



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

MICHAEL F. GLAVIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PLANNING DIVISION

STAFF PRESENT
SARAH LEWIS, SENIOR PLANNER

MEMBERS PRESENT
SARAH RADDING
FRANK VALDES
DEBORAH FENNICK

DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS & MINUTES

The City of Somerville Design Review Committee held a public meeting on **Thursday, January 26th, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Visiting Nurse Association, 259 Lowell Street, Community Room, 3rd Floor**, Somerville, MA.

The purpose of the meeting was to review and make recommendations on the following proposals:

343, 345, 349, and 351 Summer Street – ZBA #2011-54

Prior to the meeting, this agenda item was postponed by the Applicant until the next meeting (February 23rd).

Assembly Row Art Feature - Block 6 garage façade on Canal St. Condition #10 of the Block 6 SPSRA

Applicant & Owner, Street Retail, Inc., seek a Special Permit with Site Plan Review–A, final level approval of the Block 6 Garage Façade of the Planned Unit Development Preliminary Master Plan (PUD-PMP) approved by the Planning Board on December 14, 2006 and as revised on August 5, 2010 and June 19, 2014. Applicant and owner seek approval under SZO Article §16.8.3 and §5.2, for the art installation design of the Block 6 garage façade on Canal St. Condition #10 of the Block 6 SPSRA.

This was the second time this project appeared before the committee. The first meeting, on November 10th, 2016, additional information was requested – “The DRC requested the Applicant to come back with a wall section of the upper, bottom, and canopy area to get a better perspective of the different elements of the installation.” A wall section was provided to supplement the partial plan and elevational rendering of the façade.

There were different committee members at each meeting - only Sarah Radding attended both. The main concerns and recommendations involved the garage lighting and the architectural emphasis of “the tower” – the center part of the façade that supports and acts as the background for the art feature. The DRC recommends that the building behind the art feature be constructed of a more solid material to block the internal garage lighting from visually competing with the art or having it only appear as a silhouette at night. Material suggestions included a scrim for the entire bay (including removal or redesign of the planters), perforated panels or metal screen over the open areas, and/or thicker rods instead of cables (that can droop) for the hand rails. It was also recommended that the internal lighting for the garage to be mounted on the inside of the exterior wall and be directed inward.

For the next art installation, the DRC requested that alternate designs or options be presented prior to the finalization of an art feature. They also recommended that local artists be engaged, possibly through open design competitions,



instead of commissioning out-of-town artists that are less likely to understand the history and character of the neighborhood and Somerville.

Other Business None.