

## Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 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>	---	Norm Meltz	<i>Community Member</i>	Y
Bob DeRubeis	<i>Parks &amp; Rec Dept.</i>	---	Rachel Sherman	<i>City IT</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>	Y
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 &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>	Y

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

Site feedback was discussed. NV5 explained the majority of comments received are with regard to the Newton Center Triangle, Senior Center and the Aquinas sites, with the top two being the Triangle and Senior Center. Many more comments were received in favor of the Senior Center, vs. the Triangle, for which feedback is proportionally flipped.

With regard to the temporary relocation of programs and services at the Senior Center, there are many commercial leasing opportunities available in the range of \$250K/year. Another option would be to utilize the City’s existing assets. There are many options to explore.

The plan for the upcoming Community meeting on 2/27 will be to have site boards arranged in the space in order from most to least favorable, from front to back. Based on feedback received, the two most interesting sites are the Newton Center Triangle and the Senior Center. The primary issues which will need to be addressed at these two sites are as follows:

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Senior Center          | Parking issues and temporary relocation during construction   |
| Newton Center Triangle | Approach re: improvements to parking, vehicular and pedestrian traffic and how phasing will work to not negatively impact businesses and residents during, or after, construction |

There was consensus that Aquinas and the Education Center should be removed from the list as Newton Public Schools determined these sites can no longer be considered for NewCAL. Also, the Armory the Police Station Headquarters received a very low volume of comments and the challenges on those sites are very real. There will be another round for public comment to review the challenges and opportunities at the two most interesting sites (Newton Center and Senior Center). Comments will continue to be posted online.

It was discussed that the Triangle site will take many years as a vision plan is developed for Newton Center. Any infrastructure changes in Newton Center would be outside of the NewCAL project costs. An analysis of pros and cons of the two top ranking sites will be helpful. Both sites will need to be evaluated, and compared, with regard to parking, traffic, site and pedestrian circulation, biking, and impact to area businesses and residents. The design team will do test fits on these two most viable sites.

The question was asked whether the Historic Commission would grant permission to build a new building at 345 Walnut Street.

The City needs to embark on targeted outreach 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. Site boards will be organized in the room according to viability and consideration.

The next Working Group meeting is on Tuesday, 03/03/20, at 9:30AM.