

# Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, May 24, 2022					
Date: Zoom Meeting (online)					
Time: 9:30 AM					
<b>Attendees:</b>					
Working Group		Present	City Staff		Present
Susan Albright	City Councilor	<input 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"/>	Tom Rooney	Public Buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sue Rasala	COA Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Consultants</b>		
John Rice	Community Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tom Murphy	NV5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nancy Scammon	P&R Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Melissa Gagnon	NV5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alex Valcarce	Public Buildings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Frank Kennedy	NV5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jonathan Yeo	Chief Operating Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joel Bargmann	NV5	<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 9:30AM.

The intent of this meeting is to continue to prepare for 5-58 Site Plan Approval. The agenda includes site plan review and landscape design updates as well 3-D interior images.

## Upcoming Meetings and Site Plan Approval

The goal of the upcoming June 15 DRC meeting is to seek approval for a letter to submit to the City Clerk's office, which will trigger the Site Plan Approval process. The next step will be to submit letters to the City Council Public Facilities and Programs and Services committees in June, as a precondition to the ultimate review and approval by the full City Council.

It was noted that due to the timing of acquiring results from test pit excavation, scheduled for tomorrow, the previously anticipated date of July 11 for a full Council meeting may need to shift to early August. Council committee meeting dates are TBD.

Newton Public Buildings and BH+A will provide a design update to the NHC this Thursday, May 26, with the intent of presenting the draft mitigation plan, providing an overview of updated renderings and gathering design feedback.

## Landscape Update

Dan Chen (BH+A) provided an update on the landscape design, including site furnishings as well as preliminary interior images at the first-floor entry area. The following highlights were noted:

- Benches presented have intermediate arms and the material being considered is a combination of wood and steel
- Significant horizontal support may be preferred as opposed to a curved arm rest. Curved support can be slippery if wet.
- Reference was made to comments which were made at the May 19 community meeting noting current street benches are not attractive. It was noted that the seats are too deep and even one arm would be helpful support for getting up and down.
- County Casual Teak was noted to have appeal.
- Consideration shall be made to the bench arrangement to encourage conversation. Straight benches may not be conducive to conversation. Built-in concrete benches at Austin Street work well for group conversation.
- An 8' bench may better accommodate (4) people, in comparison with a 6' bench. Bags and packages that people are carrying should be considered in terms of bench capacity. BH+A noted that 24" is typically allocated/person.
- Wheelchair accessibility shall be provided for in seating clusters.
- Tables and chairs should be increased along Walnut Street with (5) tables, each with (4) chairs.

## Interior Update

Dan Chen presented five (5) interior 3-D renderings simulating the entrance experience from vantage points of the main entry vestibule, double height space as well as from the rear entry and reception. The following highlights were noted:

### Vestibule and Lobby

- Concern was expressed regarding potential drafts into the lounge, which is directly opposite the vestibule entry doors. BH+A noted the vestibule is large and should prevent drafts plus, there will be wall heaters.
- There should be seating provided in the entry vestibule and in the lobby as touch down spaces upon first arrival. Benches around stairs at the first-floor level, as well as at landings, may also be an option to consider. It was noted that folks with low vision tend to follow paths along walls and may find benches in the paths of travel to be obstacles.
- Intent is for vestibule entry doors to be activated by a push button, rather than motion activated sensors.
- A display area for brochures shall be incorporated.

### Lounge

- A set of double French doors at the lounge would allow the lounge to be isolated in the event of inclement weather as well as for other purposes.
- The lounge area shall have clustered seating. A suggestion was made to narrow the opening from the entry lobby which may help to reduce the scale and create a warmer environment.
- The lounge area may want to be more open, rather than closed, after hours.

### Juice Bar Functionality

- The intent of the juice bar is to provide grab and go nourishments.
- There was consensus that one (1) undercounter refrigerator is required, as well as a small sink area to enable coffee and tea to be provided. Staffing of the juice bar will need to be figured out. The opportunity may be appealing to senior center volunteers.
- The juice bar may be able to shift to beneath the main open stair.
- Cleanup will be a custodial responsibility.

### Parking Lot Entry

- A bench and/or few chairs may want to be incorporated near the rear entrance area.

### Reception Area

- The reception counter is ADA height and will need to extend out to accommodate a wheelchair.

## Finishes

- Flooring will be a durable product in a neutral color.
- Environmentally friendly materials will be considered.

A suggestion was made that the next round of development and presentations shall include chair rails as well as some stock wall art.

## Stained Glass Window Panels

Potential locations for the stained-glass window panels were discussed. NPB has been corresponding with the Connick Foundation. Placement will be determined relative to whether the panels should be placed for primary visibility from outdoors or indoors and whether it is more significant to express history (with an explanation) or to maximize visibility. Options were discussed are as follows:

- In keeping with the current north and south locations, the panels could be installed at the exterior walls of the library and the multipurpose room, at a lower height than currently placed for greater visibility for the public to enjoy.
- Vestibule location, at either side of either the exterior or interior doors. The panels would be viewed from both sides, when entering and existing the building and an historical explanation could accompany the panels as part of the display.

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

- 06/07/22                      Working Group Meeting – 9:30AM
- 06/15/22                      Design Review Committee Meeting – 6:00PM
- 06/16/22                      Community Update Meeting – 6:30PM

Dates for City Council Programs and Service and Public Facilities are to be determined.

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