

Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2020					
Date: Newton City Hall - Room 204					
Time: 9:30 AM					
Attendees:					
Alex Valcarce	<i>Public Buildings Dept.</i>	Y	Linda Walsh	<i>Public Health Dept.</i>	---
Amanda Berman	<i>Planning Department</i>	---	Maureen Lemieux	<i>Chief Financial Officer</i>	---
Barney Heath	<i>Planning Department</i>	Y	Nancy Scammon	<i>Parks & Rec Dept.</i>	Y
Bea Goldsmith	<i>Community Member</i>	Y	Norm Meltz	<i>Working Group</i>	Y
Bob DeRubeis	<i>Parks & Rec Dept.</i>	Y	Rachel Sherman	<i>Working Group</i>	---
Brooke Lipsitt	<i>Community Member</i>	Y	Richard Rasala	<i>Community Member</i>	Y
Carol Schein	<i>Community Member</i>	Y	Sandra Butzel	<i>Community Member</i>	---
Deb Youngblood	<i>Health/Human Services</i>	---	Seth Bai	<i>Veteran's Services</i>	---
Ellen Ishkanian	<i>Mayor's Office</i>	---	Sue Rasala	<i>Community Member</i>	Y
Gabriel Holbrow	<i>Planning Department</i>	---	Susan Albright	<i>City Councilor</i>	---
Jack Neville	<i>Parks & Rec Dept.</i>	Y	Thomas Rooney	<i>Public Buildings Dept.</i>	---
Jayne Colino	<i>Senior Services Dir.</i>	Y	Zachery LeMel	<i>Planning Department</i>	---
Jini Fairley	<i>Working Group</i>	Y	Tom Murphy	<i>NV5</i>	---
John Rice	<i>Newton Resident</i>	Y	Melissa Gagnon	<i>NV5</i>	Y
Jonathan Yeo	<i>Working Group</i>	Y	Joel Bargmann	<i>BH+A</i>	---
Josh Morse	<i>Public Buildings Dept.</i>	---	James Bruneau	<i>BH+A</i>	Y

Alex Valcarce opened up the meeting at 9:30AM.

The NewCAL Working Group discussed the Community meeting, which took place last Thursday evening, 01/16/20. In general, there was consensus that feedback was very positive and residents who attended were pleased to have an opportunity to provide input into the site selection process.

Although not documented in writing, the need for an adult day care program at the new senior center was expressed and the question was asked whether any of the sites would be able to accommodate this program.

NV5 organized close to 200 comments provided at the 1/16/20 Community meeting and created a DRAFT matrix to track the feedback in a quantitative format, which were filtered into the following categories: Site Cost and Schedule Impact, Geographic Location, Parking, Building, Construction Impact and Programming. In addition, more site-specific comments were tracked, on a separate matrix. Per initial evaluation of feedback, the Existing Senior Center site appears to be the one site with more favorable vs unfavorable comments. The top three choices, based on the draft matrix, are the Newton Centre Triangle Parking Lot, Existing Senior Center and the Former Aquinas Junior College.

With regard to the Aquinas site, the City plans to connect with the School Committee, the Superintendent and the Lincoln-Eliot team to determine whether there is any interest in potential intergenerational programming and synergy with NewCAL. There are challenges around parking/traffic, factoring in four (4) nearby schools, as well as available buildable space.

Soliciting feedback will continue, through the NV5 website: <https://newcal.projects.nv5.com/>. Community members will be able to review the seven (7) site options, as well as the program, and send comments directly to the team via: NewCAL@newtonma.gov. The plan is to gather more feedback prior to the next Community meeting, likely to be scheduled at the end of February. As suggested, NV5 will reformat the site information and graphics so that there is one site/sheet, which includes an image as well as information that was handed out on 1/16/20. The Senior Center site information shall be updated to include notes about parking and potential relocation of programs/services during construction.

Pending confirmation from the Mayor's office with regard to the strategy for information being made accessible online, site information will be posted to the NV5 project site later this week.

The next Community meeting shall be confirmed for 2/27/20 at 7:00PM at the Senior Center.

The format of the next meeting shall be determined specifically re: accessibility around boards. The intent of the next Community meeting will be to provide an update re: feedback collected.

The project team will need to start building a database with NewCAL supporters.

Jayne will have site boards available at the next COA meeting.

The next Working Group meeting is on Tuesday, February 4, at 9:30AM.