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Staff Report to the Board December 18, 2019

Administration

The archiving consultant, King Information Systems, will be back on-site starting January 6th to complete their work. Besides the data entry of 30 or so boxes of documents and maps that are located in Prime Storage in Somerville, they will be creating a retention schedule and policy for the CRA Board to review for approval.

Forward Calendar

- 1. Schematic Design for 135 Broadway
- 2. City / CRA Workforce Development Report
- 3. 145 Broadway Retail Signage
- 4. Selection of 93-99 Bishop Allen Drive OPM

Third and Binney

Through the month of November, the CRA issued the Holiday Vendor Request for Proposal (RFP) to interested vendors. Unfortunately, there were no proposals submitted. Staff initiated discussions with local garden shops, farms and nonprofits in the hopes of building excitement for the potential of a second year of Holiday activation at Third and Binney. The vendor from the previous winter informed staff that there has been turn over in their organization and that this has led them to not have the capacity to participate this year. Fortunately, a majority of the Food Truck vendors have asked to extend their operations through the month of December. The extended Food Truck program will include five of the ten original vendors from this past summer.

Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House

Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House's new Executive Director, Kim Massenburg started in early December. Kim most recently was the Program Director at a regional agency in Georgia, overseeing several large programs to support people living with HIV/AIDS. As Kim becomes oriented to her new role she has also joined the redevelopment project committee that is made up of CRA staff and MFNH staff and board members.

Studio G has drafted several test fits for housing and new program space on the site, which the project committee is reviewing. The project committee recently interviewed the respondent for the real estate financing RFP, a partnership between Stone Soup Collaborative and Traggorth Companies, with unanimous support to engage them.

Next steps will include an iterative process to develop a project budget and pro forma, and using that process, as well as information from the architects, to help define the scope of the project.

Binney / Broadway / Galileo Streetscape Resign

Boston Properties with consultant's VHB and Sasaki Associates, have refined the CRA's 25% Alta designs to 100% designs for their portion of the streetscape project. Their portion includes Binney Street from the 6th Street intersection west via Galileo Galilei Way to Main Street, and Broadway from Main to Ames Street. As the streetscape designs advanced, more detailed utility information has surfaced, which precludes the ability to plant a handful of trees planned in the 25% designs. The CRA is working with the City, Boston Properties and their consultants to reexamine opportunities for tree plantings, and the necessity to remove the trees in the medians or streetscape edges as originally designed. This is in response to the CRA's own interest in preserving and improving the tree canopy in Kendall Square, and in response to public concern expressed at the CRA's November 20th Board Meeting and DPW's tree hearing held on December 3rd.

KSTEP

On December 5th, the CRA hosted the Kendall Square Transit Enhancement Program (KSTEP) working group, to finalize the fund's governance structure and to discuss funding proposals. The working group consisted of representatives from the CRA, City of Cambridge, the MBTA and MassDOT. Proposals discussed included solutions to expand daytime service for the EZRide shuttle, and to fund the purchase and installation of a new EZRide bus shelter. The working group will meet again in January to continue discussions once proposals are more refined.

Broadway / Main / Third Streetscape Redesign

On November 25th, the CRA met with staff from the City of Cambridge's Traffic and Parking, Public Works and Community Development Departments to discuss Kendall Square streetscapes that were not included in the 25% Broadway/Binney/Galileo Streetscape project. With upcoming development expected on the Volpe site, and large parts of Main Street now under construction, City and CRA staff discussed ideas to establish base designs for Broadway between Ames and Third Street, Main Street between Galileo Galilei Way and Third Street, and Third Street between Broadway and Binney Street.

Staff agreed it would be advantageous if the City and CRA established preliminary designs for the area mentioned above, to ensure the streetscapes are designed to meet Cambridge's safe, accessible and multi-modal standards, and that they are cohesively designed with the Binney/Broadway/Galileo streets soon undergoing development. CRA staff will write a draft scope of work for this potential project, to be brought before the CRA Board early next year.



PROPOSED CRA DATES FOR 2020

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JULY

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Observed Holidays

Board Meetings

Potential Design Reviews

MARCH

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DECEMBER

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