


Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020					
Date: Zoom Meeting (online)					
Time: 9:30 AM					
Attendees:					
Working Group		Present	City Staff		Present
Sandra Butzel	<i>Community Member</i>	---	Seth Bai	<i>Veteran's Services</i>	---
Bea Goldsmith	<i>Community Member</i>	√	Devra Bailin	<i>Planning</i>	---
Brooke Lipsitt	<i>Community Member</i>	√	Amanda Berman	<i>Planning</i>	---
Norm Meltz	<i>COA Member</i>	√	Ellen Ishkanian	<i>Mayor's Office</i>	---
Jack Neville	<i>P&R Commission</i>	---	Zachery LeMel	<i>Planning</i>	---
Richard Rasala	<i>Community Member</i>	√	Thomas Rooney	<i>Public Buildings</i>	---
Sue Rasala	<i>COA Member</i>	√	Rachel Sherman	<i>City IT</i>	---
John Rice	<i>Community Member</i>	---	Linda Walsh	<i>Public Health</i>	---
Susan Albright	<i>City Councilor</i>	√	Deb Youngblood	<i>Health/Human Services</i>	---
Nicole Banks	<i>P&R Commissioner</i>	---			
Jayne Colino	<i>Senior Services Dir.</i>	√			
Jini Fairley	<i>ADA Coordinator</i>	√			
Barney Heath	<i>Planning Director</i>	---	Consultants		
Maureen Lemieux	<i>Chief Financial Officer</i>	---	Tom Murphy	<i>NV5</i>	---
Josh Morse	<i>Public Buildings Comm.</i>	√	Melissa Gagnon	<i>NV5</i>	√
Nancy Scammon	<i>P&R Department</i>	---	Joel Bargmann	<i>BH+A</i>	√
Alex Valcarce	<i>Public Buildings</i>	√	James Bruneau	<i>BH+A</i>	√
Jonathan Yeo	<i>Chief Operating Officer</i>	---	Jason Thornton	<i>BH+A</i>	√

Josh Morse opened up the online Zoom meeting at 9:30AM.

Josh note that all three (3) presentations and updates went very well last week:

- 09/22 COA meeting

- 09/23 Update to City Council Public Facilities and Programs and Services (PF/PS)
- 09/24 Newton Historic Commission (NHC).

The sentiment of PF/PS was that a facility should be created for which the program requires, whether that should require retaining the existing building or a full demo and build new.

BH+A has been involved with working on existing conditions analysis. Reports have been issued for Site Survey, Geotech and HazMat Testing. Review and analysis is ongoing by the historical architect, structural engineer and traffic consultant.

Josh noted per feedback from Newtonville Area Businesses, the community is aware and supports the project. Although there is no current interest, it was noted the project needs to be sensitive to potential negative impact on parking and traffic in Newtonville.

It was noted that NewCAL should be designed as a group of buildings which is part of a group of buildings with historic character, similar to the library and City Hall.

There are innovative playful ways to create a traditional style building from the exterior with a modern interior. The new building will need to be contextually appropriate in responding to the historic context in Newtonville. The new facility will need to be contextual while open, transparent and net zero.

Community Meeting 10/01/20

The presentation was reviewed for the upcoming Community meeting on Thursday, 10/01/20. The plan is to share site and floor plans, process and next steps. It is important to update the community on where we are and to understand the limits and breadth of the study.

If the existing building is renovated, accessibility will need to be addressed, including plans for the staircase along Walnut Street.

A primary design goal is for visitors to have a sense of direction and orientation upon entering the building.

A suggestion was made that a four story option be designed with multiple decks, possibly open air in design. A large deck behind the building could cover the parking area and be accessible from the second floor, while providing open outdoor programming space. With regard to net zero, the deck could be covered, with solar panels.

Another possibility is for the building to be reoriented, to face Highland Ave, which would be beneficial in generating solar energy. The goal of solar generation will need to be balanced with optimum site utilization.

In terms of the presentation, the Newton Center Triangle study slides should be inserted for reference, after the closing slide, in the event a question is asked.

Additional Upcoming Meetings (all online with remote participation via Zoom):

- 10/01/20 Community Update meeting
- 10/02/20 Newtonville Business Update meeting
- 10/14/20 Newtonville Area Council meeting (rescheduled from 10/08/20)