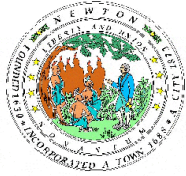


## Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, July 20, 2021					
Date: Zoom Meeting (online)					
Time: 9:30 AM					
<b>Attendees:</b>					
Working Group		Present	City Staff		Present
Susan Albright	<i>City Councilor</i>	---	Jonathan Yeo	<i>Chief Operating Officer</i>	---
Nicole Banks	<i>P&amp;R Commissioner</i>	---	Seth Bai	<i>Veteran's Services</i>	---
Sandra Butzel	<i>Community Member</i>	---	Devra Bailin	<i>Planning</i>	---
Jayne Colino	<i>Senior Services Dir.</i>	---	Amanda Berman	<i>Planning</i>	---
Jini Fairley	<i>ADA Coordinator</i>	√	Ellen Ishkanian	<i>Mayor's Office</i>	---
Bea Goldsmith	<i>Community Member</i>	√	Zachery LeMel	<i>Planning</i>	---
Barney Heath	<i>Planning Director</i>	---	Thomas Rooney	<i>Public Buildings</i>	---
Joan Belle Isle	<i>COA Chair</i>	√	Rachel Sherman	<i>City IT</i>	√
Maureen Lemieux	<i>Chief Financial Officer</i>	---	Linda Walsh	<i>Public Health</i>	---
Brooke Lipsitt	<i>Community Member</i>	---	Deb Youngblood	<i>Health/Human Services</i>	---
Norm Meltz	<i>COA Member</i>	√			
Josh Morse	<i>Public Buildings Comm.</i>	√	<b>Consultants</b>		
Jack Neville	<i>P&amp;R Commission</i>	---	Tom Murphy	<i>NV5</i>	---
Richard Rasala	<i>Community Member</i>	√	Melissa Gagnon	<i>NV5</i>	√
Sue Rasala	<i>COA Member</i>	√	Joel Bargmann	<i>BH+A</i>	√
John Rice	<i>Community Member</i>	√	Jennifer Bentley	<i>BH+A</i>	---
Nancy Scammon	<i>P&amp;R Department</i>	---	Dan Chen	<i>BH+A</i>	√
Alex Valcarce	<i>Public Buildings</i>	√	James Bruneau	<i>BH+A</i>	---

Josh Morse (Newton Public Buildings) opened up the online Zoom meeting at 9:33AM.

Joan Belle Isle was introduced as a new member of the NewCAL Working Group and as a soon to be newly appointed Chair to the Council on Aging.

Following approval by the City Council Public Facilities and Programs and Services Committees on July 14, the intent of this meeting was to discuss next steps in moving forward with the NewCAL Project.

Josh Morse provided a brief recap of the recent approvals process which included submitting the final Working Group recommendation letter to the Mayor as well as to the City Council Public Facilities and Programs and Services Committees along with the final version of the Feasibility Study Report. All documents are posted to the NewCAL project website. On July 14 the City Council Public Facilities and Programs and Services Committees voted unanimously, in a straw vote, to move forward with new construction on the site of the current Senior Center at 345 Walnut Street in Newtonville. Going forward, the Working Group will meet every other week, with the exception of holidays. Monthly Community meetings have been scheduled, with an upcoming meeting on August 19. A meeting flyer will be distributed and posted this week.

Site Plan Approval (SPA) is targeted for some time between Summer and Fall 2022. The building footprint will need to be established, relative to the overall site and abutters. High level parking and traffic plans as well as solar studies will be performed as part of this phase. Following Site Plan Approval, the design will be further developed and detailed during the Design Development phase. The project is on track to break ground in the summer of 2023 and open in summer 2025. These estimates are conservative meaning in the event construction begins sooner, the new facility will open sooner.

The role of the Design Review Committee will be critical during Site Plan Approval and Schematic Design. Regular meetings will be scheduled with the project team. In the event SPA can be achieved by July 2022, Design Development would begin that summer.

With regard to the Newton Historic Commission (NHC), the building design will continue to be studied in terms of what items and features can be salvaged as part of the effort to pay homage to the existing building. The project team will file with the Massachusetts Historic Commission (MHC), following the expiration of the 18-month demolition delay which will be in March 2022. The filing will explain how the existing building will be catalogued and commemorated.

#### August 19, 2021 Community Meeting approach

Points from the Working Group recommendation letter can be highlighted as focus areas relative to site planning. Additional points to note will be the temporary relocation of programs and services during construction, milestone schedule, funding status, future meeting format (remote/in-person/hybrid).

In person meetings may be considered to be scheduled as follow up to Community meetings, such as Friday Coffee with the Commissioner.

If in person Community meetings are to be scheduled, a large venue will need to be considered, to address capacity.

It was noted the project should be studied relative to how the building should look, and function, 50 years from now. It is important that the design is able to evolve.

The context of Walnut Street as well as the greater Newtonville village should to be studied.

The new building should be recognizable as a municipal building, not a retail building.

It was noted that a second floor deck would be usable as functional outdoor programming space, as well as covered space below.

With regard to the August 19 meeting flyer, the site plan shall be relabeled as “Early Concept Site Plan.” It is premature at this stage to include a 3-D rendering on the flyer.

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

The Working Group will resume meeting every other week:

- 08/03/21                      Working Group Meeting – 9:30AM
- 08/17/21                      Working Group Meeting – 9:30AM
- 08/19/21                      Community Meeting – 6:30PM
- 08/31/21                      Working Group Meeting – 9:30AM
- 09/08/21                      Design Review Committee Meeting – 6:00PM

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45AM.