



**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**

LORI MASSA, *SENIOR PLANNER*

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

DEBORAH FENNICK

TANYA PAGLIA

SARAH RADDING

**DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS and MINUTES**

The City of Somerville Design Review Committee held a public meeting on **Thursday, June 18, 2015**, at **6:30 p.m.** at the project site, 399 Revolution Drive (materials for review along Grand Union Boulevard), Somerville, MA.

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

**Assembly Row – Block 11 – Partners Building**

**Description:** Review of the material sample mockup to satisfy condition 12 of the Special Permit with Site Plan Approval approval for a 874,297 sf building comprised of 768,375 sf of office and 105,922 sf of retail/restaurant/health club and a 744,800 sf parking garage. Condition 12: Applicant shall provide information regarding the final material and colors for siding, trim, windows and doors and an onsite mockup of each building segment for DRC review and Planning Staff review and approval prior to construction..

The project architects described the material mockups for the office building and parking garage. There will be a reflective material on the ceiling of the portal to add light and interest to this passage through the office building. There will be a glass canopy extending over the entrance to the portal to control wind gusts. After Blocks 7 and 8 are developed the canopy would not be necessary. The orange color of the fins was carefully chosen and it relates to the terracotta that is proposed along the edge of the central portion of the building. The glazing for the center portion of the building will have low iron content so that it will be ultra clear. This portion of the building will be an employee lounge area so it will provide visual interest for those looking at the building from the street. The building will be the first to achieve LEED Gold status under version 4. A reddish concrete panel is proposed in the garage stair towers to bring this color to the garage and the fins will also be located along the garage façade. A powder coated steel fence with a square pattern will be installed in the openings of the first floor of the garage between the 48 inch tall panel on the ground level and spandrel panel above. This type of fence was proposed along the park side of the building for security and screening purposes. A chain link fence was proposed in this opening along the shared use path. The spandrel panels of the garage will have grooves at different angles to give the building texture. The garage panels will be lightly blasted for texture and specks of color.



The DRC found that the color palette for the main building was successful and that the materials will come together with clean lines. The relationship and the texture of the buildings are successful. The Committee recommended replacing the proposed chain link fence with the steel fence for all four sides of the garage. The lightest color for the steel fence is preferred to contrast with the dark garage interior behind it. The Committee warned that red is an unstable color in concrete and will likely fade in varying degrees over time. They recommended using terracotta in the garage stair towers to replace the proposed red concrete.

**Other Business**

None