



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Community Development Department

To: Planning Board
From: Central Square Advisory Committee
Date: August 29, 2022
Re: **48-50 Bishop Allen Drive**

IRAM FAROOQ
Assistant City Manager for
Community Development

SANDRA CLARKE
Deputy Director
Chief of Administration

KHALIL MOGASSABI
Deputy Director
Chief of Planning

Overview

The Central Square Advisory Committee (the "Committee") met on Wednesday, July 6, 2022 to discuss the Special Permit Application for 48-50 Bishop Allen Drive.

Committee members present were Melisa Greene and Tahir Kapoor. Esther Hanig and Robert Winters joined later in the meeting. After discussion, the Committee decided to forward a report with a positive recommendation.

Proposal Description

The applicant proposes to construct a seven-story, multifamily residential building with 22 dwelling units. The building abuts and is across from buildings that are smaller in scale, but it is also proposing itself as a transition in scale and height from Market Central to the adjacent neighborhoods. The proposed development will include long-term and short-term bicycle parking; no off-street parking is proposed. The applicant is seeking several special permits from the Planning Board.

Committee Comments

Members of the Committee were supportive of the project for bringing more affordable housing to the city and liked the fact that larger units were included as part of the building design/programming. They were fine with reduced parking, as well, and while they would like to see additional open space on-site, they were accepting of the limitation.

In later conversation, some members expressed concern over the building design and aesthetic. They didn't like the use of materials and the color palette, as well as elements of the facade, such as how the corner of the building is being treated.

Public Comments

There was concern expressed about the way that the required pre-application community meeting was held for this project. The applicant stated that they will hold

another community meeting to satisfy the requirement. A member of the public expressed concern for the fate of the current tenants and said that some tenants were unaware that the building would be demolished. They were also concerned that the project will remove some below-market rentals from the neighborhood.

Respectfully submitted for the Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Drew Kane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "K".

Drew Kane
Land Use Planner
Community Development Department