

Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021					
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 9:35AM.

The intent of this meeting is to discuss feedback received at the 2/23/21 Council on Aging (COA) meeting. The COA meeting went very well with a unanimous formal vote in favor of a new building.

The Working Group discussed some comments made at the 2/23/21 Council on Aging meeting:

- Benefits of new construction are one way parking and entering on one level, without needing to navigate the change in level.
- A covered entrance and designated drop off/pick up area shall be studied.
- Elevators should be sized appropriately for a wheel chair to turn around and more than one elevator would be good in the event one is not operational.
- During construction, the senior center will have a hard base either in available City owned space or in leased/rented property. The City will work with Senior Services to work out the logistics.

Upcoming Meetings and Next Steps

3/08/21 Commission on Disability (COD)

The COD requested a presentation at the upcoming NewCAL meeting. Time will be allotted following the presentation for Q+A and a straw vote. The City will provide an opening statement noting in addition to being fully compliant with ADA and MAAB, the new design will fully incorporate Universal Design principles.

In subsequent design phases, consultants will be engaged to study acoustical performance of various spaces. Audio assistance and acoustical design will be studied. The team will evaluate options re: a voice activated elevator to determine which features fit in the budget and which provide the greatest value.

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

The time for the NewCAL presentation was confirmed for 7:00PM on Wednesday, 3/17/21.

The City is preparing a DRAFT letter to the Mayor for the Working Group to review at the next meeting on 3/16/21. The letter will be completed following the 3/17/21 City Council meeting. At the onset of this project, the NewCAL Working Group was charged with gathering feedback from the Community to formulate reasoning and rationale for the recommended approach.

A tangible list will continue to be compiled of historically significant elements, exterior and interior, which can be salvaged and incorporated into the new building, to commemorate the existing building. There are meaningful items which can, and should be, reused in a new building.

It was suggested that a lounge area near the front lobby could emulate the feel to the reading room in the existing building.

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

- 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
- 03/18/21 Working Group meeting

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.