

## **Staff Report to the Board** *October 16, 2019*

### **Administration**

The purchase of 93-99 Bishop Allen Drive has required a new look at the CRA bookkeeping processes, particularly how best to treat distinct, dedicated accounts for the projects such as the Foundry and 93-99 Bishop Allen. Staff are putting together a scope of services for additional financial consultant assistance. The CRA staff and our technology consultant have taken proactive measures to improve its server and network security as well as make other upgrades to staff computers.

### **Forward Calendar**

- 2020 CRA Budget
- City/CRA Workforce Development Report
- Designer Selection for 93-99 Bishop Allen Drive Renovation
- Selection of Financial Consultant for Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House Project

### **Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House (MFNH)**

The feasibility phase is underway. A site survey and 3D measurements of existing buildings have been completed. A geotechnical file search and related recommendations will soon be completed. Studio G conducted a “Day in the Life” site visit, observing MFNH’s many programs in action. Studio G is starting to analyze a range of data and will soon start to work on housing test fits. In coming days, an RFP will go out to identify a real estate financing consultant to help develop a detailed development budget, including identifying suitable sources, and providing technical expertise with application processes. Erica collected feedback from nearly 50 residents during Port Pride Day, on aspects of the proposed project. Additional input will be solicited from immediate abutters, program participants and MFNH staff and board. This information will inform Studio G’s design work. The Board and the CRA will also use this data as we define the scope of the project to pursue. The CRA was recently interviewed by the consultants conducting MFNH’s strategic plan, and is working closely with board and staff to ensure that planning for the redevelopment project does not get ahead of their strategic planning process.

### **Third and Binney – Parcel 6**

The food truck season will be completing its fourth season in November. Staff has started discussions with interested holiday tree vendors with the goal of activating Third and Binney during the holiday season for the second consecutive year. The option to extend food truck vending later in the fall is also under consideration. A Request for Proposal will be made available to vendors next week.

### **Kendall Transportation Annual Report**

VHB Consultants conducted transportation data counts from September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 to September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019, with hand counts conducted on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Data collected included: traffic counts for vehicles and bicycles, curbside pick-up/drop-off activity, bicycle parking use, parking garage use, EZ Ride boardings, MBTA station headhouse counts and BlueBike trip data. The CRA’s Kendall Transportation Annual Report which will share these findings will be published in the spring of 2020.

## 145 Broadway

145 Broadway's streetscape opened to the public on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, after being closed for two years for the building's construction. The public can now enjoy the street's new plantings, sidewalk and site furnishings, a separated cycle track, and a new bus stop facility on Galileo Galilei Way for the EZ Ride shuttle. 145 Broadway's streetscape is the first phase in the implementation of the CRA's Binney/Galileo/Broadway streetscape redesign project.

145 Broadway is on track to receive its final Certificate of Occupancy in mid-October. Akamai Technologies plan to move into the building on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.



## Kendall Signage

ThermoFisher Scientific has installed their signage at 14 Cambridge Center, replacing the BrammerBio monument and building identity signs. The full portfolio of Akamai signage is now installed at 145 Broadway. The CRA Design Review (DR) committee met with Boston Properties this month to review initial signage proposals for Google on 325 Main Street. This review is anticipated to be ongoing for the next few months. The next scheduled DR meeting will be held on November 5<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00pm – 5:00pm in the first floor Community Room at the Cambridge Police Department, 125 Sixth Street.

