

City of Newton



PUBLIC BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

Designer Selection Committee

Howard Goldberg, Chairman
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Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

Attendees:

Designer Selection Committee		Other Attendees
Howard Goldberg - Chair	Dan Funk - DSC	Alex Valcarce – NPB
Richard Griffin - DSC	Amy MacKrell - DSC	Tom Rooney - NPB
James Powers - DSC	Ben Tucker - DSC	Tom Murphy – NV5
Tamara Warburg - DSC	Ken White - DSC	Jayne Colino – Senior Services
		Gordon Szerlip
		Sue Rasala
		Richard Rasala
		Linda Leffert
		Diana Paulson

Alex Valcarce gave an overview of the situation with the architect, Steffian Bradley and Associates (SBA), who was originally selected by the DSC for the NewCAL project. SBA recently declared bankruptcy. The DSC had previously recommended Bargman, Hendrie + Archetype, (BH+A) as an on-call designer with the City of Newton and hereby solicited a proposal from this firm to take over as the designer for the NewCAL project. Alex noted the designer proposal has been reviewed and was approved by the City's legal and procurement departments. BH+A was the designer of several senior center projects, including Needham and Randolph, two facilities which had been visited by the NewCAL team. Alex asked the Designer Selection Committee to consider whether BH+A had the relevant experience, capacity and personnel to take over as the designer.

In response to DSC questions regarding what stage of design the project was at and what decisions had been made by the previous design team which BH+A may need to take ownership of, Alex reported that SBA had only recently finished the programming phase of the project and that no design or site decisions had been made.

BH+A gave a short presentation to the DSC showing their experience and some of their design intents for a typical Senior Center project. After their presentation, Committee members asked questions of the BH +A design team.

A general overview of the discussion after their presentation is as follows:

The next steps will be to review all of the work completed to date and begin the discussion of reviewing site options. BH+A noted that they would review decisions previously made and would make note of any decisions that they thought might be worth revisiting. They noted that one example might be the size of some of the spaces. It was thought that the overall square footage and grossing factor were appropriate although some multi-purpose spaces may benefit from a slight modification in the sizes currently programmed.

BR+A noted that the furnishings and equipment play a large role in the function of the space and their design should be reviewed early in the process to provide an integrated design.

Jayne Colino, Director of Senior Services, and members of the NewCAL community in attendance also asked questions and a general discussion followed concerning the involvement of a very active senior community and methods to best incorporate those thoughts, experiences and emotions into the design process.

The DSC reviewed with BH+A the questions provided by the Building Domain Action Team (B-DAT) and their concerns regarding Age Friendly Design and found that the team is well versed in this. BH+A also identified other design considerations which would provide social, health and consequential benefits to not just seniors, but to the entire community.

Following the presentation, BH+A was thanked for their presentation, were dismissed and the DSC deliberated. All members believed BH+A to be well qualified to take on the project. Discussions followed about general design aesthetic and whether the previous firms that interviewed originally for the project should be considered. After discussion, the Committee agreed that proceeding with BH+A was in the best interest of the project.

Motion: Ben Tucker moved to recommend to the Mayor that based on their relevant experience, current capacity and personnel proposed for the project, the Committee believed that BH+A is well qualified to take over the NewCAL project and bring the project to a successful end. Ken White seconded. The vote passed unanimously with no abstentions (8-0-0).