

Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

Working Group + EBC meeting					
Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2019					
Date: Newton City Hall - Room 204					
Time: 9:00 AM					
Attendees:					
Alex Valcarce	Working Group	---	Sandra Butzel	EBC	Y
Amanda Berman	Working Group	---	Bea Goldsmith	EBC	Y
Barney Heath	Working Group	---	Peter Johnson	EBC	?
Bob DeRubeis	Working Group	---	Marian Knapp	EBC	Y
Jayne Colino	Working Group	Y	Cheryl Lappin	EBC	y
John Rice	Working Group	Y	Brooke Lipsitt	EBC	Y
Jonathan Yeo	Working Group	Y	Jack Neville	EBC	---
Josh Morse	Working Group	Y	Sue Rasala	EBC	Y
Maureen Lemieux	Working Group	---	Richard Rasala	EBC	Y
Ruthanne Fuller	Working Group	---	Carol Schein	EBC	Y
Thomas Rooney	City Staff	Y	(Linda)	Adult Day	Y
Deb Youngblood	Working Group	---	Joe Sirkovich	Steffian Bradley	Y
Jini Fairley	Working Group	Y	Teresa Wilson	Steffian Bradley	Y
Nancy Scammom	Working Group	Y	Anthony Miniscalco	Steffian Bradley	---
Phil McNulty	Working Group	---	Tom Murphy	NV5	---
Rachel Sherman	Working Group	---	Italo Visco	NV5	Y
Seth Bai	Working Group	---	Melissa Gagnon	NV5	Y

Highlights discussed at this meeting are as follows:

- 1) Josh M. explained the status of the Site Selection Matrix; narrowing down 145 potential sites into three categories of feasibility: Yes, Maybe, and No (with some sites remaining undecided at the bottom of the list).

- 2) The concept of an adult day care was raised, perhaps with proximity to the Senior Center, highlighting the growing need for adult care and the benefit of the two groups intermingling. The feasibility of including this program with NewCAL would need to be factored into site selection. It was noted that the BDAT is exploring this option.
- 3) It was noted that there had been a small scale adult day care program in the Newton, although due to insufficient State funding this service no longer existis. Adult day health includes a medical component, in addition to the social component. Generally, facilities have reached capacity and communities have unmet needs. It was noted that the senior center in Marlborough has a social adult day health program.
- 4) It was noted that Newton has one such option, which primarily serves the local Russian population. Balancing cost vs. need in these types of operations remains to be resolved.
- 5) Various programming types which have not yet been proposed for NewCAL were discussed. The consensus was that although many programs have been identified there may be services which have not yet been considered. Services may translate to administrative spaces and staffing, rather than programmed spaces. This service capability is a goal of the process, but not the primary scope. A partnership with a private organization, with subsidy, could be a model to provide for some project needs.
- 6) A meeting with City Council Public Facilities is scheduled next week, on April 17, 2019, in City Hall Room 204 to consider the continuation NewCAL funding for the next phases.
- 7) SBA presented a draft of the slide show for the April 25, 2019 community meeting. The slide show is essentially an overview of program/design work performed to date. The presentation would include all sites under consideration as well as a list of all NewCAL outreach meetings and BDAT and petitioner meetings.
- 8) The fitness equipment room was discussed with regard to the need for additional staff, noting that some centers require additional user fees for such facilities. The conclusion was to assume a size for the space and further in the process it would be determined how the space is fit out.
- 9) The City of Newton Public Buildings Department recently met with the Director and Assistant Director of the YMCA in Newton. The fitness and pool components at NewCAL could potential competition. There needs to be a balance to provide ammenities to older residents in Newton, which may not be attainable otherwise. The YMCA provided

information re: current programs offered which will be distributed to the project team. A similar conversation with the JCC should be scheduled. Partnering with the YMCA and/or the JCC may be considered.

- 10) With regard to use of fitness equipment, the City noted that supervision is required if there is any mechanical fitness equipment (treadmills, stationary bike, etc). Free weights would not require supervision.
- 11) There was conversation about a management study. There is a significant difference between building management and organizational management. There are many aspects to building management which will need to be sorted and resolved prior to the opening of a new facility. City staff will provide a recommendation to the WG/EBC and prepare a draft Operations and Maintenance (O&M) manual.
- 12) Going forward WG/WBC meetings will be on Tuesday mornings, from 9:30-11:30 in Room 204 in City Hall.
- 13) BDAT provided an update with regard to adult day health. It was noted that the new building will be designed to last 75 years, as a facility for all Newton residents to enjoy. Senior programming will eventually be a benefit to all generations.
- 14) Rental structure and management was discussed. The Hyde Community Center in Newton Highlands requires a full time programming coordinator. Similarly, a programming coordinator will be needed at NewCAL. A head custodian would serve as a building manager to address daily maintenance issues. There are currently 4.5 FTE custodians at the main Newton library.
- 15) Furniture was discussed. Many spaces are being designed for multipurpose use. Furniture will be selected which stacks and moves easily to allow for flexibility.
- 16) It was suggested that the administrative area on the 2nd floor be partitioned off and separated from the rest of the building. This would allow all other areas of the building to be re-purposed when not being used for senior programming.