

## Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, August 31, 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 9:30AM.

The intent of this meeting is to continue the discussion of siting the new building as well as refining interior floor plans with a focus on the first floor layout.

It was noted that what makes a building feel like home isn't just the architecture, it is about making the edge particular to the site. By pulling back the building at the two corners is a gesture to create a language for the building edge to adapt to the site.

The landscape architect documented existing landscaping elements and memorial plaques as part of an effort to prepare a comprehensive inventory of various elements to study, in terms of which items can be salvaged and reused. Wrought iron fencing will be studied to determine the feasibility of salvaging sections to semi enclose the new terrace/café. Existing granite pilasters and curbing will also be studied. The existing water feature was noted. Of particular interest are the large trees sited on the corners of Highland Ave/Walnut Street and Walnut Street/Walnut Place. It was reiterated that the caliper of trees removed will be matched when developing the new site plan.

An angled exterior wall at the activity room could open up the terrace area and would connect the building to Newtonville from a sightline standpoint. In addition, by angling the building and pulling back, will allow for the preservation of mature trees along Walnut Street.

Some highlights noted:

- Drop off areas were shown at three possible locations: Highland, Walnut at the parking lot entrance. The concept of taking two parking spaces on Highland, and two parking spaces on Walnut seemed unnecessary. The plan will be to select a preferred location for the street drop off. It was also noted that the seating and glass walls would be good to have at the lounge and lobby area as areas to wait for a ride. In bad weather, drop off and pick up can be via the rear covered parking.
- There will be automatic door openers at the entry vestibule.
- Concern about vestibule and cold weather. Suggestion was made to have doors on non-parallel walls which would also allow for benches in the vestibule and lobby.
- Any one of the four private toilet rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor could serve as a companion restroom.
- Whether or not there is a need for shower rooms will be considered.
- A central storage room near the art rooms would be beneficial.
- Lounge transition at the first floor seems very wide.
- BH+A will explore the angle of the lounge to align with activity room as well as Walnut Street.
- The juice bar should be located at the north end of the lounge which would allow the lounge to have a more regular shape with two seating areas.
- All toilet rooms should be individual, rather than shared.
- The possibility to incorporate a maker space into the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor activity room will be studied. A maker space on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor could potentially fill in the corner at Highland and Walnut, creating a covered entrance.

- Social work and health rooms should be flipped as social work is most likely to engage in a family conference.
- Suggested locations for public computers are in the library, activity room, corridor and game room.
- The benefits of a fixed or portable stage in the multipurpose/dining hall was discussed. Either stage type will need to have a ramp for accessibility.
- Additional gym storage shall be studied. Perhaps at one of spaces currently shown as a shower area or at the north stair. It was noted it could be problematic for storage to be accessible only from one side of the gym, in the event the gym is divided.
- Durable medical storage would be better suited with direct access to the outside, rather than on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.
- Merits of having the shop/store were discussed. A dedicated space vs. shelves in the library will continue to be discussed. Whereas it is important for first floor spaces to be very efficient, having a space within a space makes sense for both efficiency and future planning.

### Community Meeting - September 23

The next community meeting on September 23 will be in a webinar format as the City is looking to standardize public meetings for various projects. That said, the City may opt to make all participants panelists once the meeting gets opened up which will allow everyone to participate and see each other, while still preventing Zoom bombing, as pre-registration is required.

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

- 09/08/21                      Design Review Committee Meeting – 6:00PM
- 09/14/21                      Working Group Meeting – 9:30AM
- 09/23/21                      Community Update Meeting – 6:30PM
- 09/28/21                      Working Group Meeting – 9:30AM

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50AM.