

Date: October 30, 2020  
To: Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone  
From: Appointments Advisory Committee  
CC: Jennifer Mancia  
RE: Recommendation for Appointment to the Universal Design Commission (UDC)

The Somerville Appointments Advisory Committee (“AAC” or the “Committee”) recommends Tim Talun, Heidi Cron, and Kerri Connolly for appointment to the vacant positions on the Urban Design Commission (UDC).

The Committee was impressed with Tim Talun for his continued commitment to the City and willingness to serve the public good. As he is an architect, he demonstrated a depth of knowledge and sound judgement that made him stand out from other well-qualified applicants regarding the importance of our public realm. As there is a need to balance expiration dates for this relatively new commission, we recommend that Tim be appointed to the Full Member position that expires or is up for renewal in 2024.

The Committee was also pleased with our discussion with Heidi Cron. Her background includes design experience but from a different perspective that architecture or landscape design and has an open-minded viewpoint from working internationally. The Committee recommends that Heidi be appointed to the Full Member position with a term expiring in 2025.

With a background in journalism and urban planning, the AAC recommends Kerri Connolly to the Alternate Member position with a term expiring in 2024. Kerri is a pragmatic and patient collaborator who prides herself on talking through realities to find compromises which will be a significant strength for the design review process.

We had terrific conversations with all the candidates from this round of applicants and were genuinely awed by the qualifications. Please let us know if we can answer any further questions.

Sincerely,

# Timothy Talun AIA

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**August 15, 2020**

Mayor Joseph Curtatone  
93 Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02143

Re: Somerville Urban Design Commission Position

**Dear Mayor Curtatone:**

I am writing to express my interest in serving as a member of the Urban Design Commission. New development is bringing a historic transformation of the fabric of our City, and I would be honored to have both the responsibility and opportunity to help guide development towards the realization of the goals our community has laid out for itself as a member of the Commission.

I believe that the design of the buildings and spaces which we inhabit shapes who we are, and that promoting good design is essential to achieving a more sustainable, healthy and equitable future. From the Somerville Steering committee to the more recent Union Square neighborhood planning process, I have been an active participant in the creation of the plans which have established the aspirations that our community wants to see realized through design. I have gained a broad understanding of the city's goals and needs and earned a reputation among City staff, elected officials and community leaders for thoughtful feedback and detailed analysis that I will also bring to my work on the Urban Design Commission.

Much of my professional work with Elkus Manfredi Architects, Boston's largest architecture firm, has been on projects which bridge between the scales of urban design and architecture. I have managed and led the design of numerous large-scale commercial and residential development projects in the Boston region and beyond, many of which have included significant public realm and landscape design components. Throughout my career I have sought to find creative and economically viable ways of addressing many of the same challenges that Somerville faces; how to create a more environmentally sustainable built environment, how to create more inclusive places and neighborhoods, and how to create welcoming open spaces.

I am particularly interested in the Urban Design Commission because of how its role has been reconceived in the recently adopted Somerville Zoning Ordinance, under which the commission has been given a more defined role in reviewing projects in their early stages and a broader focus that includes urban design and public spaces. The renewed focus on how buildings shape and impact public life and the experience of people mirror's my own expertise and interest, and I would be excited to have the opportunity to help act as a steward of the public realm as a member of the commission.

My wife and I have two young sons who are growing up in Somerville. What is built in our city will shape the future they will experience, making the work of the Urban Design Commission all the more important to me. I look forward to the opportunity to serve as a member, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

**Sincerely,**

**Tim Talun**

# Timothy Talun AIA

## Objective

To utilize my knowledge and experience to help guide the creation of sustainable, healthy, equitable and beautiful places in Somerville which enhance the lives of the people that will live, work and play in them.

## Professional Experience

**Elkus Manfredi Architects** Boston, MA 2010 - 2020

Associate: Project Manager and Lead Designer

- Successfully managed the \$160 Million redevelopment of Brookline Place in Brookline, MA into a commercial and outpatient care center, from zoning approvals and conceptual design through construction.
- Lead designer and project manager for 7INK, an innovative "coliving" residential typology
- Leader in firm-wide sustainable design initiatives
- Designed several other high-profile urban scale projects in Boston and around the United States.

**Koetter Kim & Associates** Boston, MA 2008 - 2009

Designer

## Education

**Harvard Graduate School of Design**

Master in Architecture I, 2008

**SUNY Buffalo**

Bachelor of Science in Architecture, 2004

## Civic and Volunteer

**Somervision Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee** 2011 - 2012

**Somerville Bicycle Committee** 2010 - 2016

**Sustainable Neighborhoods Working Group** 2016 - 2017

**Union Square Neighbors** 2014 - 2017

**FHLB Affordable Housing Competition** 2020

- Served as professional design mentor for interdisciplinary student team awarded first place for proposed 48-unit affordable intergenerational veterans housing

**United Way BoSTEM Initiative** 2020