

## Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021					
Date: Zoom Meeting (online)					
Time: 9:30 AM					
<b>Attendees:</b>					
Working Group		Present	City Staff		Present
Susan Albright	<i>City Councilor</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jonathan Yeo	<i>Chief Operating Officer</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nicole Banks	<i>P&amp;R Commissioner</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Seth Bai	<i>Veteran's Services</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sandra Butzel	<i>Community Member</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Devra Bailin	<i>Planning</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jayne Colino	<i>Senior Services Dir.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amanda Berman	<i>Planning</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jini Fairley	<i>ADA Coordinator</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ellen Ishkanian	<i>Mayor's Office</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bea Goldsmith	<i>Community Member</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Zachery LeMel	<i>Planning</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barney Heath	<i>Planning Director</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thomas Rooney	<i>Public Buildings</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joan Belle Isle	<i>COA Chair</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rachel Sherman	<i>City IT</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maureen Lemieux	<i>Chief Financial Officer</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Linda Walsh	<i>Public Health</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brooke Lipsitt	<i>Community Member</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deb Youngblood	<i>Health/Human Services</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Norm Meltz	<i>COA Member</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Josh Morse	<i>Public Buildings Comm.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consultants		
Jack Neville	<i>P&amp;R Commission</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tom Murphy	<i>NV5</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Richard Rasala	<i>Community Member</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Melissa Gagnon	<i>NV5</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sue Rasala	<i>COA Member</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joel Bargmann	<i>BH+A</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
John Rice	<i>Community Member</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer Bentley	<i>BH+A</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nancy Scammon	<i>P&amp;R Department</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dan Chen	<i>BH+A</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alex Valcarce	<i>Public Buildings</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Glen Daly	<i>BH+A</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Josh Morse (Newton Public Buildings) opened up the online Zoom meeting at 9:30AM.

The intent of this meeting is to review program to confirm square footage makes sense and is being allocated as intended. The approved Feasibility Study program was reviewed in comparison with the

current program. It was noted that administrative program areas were reviewed with Jayne and her staff and that the gymnasium size was reduced for budgetary and site reasons.

BH+A presented a document with the approved Feasibility Study program reconciled with the current program.

The following highlights were noted with regard to interior programming and layout:

- Art rooms 1 and 2 have a movable partition which affords the flexibility to create a larger space.
- Large classroom (500SF) and activity room (400SF) could be dividable to be combined.
- City of Newton will engage with Springwell re: kitchen needs/ meal prep.
- Admin spaces increased by 440SF.
- Shower/dressing rooms have been removed from the program.
- Rooftop mechanical equipment shall be concealed.
- Overall building efficiency has improved by 11% from 28% to 17% with the grossing factor improving from 7000SF to 3390SF. As the design becomes more refined the grossing factor becomes reduced which makes the design more efficient.
- Sufficient storage is needed to help avoid frequent set up/take down between programming activities. Storage areas will increase as the design develops.
- Beneath the walking track will be studied as a potential storage area in the gym. Particularly with a divider, it would be helpful to have storage on both sides of the gym.
- Rooms need to be flexible and have adequate storage. Some spaces may need more storage space while other spaces will require less storage.
- The current senior center has a full time custodian. Need to strike an appropriate which allows users the ability to set up/take down furniture.
- Building will be used as a community resource.
- In art rooms, sinks are critical as well as appropriate storage/shelving space for clay, sketching, etc. It was suggested that art storage could be off the common area, accessible from either side.
- Art room capacity was noted as 15/room with 30 in both rooms combined. Users in wheelchairs will need to be considered.
- With regard to potential expansion, there is space to expand the second floor towards Highland Ave, cantilevering over the main entry as well as expanding 500SF on the third floor.
- With regard to audible issues, there is a benefit to have some spaces without movable walls.
- Computer work stations could be located in the Library and Lounge.

- The Library may not need to have a door.
- Reception area shall be more visible from entry points by moving forward into lobby area.
- Admin desk could pull towards Library for more visibility.
- Shine room could be reduced in size to 150SF, to accommodate a maximum of three people.
- A copier will be needed on each floor.
- Location of Parks & Rec office shall be determined given proximity to first floor programming or upper floor programming.
- Windows could be added between gymnasium and game room.
- The roof deck is not counted in the NSF or the GSF.

The following highlights were noted with regard to exterior:

- Building angles and trees help to soften massing.
- There shall be a small amount of outside storage on the deck.
- A senior center volunteer is working to compile an historical document re: significance of particular trees.
- Marc Welsh (City arborist) would be the contact for tree related questions.

The following comments were noted specifically with regard to accessibility:

- Counter work space will need to accommodate wheelchair accessibility.
- Interior bathroom doors shall have automatic door openers.
- Sinks shall be adjustable.

It was recently discovered that the existing building cornerstone includes a time capsule. The capsule will need to be carefully removed with contents documented. This process will need to be figured out with regard to whether items should be displayed in the new building and whether a new capsule is needed.

It was noted that the webinar link for the 9/23 community meeting is not active on the flyer on the project website. NV5 will address this issue.

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

- 09/23/21                      Community Update Meeting – 6:30PM
- 09/28/21                      Working Group Meeting – 9:30AM
- 10/06/21                      City Council Public Facilities and Programs/Services Update – 7:00PM
- 10/12/21                      Working Group Meeting – 9:30AM
- 10/13/21                      Design Review Committee Meeting – 6:00PM
- 10/21/21                      Community Update Meeting – 6:30PM

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45AM.