioneer Way, will be temporarily closed until July. The closure is required for the construction of the new public lobby.

Open Space - POPS

The CRA and the City are collaborating to develop signage for privately owned public spaces (POPS) for Cambridge. The project aims to ensure that all residents can access and enjoy a network of privately owned public spaces. The POPS signage concept has been implemented in numerous cities throughout the country (Search POPS Signage in NYC, or POPOS in SF), and we're interested in establishing a Cambridge brand.

There are several outreach initiatives involved in the project, including a [community survey](#), which is open from now until mid-February. The CRA and City anticipate holding small group discussions with property owners in February and March. By June, signage design will be finalized and the first project for implementation will be with the 325 Main project.

Broadway, Main, and Third Streetscape Redesign

The CRA continues to work closely with consultants, Sasaki Associates and HDR, as well as City staff from the Community Development Department, Traffic Parking and Transportation, and the Department of Public Works on the Broadway, Main, and Third Street streetscape designs. The project team is working to complete traffic analyses including new data received from the Volpe project's Transportation Impact Study submitted to the City. The team is continuing discussions with local property owners and is looking into new technology to assist with online community engagement and ways to gather community input.

3rd & Binney Temporary Dog Park

On Monday, January 11th, the temporary off-leash dog park at the CRA's 3rd and Binney Street Civic Space opened for public use. The City's off leash rules and regulations will apply to this space and will be enforced by the City's Animal Commission. Hours of operation are from dawn to dusk.

The CRA licensed the parcel for temporary use to the City throughout 2021 to create a public accessible area for dogs to play off leash until a permanent dog park is constructed at the new Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. Park at 3rd and Rogers Streets. Construction of Toomey Park is underway and on track to be completed by Fall 2021.

Foundry

Sal Zinno of BioMed Realty presented their 385 Third Street at the January Foundry Advisory Council meeting, which was followed by a robust discussion about potential synergies between BioMed's proposed theatre and public art lobby within their commercial development, and the Foundry program.

The CRA and City partnered to submit a \$250,000 request in January to the Mass Cultural Council's Cultural Facilities Fund to support capital needs.

With a final construction completion date of May 31, 2022, the Foundry executive search timeline has been updated and will kick off in the first week of February. A new Executive Director is expected to be in place by August. The CRA and City are also working to finalize an amendment to the Cooperation Agreement, including reconciling which furniture and equipment is in the general contractor's scope and which items the CRA will purchase on its own.

Childcare Grants

A second round of funding was announced on Wednesday, January 13th. Three additional organizations were awarded a total of \$15,000 in grants. The three selected applications all submitted proposals for retrofitting their current spaces in order to lower the risk of infection for their staff as well as their students. The three most recent awards bring the total to 16 grants awarded overall equaling \$71,070. Staff will continue accepting applications until Wednesday, February 10th with the goal of announcing a third and final round of awards on Friday, February 12th.