

Staff Report to the Board: *October 19, 2022*

Personnel Updates

The top candidate for the Director of Projects and Planning, Kyle Vangel, accepted the position and is beginning his employment on October 31, 2022. Kyle has worked for HR&A for over a decade and was the project analyst for their initial consulting work on the Foundry, as well as the lead of their work under the Envision Cambridge planning effort. Fabiola Alikpokou was promoted to a Senior Planner position as she has taken the lead on numerous planning and policy efforts. The CRA has posted three other positions, Senior Asset Manager, Project Manager and a Community Planner. Details about each of these positions may be found on the CRA Jobs webpage: <https://www.cambridgeredevelopment.org/open-employment-postions>.

Forward Calendar

- 300 Binney Street – Building Modification
- Broad Discovery Center Signage
- Foundry Commercial Lease for Third Floor
- 2023 Budget

Project Updates

Danny Lewin Park Redesign

The CRA continues to collaborate with Boston Properties (BXP) and Residence Inn on implementing the Danny Lewin Park redesign. Staff coordinated and facilitated a team meeting to discuss construction plans. Staff is currently working on responding to design comments recently shared by CDD.



Galaxy Park

The CRA recently contracted with the Galaxy sculptor Joe Davis to clean the globe feature of the water fountain. Our contract for developing streetscape plans on the northeastern side of Galaxy Park has been finalized. The CRA has scheduled a project stakeholder kickoff meeting with City staff to review the project timeline and conceptual alternatives for this short segment of sidewalk improvements and protected bike lane on Broadway.

Grand Junction Park

A treatment plan has begun to eliminate the rodent infestation issue along the Grand Junction Park. The rodents have been burrowing into the berms along the fence. The shrubs have been damaged by the burrowing. Once the burrows are treated, the plan is to use traps. DPW went by the site to examine the trash barrels and the waste bins of adjacent properties. The repairs to the water fountain will be completed in Spring 2023 as the irrigation system will be winterized for the season soon.



Grand Junction Rail Transit Study

The contract with WSP for the Grand Junction Rail Transit Feasibility Study is underway. Once begun, the study is due to occur over the course of four months. The CRA will work with the stakeholders, originally assembled as the Kendall Square Mobility Task Force, to create a public forum reviewing this report.

KSURP Design Review

Design review for 250 Binney Street is reaching completion. Our conditional letter of approval includes a positive overall review, and highlights a few areas where refinement remains in the building's lighting, ground plane details, and material selection.

Events

Foundry

The Foundry celebrated its grand opening weekend October 8-10. Over the three-day period, there were 60 local organizations and performers participating with 3,000 guests in attendance. CRA staff were in attendance on Saturday to do community outreach for the charette scheduled for the Eversource Plaza design and providing general information about the CRA.

Strategic Advisory Group

The CRA held a KSQ tour for the Strategic Advisory Group on Friday, October 7. The purpose of the tour was to provide a deeper understanding of the area and to better conceptualize our project sites. Most of the members were present, and we thanked them for their time and participation in the tour.

Center Plaza

Design continues to progress on the Parcel Two Center Plaza, including preparations for an open house event at the Blue Garage. This event, rescheduled due to rain last week, will provide information on public input received so far, the plaza's context within Kendall's network of open spaces, and offer three potential design directions to pursue moving forward. In addition to hosting an in-person open house, members of the public are able to offer commentary on our recently reopened project website, available at www.mxdsb.site.

JOIN US!
MXD Substation Redevelopment
**CENTER PLAZA
COMMUNITY
OPEN HOUSE**

bxp

NEW DATE: October 18, 2022 / 5:00-7:30 PM
Rain or Shine

Blue Garage (Roof Level) | 290 Binney Street, Cambridge, MA