

NewCAL Open Office Hours Discussion Topics

Comments

September 21, 2018

10-11:30 AM

Emerson Community Center
45 Pettee Street
Newton Lower Falls

Josh Morse (Newton Public Buildings Department) opened up the meeting. The NewCAL project team is going around the City, through the villages, trying to attract and engage as many people as possible, in the both the morning and evening hours.

The goal of the NewCAL project is to create an asset that is as beneficial to as many people of all ages. It could mean we program in and build a facility that meets needs of seniors, which could also be programmed by Parks & Recs department. Could be a gym associated. Trying to get a sense as to what the community wants. Have not ruled out possibility to renovate existing center, although the biggest challenge is the size of the building and the site. Need a lot more space.

No presentation today. Here to hear people's thoughts and ideas.

Jayne Colino asked questions.

What do you think would make a new center for active living successful?

Are there community spaces around Town that make a good community space?

Needham is nice, plus closer to Upper Falls, than the current Newton center. Has lots of parking. Has fitness equipment. Use for meetings and for kids. Movies and other programs are for everybody. Enjoyed being open to all ages.

If we were to look at a program with a central location, and actively program buildings in different villages, there would be programs that are more approachable and usable for seniors.

Bingo is played at the Emerson Center.

Would you be likely to go if there was reliable transportation?

If building is located in the center of the City, that could work.

What kinds of activities would you like in a new facility? Any services that you would like the City to offer?

Bingo, fitness equipment

Comment: Pools serve 10% of the population and everyone has to pay for it.

Newton North has an indoor pool, although the challenge is that it is always booked.

Therapy pool may be considered.

The challenge with the Gath pool is that it is seasonal. The City may look at whether there is some way to create an indoor/outdoor pool. The Sudbury community center has an indoor/outdoor pool.

What may engage working adults of all ages?

Evenings and weekend programs. Extended hours.

Evening programs focused on the interest and needs for people that are still working.

Lower Falls Community Center is busy every night.

Perhaps there are continuing education components that are oriented towards seniors.

Observation: Various nightly programming at the library, close to 70% are over the age of 65. Library functions like a community center, with the way it is programmed.

There are opportunities for some synergies with the library and the NewCAL center.

Girl Scouts need evening space. Perhaps should be looking at programs that don't currently have space. Look at space for organizations that don't have adequate space and aren't already being serviced.

Financial differential between Newton Community Ed and the Senior services program. The YMCA and the JCC are membership organizations. There may be a cost for events through the senior center, although there is no cost for membership.

There are many people who love to come in and volunteer, although there is no space for these opportunities. Similar to the History of Math class that was run in the library at the current senior center.

Lifetime Learning is "homeless" in Newton. Last viable home was MIshkan Tefila. Became nomads when that building was lost as a resource.

Want to build in space for educational programs, such as classrooms. All smart technology, projectors, etc. Needham has several classrooms/ conference rooms. Put infrastructure in so eventually if the technology gets "smarter", the components can be updated, without costly retrofitting. Less expensive to install a good robust wireless system. Flexible spaces, wireless, lots of storage.

Seeing a trend – people are accessing information differently these days. Likely to go on the web after dinner, go online and watch a video of a presentation. As part of technology – remote program participation.

Bring in programs that are someplace else, that are streamed into the center.

Have been pilot programs where people are trained on ipads.

How do you provide baseline education on technology?

Isolation is a problem.

A transportation fair is part of the Charlie Card program.

A full time social worker should be hired before a technology staff member. There is a huge gap in that type of resource at the current center. Need to expand staffing levels for social workers.

Need to have sufficient staffing to arrange and set up spaces for various types programming.

NEWCAL 9/21/18 (1)

LOCATION / site / Accessable
Bingo etc.
Fitness Equip.
Movies / Theatre.
THERAPY POOL.
EXTENDED OPENINGS!
FINANCIAL DIFFERENTIAL Between program
LIFETIME LEARNING!
White Boards!
pushing Program out Remotely via WEB
STREAMING EXTERIOR program INTO CENTER
programming TO GET SENIORS INVOLVED IN
TECHNOLOGY.
MORE STAFF / SOCIAL WORKER.

