



City of Somerville

URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION

City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

JUNE 21, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

This meeting was conducted via remote participation on GoToWebinar.

NAME	TITLE	STATUS
Sarah Lewis	Co-Chair	<i>Absent</i>
Luisa Olivera	Co-Chair	<i>Present</i>
Frank Valdes	Member	<i>Present</i>
Deborah Fennick	Member	<i>Present</i>
Andrew Arbaugh	Member	<i>Present</i>
Tim Talun	Member	<i>Present</i>
Cheri Ruane	Member	<i>Present</i>
Tim Houde	Alternate	<i>Present</i>

City staff present: Andrew Graminski (Planning, Preservation, & Zoning)

The meeting was called to order at 6:08pm and adjourned at 7:04pm.

GENERAL BUSINESS: Meeting Minutes

Following a motion by Member Fennick, seconded by Member Arbaugh, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the 26 April 2022 meeting minutes, with edits.

PUBLIC MEETING: 483 Broadway

(continued from 10 May 2022)

The applicant team went through revisions to the preferred façade design, as well as the sidewalk widths and materiality.

The Commission and the applicant team discussed if the planters will be irrigated, the species of the proposed plants, street trees, and the materiality at the corners of the building. The Commission agreed that the corners need more thought and development to create a more harmonious design. The Commission and applicant team also discussed the datum line and how the top of the building above it seems heavy, the handicap accessibility of the doors, how the team could use the *Independent* building in Union Square as a reference, and the reasons why the glass does not go all the way to the edge of the building on the right side.

The Commission made a note that the team should make sure that the drainage requirements are being met, especially due to the slope on the site, as well as the design standards and Green Score. All of these items will help guide the streetscape design.

The Commission was in agreement that this proposal still needs a lot of design work to be in a place that they are comfortable recommending to the Planning Board. Staff noted that the Planning Board does have the authority to review the project and send it back to the UDC for further design review if they choose to do so.

Following a motion by Member Arbaugh, the Commission voted unanimously (0-5) that the MR4 design guidelines have been met.

Following a motion by Member Arbaugh, seconded by Member Talun, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to close the case.

RESULT:

NOT RECOMMENDED

OTHER BUSINESS: Update on UDC's Rules of Policies and Procedures

The Commission discussed when the UDC subcommittee will meet and where, possibly Tuesday nights in the High School or a Library. In person at the High School is the first choice and Staff stated that they will coordinate reserving a space. The Commission requested that Staff provide them with both the current Rules and Regulations and a draft of the updated Rules and Regulations that Staff has been working on prior to the first subcommittee meeting.

The Commission would still like a joint meeting with the Planning Board as soon as possible, to discuss design review goals and concerns. Due to quorum issues with the Planning Board, the meeting will likely be held in the Fall.

The Commission declared again that they would like to start reviewing the written UDC recommendations prior to finalization. Staff stated that to start that procedure they would need to review the process with the rest of the PPZ staff and put a policy in place.

Following a motion by Member Talun, seconded by Member Arbaugh, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) that the UDC review each written recommendation before they are finalized.

NOTICE: These minutes constitute a summary of the votes and key discussions at this meeting. To review a full recording, please contact the Planning & Zoning Division at planning@somervillema.gov.