

## **NewCAL Open Office Hours Discussion Topics**

### **Comments**

September 14, 2018

10-11:30 AM

Hamilton Community Center  
545 Grove Street  
Newton Upper Falls

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Engaging with Community. Some villages are more challenging. Harvest Fest, Farmer's Market, Newtonville Day, etc.

Josh provided team introductions and overview of project.

Address facility needs of senior population and explore possibility to expand facility to address needs of people of all ages. Want to make sure we serve as many of the senior population as possible. Looking to remove label of "Senior Center". Name of facility? Different hours (trying to target age group of 50-65).

NV5 and Steffian Bradley are on board. Studying existing program and future needs. Where we would like to evolve and expand. Program study will help determine how big of a building we need and the size of the site.

If the existing building is not used, the building would remain as a City asset. Would be a monumental challenge to try to fit the program on the existing site. Will be fully evaluated.

(17) day time sessions scheduled and the potential of (26) evening meetings.

How to engage with residents that don't have the time to commit or become engaged.

Want to work together with YMCA, JCC and Boys and Girls Club. We think there could be a mutual benefit of working together.

Average project duration: 5-6 years, includes 3 years programming and design and 2-3 years for construction.

What kind of services would you like in the senior/community center?

Pickle ball ambassador: 3 times/week playing outdoors with over 40 players. From Newton and surrounding communities. Hoping for permanent courts. Email list over 250. New and experienced players. Looking for an indoor sports court. Weather is limiting. Need at least 6 courts. Pickle ball is a growing sport. Lexington has restrictions (residents only), Marlborough, Malden has court.

How large is a pickle ball court? One tennis court can accommodate 2-4 pickle ball courts. 40x22 = one pickle ball court. 5 to 6' clear space around courts in needed.

Flexibility of space? Pickleball court and tai chi? Net is portable. 5 minutes to set up. No overhead motion, all under hand. Courts are small. Rage in 55+ communities. Fastest growing sport in the US.

Heading towards shared space. What programs are sharable and are there hours they would be more sharable? Do particular programs work better in a multi-generational setting? What activities work well simultaneously? Mingling will work in certain situations while separation is needed for other situations.

Good flexible spaces and lots of multi-sports storage. Storage for tables and chairs.

Newton Art Association, Newton Watercolor Association, Newton Camera Club:

Venues are lacking and a home for the organizations. All 3 have had gallery shows in neighboring towns, due to lack of space. Also looking for a home with a small amount of office space and gallery space. Losing gallery space at the New Art Center. Most exhibits run for about a month.

Comment: Gallery space. Would hope that it would include space for art activities that take place in the senior center.

Need to keep finishes relatively simple and durable. Display space is very inexpensive. Track system of hangers. Example of display case at Zervas. Whole building could be a gallery space. Save \$ on furnishings.

Newton Watercolor Society: Hanging system is key. Art on the walls is wonderful for everybody.

Art indoors and art outdoors is important.

Belmont uses art displays for fundraising purposes.

Critical to build envelope, no matter how large, to develop for future programming. Flexible space to be able to change and modify programming over time, to meet future demands.

Suggested advertising upcoming meetings in particular village a week or two before listening sessions. Regular visits to other senior centers. This process is raising awareness, stirring up conversation and getting ideas. Makes sense to be expanding senior services while this process is ongoing. Operating and maintenance costs of larger building.

Financial interest. Right now \$1.5B in debt. How much is this project going to add to that debt? City will look at multiple avenues to funding the project. Partnerships with other groups and organizations that could help with funding.

\$250M high school. Can those facilities be used? Why do the facilities need to be duplicated?

City responded that the high school facilities such as the pool, gym and other spaces are fully booked. There may be class room space available at night.

Request for an indoor Bocci court (played 3 times in 4 months this past season due to weather); indoor putting green.

Does the City government allow for private funding contributions? Yes.

On website, noticed there is an architect on board. What was the selection process?

Did solicitation include requirement for a green and accessible building?

Alex noted not a bid. Firms selected on a qualification basis. City described full selection process which required a response to an RFQ. The responses and short listed candidates were reviewed and interviewed by the Designer Selection Committee. The RFQ includes the Sustainable Guidelines developed by the Design Review Committee and which were adopted by the City Council.

Meeting spaces needed for groups to meet.

Volunteer opportunities.

Coffee shop, café important for impromptu, informal connections.

