

Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, March 1, 2022					
Date: Zoom Meeting (online)					
Time: 9:30 AM					
Attendees:					
Working Group		Present	City Staff		Present
Susan Albright	City Councilor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Seth Bai	Veteran's Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sandra Butzel	Community Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Devra Bailin	Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jayne Colino	Senior Services Dir.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nicole Banks	P&R Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jini Fairley	ADA Coordinator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amanda Berman	Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bea Goldsmith	Community Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Barney Heath	Planning Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joan Belle-Isle	COA Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ellen Ishkanian	Mayor's Office	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maureen Lemieux	Chief Financial Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Zachery LeMel	Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brooke Lipsitt	Community Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jack Neville	P&R Commission	<input type="checkbox"/>
Norm Meltz	COA Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rachel Sherman	City IT	<input type="checkbox"/>
Josh Morse	Public Buildings Comm.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Linda Walsh	Public Health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Richard Rasala	Community Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consultants		
Sue Rasala	COA Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tom Murphy	NV5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nancy Scammon	P&R Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Melissa Gagnon	NV5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alex Valcarce	Public Buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	Frank Kennedy	NV5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jonathan Yeo	Chief Operating Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joel Bargmann	BH+A	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Dan Chen	BH+A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Ruofeng You	BH+A	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Camile Wimpe	BH+A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Josh Morse opened the online Zoom meeting at 9:33AM.

The intent of this meeting is to review the draft presentation for the upcoming Community Update meeting on March 17. The City noted the main agenda item is to discuss energy conservation and sustainability.

NV5 shall prepare a flyer for the upcoming 3/17 meeting which will inform the community about the sustainability discussion.

It was noted that the BH+A presentation to the Newton Historic Commission (NHC) on 2/24 was on point and was very well done. The City prepared a draft mitigation plan outlining options to salvage/incorporate historic elements of the existing building in the new building. The City plans to distribute this draft plan to the NHC as well as to the greater Community in advance of the 3/24 landmark meeting.

The City noted if a landmark nomination does not pass at the 3/24 NHC meeting, the project will move forward as scheduled. A simple majority is required for the landmark nomination to pass, which equates to four of seven NHC members voting in favor of nomination. The time between nomination and designation can vary, which means if nomination were to pass, a designation vote could possibly happen as late as mid-summer, potentially delaying the project by several months.

No public comment will be permitted at the 3/24 NHC meeting. The City of Newton has engaged with Epsilon Associates, an historic preservation consultant, to prepare a landmark study report in preparation for the upcoming meeting. Epsilon has focused attention on the landmark process, assisting with identifying reasons why the existing building should not be eligible for landmark designation.

Next steps will be to move forward in working towards the 5-58 Site Plan Approval, however pending on the outcome of the landmark nomination, moving forward will be challenging.

It was noted in the event the existing building is landmarked, future building development will be severely challenged and limited.

Existing ADA and accessibility deficiencies and obstacles will be part of the 3/24 NHC presentation. It was noted that ADA requirements are the law, and they should be met if there is opportunity to do so.

The following points were noted regarding the existing building:

- The building is a true masonry building, with masonry structure; lowering the building would compromise the integrity of the structure and the building could fall apart.
- Lowering the building will require modifications which will result in a very different looking building in comparison with the existing.

The project team will continue to look at ways to maximize opportunities for public open space.

It was reiterated that one of the goals of NewCAL is to encourage Community access and use when the timing does not interfere with planned senior center programming and functions.