


Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2020					
Date: Zoom Meeting (online)					
Time: 9:30 AM					
Attendees:					
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&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&R Commissioner</i>	---	Deb Youngblood	<i>Health/Human Services</i>	---
Jayne Colino	<i>Senior Services Dir.</i>	√			
Jini Fairley	<i>ADA Coordinator</i>	---	Consultants		
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&R Department</i>	√	James Bruneau	<i>BH+A</i>	√
Alex Valcarce	<i>Public Buildings</i>	√	Dan Chen	<i>BH+A</i>	---

Alex Valcarce (Newton Public Buildings) opened up the online Zoom meeting at 9:30AM.

The intent of this meeting is to discuss feedback received at the DRC meeting last Wednesday, 2/10/21, as well as plan for the upcoming Community meeting on Monday, 2/22/21. There was consensus that the Design Review Committee (DRC) meeting went very well with each member speaking independently in favor of a new building. Although some members expressed interest in saving the building, given

constraints of the site, new construction is preferred. In response to feedback re: desire for more open and green space, it was noted that every project struggles with striking a balance between community open space and program open space. Ultimately, a compromise will be need to be reached between the residents in the back and community open space. There will also need to be a balance between open space at grade and open space at the upper floor decks.

It was noted that under the City ordinance, there needs to be two (2) local neighborhood representatives on the DRC for the project being studied. All other members are permanent DRC members.

In the next phase of Schematic Design, building orientation as it relates to the site and exterior programming will be studied further. The team will need to be creative, to think about quality of the spaces rather than quantity.

Floor plans will be fine-tuned, relative to program adjacencies and the connection to the outdoors, both physically and visually. The orientation of spaces, relative to their program function will be studied. Compatibility of programming will be considered, particularly on the first and second floors, as it relates to the creating interest, and making a connection with, the outdoors. While some types of spaces may be appropriate to visually connect to the outdoors, other spaces may warrant window coverings for privacy.

Window treatments may be needed in the more south, east and west facing spaces, especially in the summer. BH+A will study sun shading features.

A plan for drop off and pick up will need to be studied. Perhaps off of Highland Avenue or Walnut Street. Seating will need to be incorporated.

A packet with project info for direct abutters shall be prepared.

It was noted that there is no need to impose further burden on an already constrained site to incorporate outdoor seating for the general community.

The design of a new building should consider how it adds to the ambience of Newtonville.

The new center will become a vehicle for the community to get together.

On the heels of a 12/10/21 DRC meeting Zoom bombing, additional safety features will be enabled for the upcoming Community update meeting on 2/22/21. Participants will be muted upon entry which should help to maintain meeting control.

Next Steps

Early this spring, the intent is for the Working Group to make a recommendation to the Mayor and for the Feasibility Study report to be finalized. Prior to this final step, the following meeting updates are planned:

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

- 02/22/21 Community Update meeting
- 02/23/21 Working Group meeting
- 02/23/21 Council on Aging special meeting (Advisory Board)
- 03/02/21 Working Group meeting
- 03/08/21 Commission on Disabilities
- 03/11/21 Council on Aging special meeting (Executive Committee)
- 03/16/21 Working Group meeting
- 03/17/21 City Council Public Facilities and Programs and Services

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.