



June 1, 2020

By email: tevens@cambridgeredevelopment.org
alevering@cambridgeredevelopment.org

Thomas Evans, Executive Director
Alexandra Levering, Project Manager
Cambridge Redevelopment Authority
255 Main Street, 8th Floor
Cambridge, MA 02142

Re: Ames Place Open Space

Dear Tom and Alex:

I write to share with you concerns Whitehead Institute has with the concept design presented on May 14, 2020. While we applaud the effort and compliment you and Mikyoung Kim Design on many of the aspects of the design, we have a number of concerns relating specifically to our building.

1. “Play Space.” First and foremost, the use of the area at the rear of our building for basketball and performances will conflict with our lab use. There is a vivarium on the second floor that will be adversely affected by noise (mice are very sensitive to sound and vibration). We would suggest that this area instead be used for quiet uses (like those the design currently places in Danny Lewin Park), *i.e.*, picnic tables, benches, and landscaping that will not interfere with the Broad’s below-grade retaining tank. Second, the plans did not show property lines. Can you prepare a plan that does that? We are naturally concerned about use of our property for this project.
2. Flooding. The current plan has the basketball court sunken to aid flood water retainage. As you know, this area is already at a low elevation. We need to understand the full impact on our 40-year old foundation of storm water being retained in this area. Is that something Nitsch Engineering has evaluated?

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3. Walkways. The current design disrupts the existing walkway at the rear of our building that our employees use to access the Yellow Garage. We would like to see this walkway either retained or replaced with a less confusing path.
4. APOS Connector Area. Obviously, we have great interest in this area, which was left undefined. We look forward to engagement on it.

A final note. While we very much want to be part of this planning process, we feel somewhat put on the spot by having to raise concerns like the above after the design has been presented to the group. It would have been preferable to have been consulted directly while the design was being formulated in the first place. May we request that kind of communication going forward?

Thank you for your efforts and we look forward to resolving our concerns.

Very truly yours,



Martin Mullins
Vice President