


## Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2021					
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 (Newton Public Buildings) opened up the online Zoom meeting at 9:30AM.

The intent of this meeting is to discuss feedback received at the Community meeting last night, 2/22/21. There was consensus that the overwhelming majority of the participants, who spoke, are in favor of new construction, including nearby neighbors.

Per feedback received, the following design issues were raised to be studied further in Schematic Design:

- Drop off area, which will need to be worked out for site plan approval
- Importance of covered parking
  - Feasibility of covered garage space shall be studied for drop off
  - Reconstructing parking to accommodate drop off area could potentially shift the building closer to Walnut Street
- Open space vs. program space
- Onsite parking vs. outdoor area
- Community connection – including streetscape
- Upper level deck areas for exercise vs. ground level green space
- Building transparency as it relates to programming

It was noted that the majority of the Council on Aging members in attendance, who spoke, were in favor of new construction.

Upcoming meetings were discussed:

2/23/21 Council on Aging (COA)

At the Council on Aging (COA) meeting scheduled at 6:30PM today, the intent is for the Advisory Board to reach consensus. The final COA vote will ultimately be from the Executive Committee. BH+A will put finishing touches on a summary presentation with side by side visuals of the two approaches.

3/08/21 Commission on Disability (COD)

Jini F. shall follow up to confirm timing of the Commission on Disability (COD) meeting on Monday, 3/08/21. The format is for a 10 minute presentation, followed by 20 minutes of Q+A (30 minutes total). BH+A will tweak the presentation and provide to the City for distribution to the Commission the Friday prior, 3/05/21.

It is expected that interest will be focused on building accessibility. The presentation will address entry, parking, and movement through the building. In response to comments noted at recent public meetings these design items will be addressed: Critical locations for automatic door openers, one or two elevators, elevator speak/ voice activated technology and floor annunciators which can be helpful with way finding.

3/17/21 City Council Public Facilities and Programs and Services

Alex V. shall follow up to confirm the timing of the City Council Public Facilities and Programs and Services meeting on Wednesday, 3/17/21.

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

- 02/23/21 Council on Aging (straw vote)
- 03/02/21 Working Group meeting
- 03/08/21 Commission on Disability
- 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.