


Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, March 16, 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>	√	Ilana Seidman	<i>Senior Services</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>	√

Josh Morse (Newton Public Buildings) opened up the online Zoom meeting at 9:32AM.

The intent of this meeting is to discuss feedback received at the 3/08/21 Commission on Disability (COD) meeting as well as to further review the draft letter of recommendation to the Mayor. Although there was no official vote at the COD meeting, there was in fact unanimous verbal support for new construction.

Comments received from the Working Group have been incorporated into the draft recommendation letter. A few additional minor comments were noted. The Working Group plans to meet on Thursday, 3/18, after the City Council meeting on 3/17, to finalize the letter. When complete, the recommendation letter will be submitted to the Executive Office for consideration and ultimately to the City Council.

It was noted that the City Council Public Facilities and Programs and Services Committees are not being asked to vote on the preferred design approach of add/reno or new construction.

It was noted that although there appears to be overwhelming support for new construction, it is important to recognize there are community members who would prefer the existing building be preserved.

In addition to new construction advantages stated in the letter, benefits of program layout were discussed. The new construction option distributes program more evenly throughout the building, with more destination spaces on the third floor. Also, the first floor lobby and juice bar are more generously sized.

In either design approach, deck space is not counted in the overall building square footage.

A suggestion was made that solar panels could be incorporated, above the roof decks. Benefits of roof panels would include an increase in solar energy and a decrease in hot and cold extremes for participants.

Pending a decision being reached on the preferred approach, the City will reach out to direct neighbors with a project information packet.

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

- 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.