

Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022					
Date: Zoom Meeting (online)					
Time: 9:30 AM					
Attendees:					
Working Group		Present	City Staff		Present
Susan Albright	<i>City Councilor</i>	<input checked="" 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"/>	Nicole Banks	<i>P&R Commissioner</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jini Fairley	<i>ADA Coordinator</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amanda Berman	<i>Planning</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bea Goldsmith	<i>Community Member</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Barney Heath	<i>Planning Director</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joan Belle-Isle	<i>COA Chair</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ellen Ishkanian	<i>Mayor's Office</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maureen Lemieux	<i>Chief Financial Officer</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Zachery LeMel	<i>Planning</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brooke Lipsitt	<i>Community Member</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jack Neville	<i>P&R Commission</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Norm Meltz	<i>COA Member</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rachel Sherman	<i>City IT</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Josh Morse	<i>Public Buildings Comm.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Linda Walsh	<i>Public Health</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Richard Rasala	<i>Community Member</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consultants		
Sue Rasala	<i>COA Member</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tom Murphy	NV5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nancy Scammon	<i>P&R Department</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Melissa Gagnon	NV5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alex Valcarce	<i>Public Buildings</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Frank Kennedy	NV5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jonathan Yeo	<i>Chief Operating Officer</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joel Bargmann	BH+A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Dan Chen	BH+A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Ruofeng You	BH+A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Camile Wimpe	BH+A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Josh Morse opened the online Zoom meeting at 9:30AM.

The intent of the meeting today is to continue to review and prepare the presentation for the February 17th Community Update meeting.

It was noted that the overwhelming majority of the Commission on Disability (COD) supports new construction. COD members voted last night in favor of submitting a letter to the Newton Historic Commission (NHC) in support of new construction.

A DRC meeting scheduled tomorrow evening, 2/16, at 7:30PM. NewCAL will not be presented at this meeting however Public Buildings will provide a brief verbal update regarding recent progress and developments. The DRC agreed to vote to submit a letter to the NHC regarding the landmarking issue which is in line with the Committee vote which unanimously approved new construction.

Josh noted 360 folks have registered for the NewCAL Community Update meeting this Thursday evening. Speakers will be asked to be concise, with a time limit of two minutes/speaker to allow everyone who wants to speak the opportunity to do so.

The presentation was reviewed in preparation for the meeting.

Discussion Points are Noted as Follows:

- Josh prepared a document with the NewCAL Milestone Project History as a recap of the process and progress over the past four years. This document will be emailed today to everyone who registered for the 2/17 Community meeting as well as to the project listserv.
- It was noted that there seems to be misinformation on both sides in terms of the new building entry/access as well as the addition to the rear of the existing building in the add/reno scheme. It is important to make sure the primary entrance is accessible for all visitors.
- The term “gable” (vs. “pediment”) is a more familiar term and should be used during the presentation. Professional terminologies which require explanations should be avoided such as spandrel, fenestration, and corbelling.
- The roof plan should show the gable roof option.
- Roof design options need informal names, for reference and comparison. For the presentation, names will be “Gable” and “Pyramidal”.
- The comparison of the two options: Gable vs. Pyramidal - shall be shown as a side-by-side format.
- Slate would not be the roofing material of choice, given the cost.
- Important to note location of salvaged elements is still being explored.
- A stepped roof will help bring down scale of the building. The massing along Walnut Street will be reduced with the 3rd floor deck exposed. This stepped roof option will be studied further to be presented at a future meeting, depending on results of the roof option comparison on Thursday.

Meeting Presentation:

Introduction

Josh Morse will provide a brief introduction, followed by Jayne Colino who will talk about the goal of “age friendly” and Jini Fairly who will speak to the importance of MAAB, ADA and Universal Design.

BH+A Presentation

- Floor Plans (highlight updates made since the last meeting including adjustment to the main entrance and 2nd and 3rd floor overview). Approach to the entrance, parking and drop off should be noted.
- Perspectives - Street view from the corner of Highland and Walnut, Pedestrian view from north, Pedestrian view from south
- Elevations – all four
- Reference to historic elements and design homage (including railings, panels, stained-glass, and notable distinct features from the existing building)
- BH+A experience regarding senior centers and historic restoration.

Gable and Pyramidal options at the east elevation presented side-by-side; Feedback requested in response to which option is preferred for further study and refinement.

Public Comment

- Joan Belle Isle - Comments from the Council on Aging
- Comments from the Commission on Disability
- Comments from residents who have asked to speak
- Call on virtual hands as time allows

If there is time, comments and questions in the chat and Q&A will be reviewed however, if the meeting is running very late and participation is lessening, comments/questions will be responded to afterward to those who leave their contact information.

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

- 02/17/22 Community Update Meeting – 6:30PM
- 02/22/22 Working Group Meeting – 9:30AM
- 02/24/22 Newton Historic Commission Presentation – 7:00PM

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