

## Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2020					
Date: Zoom Meeting (online)					
Time: 9:30 AM					
<b>Attendees:</b>					
Working Group		Present	City Staff		Present
Sandra Butzel	<i>Community Member</i>	---	Jonathan Yeo	<i>Chief Operating Officer</i>	---
Bea Goldsmith	<i>Community Member</i>	√	Seth Bai	<i>Veteran's Services</i>	---
Brooke Lipsitt	<i>Community Member</i>	√	Devra Bailin	<i>Planning</i>	---
Norm Meltz	<i>COA Member</i>	√	Amanda Berman	<i>Planning</i>	---
Jack Neville	<i>P&amp;R Commission</i>	---	Ellen Ishkanian	<i>Mayor's Office</i>	---
Richard Rasala	<i>Community Member</i>	√	Zachery LeMel	<i>Planning</i>	---
Sue Rasala	<i>COA Member</i>	√	Thomas Rooney	<i>Public Buildings</i>	---
John Rice	<i>Community Member</i>	√	Rachel Sherman	<i>City IT</i>	---
Susan Albright	<i>City Councilor</i>	√	Linda Walsh	<i>Public Health</i>	---
Nicole Banks	<i>P&amp;R Commissioner</i>	---	Deb Youngblood	<i>Health/Human Services</i>	---
Jayne Colino	<i>Senior Services Dir.</i>	√			
Jini Fairley	<i>ADA Coordinator</i>	√	<b>Consultants</b>		
Barney Heath	<i>Planning Director</i>	---	Tom Murphy	<i>NV5</i>	---
Maureen Lemieux	<i>Chief Financial Officer</i>	---	Melissa Gagnon	<i>NV5</i>	√
Josh Morse	<i>Public Buildings Comm.</i>	√	Joel Bargmann	<i>BH+A</i>	√
Nancy Scammon	<i>P&amp;R Department</i>	---	James Bruneau	<i>BH+A</i>	√
Alex Valcarce	<i>Public Buildings</i>	√	Dan Chen	<i>BH+A</i>	√

Alex Valcarce opened up the online Zoom meeting at 9:00AM.

**10/22/20      Newtonville Area Council (NAC) Meeting**

An update was provided with regard to the NAC meeting which transpired on 10/22/20. The only question asked was about the size and need of the gymnasium. It was explained that the gymnasium has been sized to provide flexibility and use for needed programming. Information with regard to how the gym size was determined should be presented at the next NAC meeting.

**11/18/20      Design Review Committee (DRC) Meeting**

A solid presentation is being prepared for the next meeting with the DRC on 11/18/20. The intent is to show progress with regard to ongoing studies for both an addition/renovation option as well as for new construction. In advance of the meeting, NV5 will send an email reminder to the DRC with presentation materials.

**Historic Archives and Features**

It was reported that the Jackson Homestead turned up empty with regard to the pursuit for visual historical images of the original library building at 345 Walnut Street. Several years ago, in honor of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Newton Senior Center at its current location, historical information was located in the archives at the Newton Library, of which some information is displayed at the Senior Center. Outreach will be made to the archival department at the Library as well as evaluation of the current display.

BH+A will pull together a list of items in the existing building that can be salvaged and reused in the new facility. The intent is for this list to become part of the contract documents. Included will be evaluation of existing interior and exterior light fixtures to determine merit of salvaging.

**Design and Cost**

Based on existing condition studies, BH+A has sufficient information to determine relative cost between an addition/renovation and new construction schemes. At this juncture, it would be helpful to determine the premium associated with a renovation project in comparison with a full demolition of the existing building. The cost estimate at this stage will be conceptual.

Merits of the existing stair, along Walnut Street, will need to be addressed relative to barriers and accessibility.

**Next Steps**

Next steps with regard to design review include presentation of challenges, opportunities and compromises to the Design Review Committee, Newton Historic Commission and the Council on Aging. Following a COA vote on the recommendation, the project will be presented to Public

Facilities and Programs/Services committees, with the ultimate goal of a decision being made for the preferred scheme. Presuming a decision is reached in January 2021, and additional funds are authorized, development of the design will commence. The project team is on track to pull together Feasibility Study recommendations by the end of December 2020.

A suggestion was made for BH+A to create sections and interior 3D images to help present compromises and effects of retaining the existing building.

Jayne Colino is working on parking and attendance numbers which will be sent to BH+A to help with projections at the new facility.

It makes for the next Community Update meeting to be scheduled following the DRC, NHC and COA meetings. Although 12/03/20 seems reasonable, this date shall be confirmed.

The City shall confirm whether a submission to the MHC is required.

It was reported that per the recently presented CIP, funds could be available for NewCAL in Spring 2022. NewCAL is funded in FY2022 and for every subsequent year, through project completion.

The plan for the next Working Group meeting on 11/10/20 is to further review options of the two design approaches, including challenges and benefits.

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

- 11/10/20            NewCAL Working Group meeting
- 11/18/20            DRC meeting
- 11/19/20            NHC meeting
- 11/24/20            NewCAL Working Group meeting
- 11/24/20            Council on Aging meeting
- 12/03/20            NewCAL Community Update meeting (to be confirmed)

Melissa G shall coordinate with Alex and Jayne and distribute Zoom info for all meetings noted, as it becomes available.

NV5 shall send out notices to the WG of any additional upcoming meetings relative to this project.