

Staff Report to the Board: *May 10, 2023*

Personnel and Hiring Updates

The CRA has made significant progress in recruiting for multiple open positions in the past month. CRA staff are in the process of conducting final round interviews for the Project Planner, Project Manager, and Senior Project Manager positions, with finalist candidates drawn from a very competitive pool of applicants. We intend for new staff who are hired through this process to start in June or July.

CRA staff continue to conduct interviews for the Director of Finance and Operations position and intend to conduct final round interviews before the end of May. We hope to hire a candidate who can join our Leadership team in June or July.

Finally, the CRA has completed its interview process for part-time Engagement Coordinators who will facilitate community engagement related to the Rindge Connectivity project. We are in the process of finalizing employment offers with three candidates. These Engagement Coordinators will focus on designing and implementing strategies to engage residents of the Rindge Tower Apartments and Fresh Pond Apartments.

Forward Calendar

- Annual Transportation Report
- CRA Annual Budget Amendment
- Bishop Allen Close-Out
- MFNH Option Agreement
- Parcel 6 Activation Strategy

Project Updates

Rindge Connectivity

CRA staff have begun the next phase of the Rindge Connectivity project with Copley Wolff Design Group. Staff conducted interviews for the Engagement Coordinator roles and extended offers to three residents in the community. Staff also recently facilitated a site walk with the consulting team and City staff to discuss the multi-use path and future larger connections in the area. Looking ahead, the City has agreed to assist with the project by meeting with staff bi-monthly to answer questions and receive updates. The next step on the project is organizing and conducting community engagement to hear residents' perspectives on the multi-use path.

99 Bishop Allen Drive Solar Panels

On May 4th, the local utility granted permission to the CRA to turn on the Bishop Allen solar system for the first time! Final commissioning requirements are still ongoing and we look forward to closing out the project in the coming weeks. The solar energy system will supply electricity to the building to offset the electric load we obtain from the grid, reduce operating costs, and help enhance the CRA's goal of expanding renewable energy systems.

Galaxy Park Streetscape

Following the publication of the CRA's Streetscape Design Report on Broadway, Main, and Third Streets, the CRA chose to advance a portion of streetscape design around the eastern side of Galaxy Park. The CRA has received two design options to address enhanced bicycle facilities along Broadway east of Third Street, and has also received three different designs to enhance the open space on the eastern side of the park itself. These options will be shared with the Board for consideration at an upcoming Design Review meeting.

East Cambridge Tree Planting

The CRA is pleased that Green Cambridge has already planted 20% of the planned trees in the community, with more to come. Green Cambridge will continue to engage with the community to identify more private owners to allow planting on their properties. If anyone located in East Cambridge is interested in having trees planted on their property, please contact the CRA.

121 Broadway / 290 Binney Street / East-West Connector Construction Documents

The CRA has received construction documents (CDs) for the 121 Broadway Residential Building, 290 Binney Street Commercial Building, and the East-West Connector Child's Play Open Space area. BXP has also submitted the CD sets with building permit applications to the City for approval. As per the Design Review and Document Approval Process, CRA staff will review the documents to ensure consistency with the previously approved schematic designs and design development documents. BXP is also working on the design of visual mock-ups (VMUs) for both buildings. The 290 Binney Street building VMU is expected to be completed by August, and the 121 Broadway building VMU is expected to be completed in late fall.