MINUTES
DESIGN COMMITTEE OF THE BOSTON CIVIC DESIGN COMMISSION

July 23, 2019

5:00pm, Room #937A, 9th Floor, Boston City Hall
Project: MGH Clinical and Campus Services Building and Institutional Masterplan, West End
Present: Commissioner Deneen Crosby, Commissioner David Hacin, Commissioner Andrea Leers, Commissioner Anne-Marie Lubeanu

DISCUSSION: This project was most recently presented at the BCDC Monthly Meeting on May 7, 2019. At that presentation, Commissioners were curious about how the project massing and layout came to be. In response, the project team, consisting of the design team from NBBJ and the real estate and construction departments at MGH at this meeting, gave an overview of the project. They presented a series of floor plans and massing diagrams. Then, they answered several questions from Commissioners about the programming and space requirements of hospital design. Commissioners take biggest issue with the bridge over North Anderson Street, and suggested that in order for this condition to remain, MGH should take ownership of the street below so that it is no longer public. They urged the design team to consider a variety of bridge designs or even to reconfigure the building in such a way that the bridge can be removed. Most importantly to the Commissioners, MGH must find a way to welcome pedestrians through their campus and draw them to the existing park space.

6:00pm, Room #933A
Project: 3368 Washington St, Jamaica Plain
Present: Commissioner Deneen Crosby, Commissioner David Hacin, Commissioner Andrea Leers, Commissioner Anne-Marie Lubeanu

DISCUSSION: This was the first Design Committee session follow the project presentation at to the full commission on July 9, 2019. Rode Architects represented the project team in this meeting. In the past few weeks, the project team revised the design to eliminate some ground-floor parking spaces, expand the building entrance, and add additional units to the ground floor. They presented an overview to the project, including its context with PLAN: JP/Rox, and showed before and after views of the project changes. Commissioners discussed the entry and ground floor program, appreciative that parking and loading were removed from the front façade. Commissioners complimented the team for the changes and material/facade improvements, then expressed that they would be comfortable seeing this project at the full commission with continued work with BPDA Urban Design staff. The project team brought a presentation and model to explain the project.