


Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 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>	√

Josh Morse (Newton Public Buildings) opened up the online Zoom meeting at 9:35AM.

The intent of this meeting was to discuss feedback received at the 3/18/21 City Council Public Facilities and Programs and Services meeting and to finalize the letter of recommendation to the Mayor.

Josh reviewed the 4th draft of the letter with the members, incorporating the most recent comments. In response to a comment noting paragraph 2 did not reflect the most recent edited version, that paragraph was updated accordingly and minor other changes were suggested. Group members commented that the letter should be clear on the design priorities while leaving final options open to enable a fully involved evaluation process.

The Working Group (WG) discussed some comments made at the 3/17/21 City Council meeting:

- Select Council members noted the project should attempt to save the existing building.
- Some WG members noted that although select Council members would not be expected to change their minds with regard to saving the existing building, others seemed perhaps amenable to new construction, although saving the existing building was preferred by some.
- Members did not feel there was a large opposition by the Council to new construction.
- It was noted that one Council member stated it appeared the WG had already made up their mind with regard to new construction.

The WG discussed potential next steps in the process:

- Many WG members believe a fair amount of public communication had already been conducted relative to the design and decision making process so there may not be a large public surprise about the proposed design.
- Although preservationists may object to demolishing the existing building, needs of the new facility would outweigh the desire to save the existing structure. The WG discussed the demolition delay process and expressed the continued desire to work with the Historic Commission in developing an approach that would save components of the existing structure as much as feasible.
- WG members noted that per the 3/17/21 City Council meeting, the Council is aware of the preferred design approach and that the public is largely aware of the preferred approach. Hence it is a good time to definitively state the recommendation in the letter to the Mayor.
- NPB noted there is sufficient funding to continue the project to the Schematic Design approval. The full budget, or perhaps the full design budget, would need to be approved at the same time as local 5-58 approval of the proposed design, which is anticipated to happen in Fall 2021.
- The WG also discussed the timing of issuing the full architect’s report noting that the report should be issued at the point of funding request.

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

- 03/30/21 Working Group meeting

NV5 shall coordinate with the City of Newton in distributing Zoom info for all meetings noted.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21AM.