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JAMAICA PLAIN, ROXBURY

Developers tentatively chosen to build 'green' E+ homes in Roxbury, Jamaica Plain

Posted by Matt Rocheleau December 17, 2011 03:00 PM

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A sketch of the planned building at 61-69 Marcela St. in Roxbury.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Three development teams received tentative approval from the city this week to lead projects in Boston that will build a total of 10 environmentally-friendly homes, according to city redevelopment officials.

The 'green' high-performance residences will be located on three city-owned parcels – two in Roxbury at 156-160 Highland St. and 61-69 Marcela St., and one in Jamaica Plain at 64 Catherine St. near where the neighborhood meets with Roslindale.



(BRA)
Sketch of 64 Catherine St.

The projects are expected to begin in the spring and be completed by fall 2012.

Transformations Zero Energy Homes, Sage Builders, and Nickerson Design Services were tentatively designated to develop a \$1.1-million project at the Highland Street site that will consist of four condominiums, including one affordable unit. Two Greek Revival style duplexes with three bedroom units, one parking space, and patios will be built.

Urbanica Design + Development and Interface Studio Architects were tentatively approved to develop a \$1-million project at the Marcella Street site that will consist of four attached townhouses, including one affordable unit. Each 1,500 square-foot, three-story townhouse will house 2.5 bathrooms, a full basement, a rear patio, a small yard, and one parking spot.

GFC Development and Utile, Inc. were tentatively designated to develop a \$745,000 project at the Jamaica Plain site that will consist of two three-bedroom townhouses and private outdoor space.

The three development teams were selected from a field of 14 proposals.

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The three development teams were selected from a field of 14 proposals submitted by 11 development teams that applied through a competitive proposal process launched by the Boston Redevelopment Authority in March. The final teams were chosen by redevelopment authority staff with help from building experts. Selections were based on “the proposal’s energy performance, urban design, and feasibility.”

Through the Energy Positive (E+) Green Building Demonstration Program, the homes will save homeowners money and meet the highest standards for green and healthy homes, city redevelopment officials have said.

The program “seeks to advance industry practice and public awareness of energy efficient green buildings and to construct high performance residential green building prototypes that can serve as models for future practice,” officials said.

The program builds upon the city’s Article 37 Green Building Zoning, which promotes private green development, including with a heavy focus on advancing residential green building practices, officials have said.

The program is a pilot initiative the mayor’s cabinet, the city’s neighborhood development office, environmental office, and the redevelopment authority in partnership with National Grid, NSTAR, US Green Building Council, USGBC Massachusetts Chapter, Boston Society of Architects, and Boston Architectural College.

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