

## Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2020					
Date: Newton City Hall - Room 204					
Time: 9:30 AM					
<b>Attendees:</b>					
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 &amp; Rec Dept.</i>	Y
Bea Goldsmith	<i>Community Member</i>	Y	Norm Meltz	<i>Community Member</i>	Y
Bob DeRubeis	<i>Parks &amp; Rec Dept.</i>	Y	Rachel Sherman	<i>City IT</i>	---
Brooke Lipsitt	<i>Community Member</i>	---	Richard Rasala	<i>Community Member</i>	Y
Carol Schein	<i>Community Member</i>	Y	Sandra Butzel	<i>Community Member</i>	Y
Deb Youngblood	<i>Health/Human Services</i>	---	Seth Bai	<i>Veteran's Services</i>	---
Ellen Ishkanian	<i>Mayor's Office</i>	Y	Sue Rasala	<i>Community Member</i>	Y
Gabriel Holbrow	<i>Planning Department</i>	---	Susan Albright	<i>City Councilor</i>	---
Jack Neville	<i>Parks &amp; Rec Dept.</i>	---	Thomas Rooney	<i>Public Buildings Dept.</i>	---
Jayne Colino	<i>Senior Services Director</i>	Y	Zachery LeMel	<i>Planning Department</i>	---
Jini Fairley	<i>Working Group</i>	Y	Tom Murphy	<i>NV5</i>	---
John Rice	<i>Community Member</i>	Y	Melissa Gagnon	<i>NV5</i>	Y
Jonathan Yeo	<i>Chief Operating Officer</i>	Y	Joel Bargmann	<i>BH+A</i>	---
Josh Morse	<i>Public Buildings Dept.</i>	Y	James Bruneau	<i>BH+A</i>	---

Josh Morse opened up the meeting at 9:35AM.

As a follow up to the last WG meeting, Josh noted that correspondence was received from Newton Public Schools with regard to retaining the sites at 100 Walnut Street and 150 Jackson Road, which means that the Education Center and the Aquinas sites would no longer be considered as viable options for NewCAL. Development for this project, at either of the sites, would compromise the educational programming, including site and parking.

Based on ongoing feedback, at the boards displayed at the Senior Center, as well as online, through the project website, it appears there is most interest in the Newton Center Triangle and the Senior Center sites. Although, more comments that are negative have been received relative to the Triangle vs. the Senior Center. Negative comments for the Triangle include parking, traffic, accessibility, a master plan and potential impact to area businesses. The majority of negative comments relative to the Senior Center include parking and temporary relocation of programs and services during construction. Both locations have parking challenges.

Overall parking issues in Newton Center would be studied prior to, and along with, the development of NewCAL. For the Newtonville location, a parking management plan will be required as well as temporary swing space, for 18-24 months. A corporate lease could be considered.

Remaining sites include the Police Station Headquarters, West Newton Armory and the YMCA: There has not been much positive interest in the Police Station location. With regard to the Armory, the location is relatively good, although parking is problematic and it is likely the majority of the building would need to be saved. Although the YMCA location is not as good as the Triangle or the Senior Center, this site will remain on the list, on the back burner, for the time being, as having some potential.

With regard to the Senior Center site, BH+A will need to study the site and confirm that programming can fit. It appears there are many creative ways to configure the building program. A renovation/addition is possible, with key architectural features retained. It is likely the MHC will request particular items be salvaged and reinstalled/repurposed. Accessibility will need to be addressed and resolved. Parking opportunities will need to be studied on site as well as on Highland Ave and in nearby pockets.

The Mayor's office is planning to coordinate a meeting, opening to businesses in Newton Center and Newtonville.

The next Community meeting is on Thursday, 2/27/20 at 7:00PM at the Senior Center.

The format will be Charrette style, similar to the last Community meeting on 01/16/20. The site boards may be organized in the room according to viability and consideration.

Jayne provided NV5 with sticky notes from the boards currently displayed at the Senior Center.

The next Working Group meeting is on Tuesday, February 18, at 9:30AM. There will be a meeting on Election Day, March 3.