

MINUTES

DESIGN COMMITTEE OF THE BOSTON CIVIC DESIGN COMMISSION

March 10, 2020

5:00pm, Room #937A, 9th Floor, Boston City Hall

Project: **175 Federal Street**, Downtown

Present: Commissioner Deneen Crosby, Commissioner Linda Eastley, Commissioner David Manfredi, Commissioner William Rawn

DISCUSSION: The project's design team presented the design process in great detail, including numerous site constraints that have shaped the proposal and previous iterations of the building form. The existing building can be viewed from 360 degrees, and part of the impetus for the renovation of the building base is improve the pedestrian condition to be safer, more accessible, and engaging. Commissioners are concerned with the commercialization of existing public realm, with the utility of second-story open space accessed by stairs, and with complicating the existing architecture with the angles of the proposed glass addition. Commissioners asked the design team to provide alternative studies for how the building meets the ground and to explore options that reveal some part of the building underbelly with new form. There could be opportunity for this where the second story pedestrian deck meets the building. The stairs to the space should be made more dynamic and the pedestrian passageway along Federal Street made more engaging. The Project will continue in design committee.