


Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, July 7, 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>	---			
Maureen Lemieux	<i>Chief Financial Officer</i>	---	Consultants		
Josh Morse	<i>Public Buildings Comm.</i>	√	Tom Murphy	<i>NV5</i>	---
Nancy Scammon	<i>P&R Department</i>	---	Melissa Gagnon	<i>NV5</i>	√
Alex Valcarce	<i>Public Buildings</i>	√	Joel Bargmann	<i>BH+A</i>	√
Jonathan Yeo	<i>Chief Operating Officer</i>	√	James Bruneau	<i>BH+A</i>	√

Josh Morse opened up the online Zoom meeting at 9:32AM. An update with regard to next steps over the next six weeks was provided. It was reported that 6/24 City Council meeting was very productive. Thoughtful feedback was provided as well lots of support for the Newtonville site. There were explicit comments and discussion points about whether to retain or demolish the

existing senior center, with a few comments going on record in favor of demolishing the building. In two days, on 07/09, the Executive Committee of the COA will vote to make a recommendation to the Working Group and the Mayor with regard to the preferred site. [Note: Subsequent to this meeting, the vote was changed to 7/16.] Following the COA vote, the WG will ultimately make a recommendation to the Mayor about the preferred site. The target date for the WG vote is 7/14. [Note: Due to the date change for the COA vote, the WG vote was shifted to 7/21.] As part of this vote to recommend a preferred site, it would be appropriate to outline the pros and cons of the two sites being considered as well as the pros and cons for retaining the existing facility vs. demolition/building new. One of the main strikes against an add/reno, with retaining the existing structure, is the limited ground floor plan for high volume and high visibility programming elements which may be more desirable on the ground floor.

In the event that the project proceeds in the direction of razing the existing building and building new, the Working Group shall start thinking about some of existing features which can be salvaged and incorporated in the new facility.

Prior to the next Working Group meeting, Josh shall prepare a draft letter of recommendation for site selection as well as a list of pros and cons for new construction vs. add/reno.

Next Steps

Following the acceptance of the preferred site, Newton Public Buildings (NPB) will need to file with the Newton Historic Commission (NHC), regardless of whether the existing building will be demolished. The project will be presented to the Design Review Committee (DRC) sometime in August. An updated presentation will need to be made in September to Public Facilities and Programs and Services Committees. A draft timeline of next steps is as follows:

- 07/09/20 COA to review options for preferred site
- 07/16/20 COA Executive Committee to vote on preferred site
- 07/21/20 Working Group to recommend preferred site to Mayor Fuller
- 08/26/20 Presentation to the DRC
- TBD File with Newton Historic Commission (if preferred site is Newtonville)
- TBD Updated presentation to Public Facilities and Programs and Services Committees

Additional Upcoming Meetings

All upcoming meetings will be online with remote participation via Zoom:

- 07/21/20 Working Group meeting 9:30AM