

Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, September 13, 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 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"/>
Josh Morse	Public Buildings Comm.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rachel Sherman	City IT	<input type="checkbox"/>
Richard Rasala	Community Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Linda Walsh	Public Health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sue Rasala	COA Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tom Rooney	Public Buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Rice	Community Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consultants		
Nancy Scammon	P&R Department	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tom Murphy	NV5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alex Valcarce	Public Buildings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Melissa Gagnon	NV5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jonathan Yeo	Chief Operating Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Frank Kennedy	NV5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Joel Bargmann	NV5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional Attendees			Dan Chen	BH+A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Norman Metz		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Camile Wimpe	BH+A	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Catherine Brownell	BH+A	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Wendy Zhuo	BH+A	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Kim Yehwan	BH+A	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

The purpose of this meeting was to review presentations for the upcoming DRC and Community meetings scheduled this week.

Dan Chen (BH+A) noted there have been some shifts to the interior wall alignments, in particular at the toilet room cores on all three floors, as required for wood frame construction.

BH+A Presentation. Highlights are noted as follows:

First Floor

- a. Main entry vestibule - has been modified to create a direct visual connection to the lobby and reception area.
- b. Reception and Administration – layout of these areas has been finetuned to reinforce the visual connection to the lobby as well as the two entry vestibules.
- c. Kitchen – layout changed slightly, and overall size increased by approximately 60SF.
- d. Activity Room Storage – the location is being studied, to allow for direct access from the lounge.
- e. Stage – is a work in progress, with configuration being studied.
- f. Stair (near kitchen) – it was noted that by reversing the stair run, allows for the stair to better connect the programs, with the door opening directly to the dining/multi-function area.
- g. Toilet Rooms – A more defined opening to the restroom area was created.
- h. Lounge – options shall be studied to refine proportions and define the lounge as an individual space. A conceptual furniture layout was discussed, which would include a combination of soft seating, such as oversized chairs, as well as stools and tables near the juice bar. [The question was asked if the divider/bookcase can be portable, as an element to visually separate the lounge from the restrooms.](#)

Second Floor

- i. The need for additional storage has been studied and implemented, specifically at the art room and the gymnasium.
- j. Art Room – storage and kiln rooms both increased in size, with the storage room at 100SF and the kiln room at 120SF. The increased size of the kiln room allows for shelving. It was noted that the kiln room should be considered similar to a ceramics workshop with the necessary shelving.
- k. Gymnasium Storage – in response to additional storage discussion at the last WG meeting, two (2) new storage rooms were added at the back corners of the gym as well as (1) large storage room and (1) small storage room on the east side.

- I. Gymnasium Divider Curtain – BH+A explained that the curtain will extend from inner rail to inner rail at the continuous walking track (as opposed to extending from wall to wall); this will help facilitate the connection between the gym and storage areas, behind the curtain. A concern about acoustics was noted. BH+A noted the intent of the curtain is to provide a physical separation rather than an acoustical separation.

Third Floor

- m. Storage at Walking Track – storage area should be made larger.
- n. There needs to be an IT closet on the 3rd floor.
- o. The lounge will be utilized as a casual seating area with lots of natural light and a direct connection to the deck.

West Elevation

- p. New roof lines were presented for the one-story volumes at new gym storage area extensions. In response to discussion at the last WG meeting, the roof slope of the two volumes is being designed as a hip roof, with a similar slope to the main building roof.

Questions and Comments

1. **General Storage.** In addition to gymnasium and art storage here was concern expressed and discussion about whether there is adequate space for tables and chairs from the dining and activity room.
 - a. Dimensions of storage closets shall allow for intended storage. BH+A shall verify tables and chairs will fit in storage areas provided.
 - b. Question was asked about accommodating large public meetings in the gymnasium, such as meetings with electoral candidates. It was noted that in the event public meeting set up is required, tables and chairs will be foldable and rollable and do not necessarily need to be stored in the spaces designated for gym storage. It was noted there are several other spaces in the City where large public meetings can take place.
 - c. Double doors shall swing outward at activity room storage.
2. **Privacy at the First Floor Toilet Rooms.** Although a more defined opening was created at the restroom block, concern was noted regarding privacy. A private zone shall be created to the toilet room cluster, creating a visual separation from the lounge. A question was asked if the divider/bookcase between the lounge and toilet room zone can be portable, as an element to provide visual separation. BH+A shall study options for this area.

3. **Movable Wall at Activity Rooms #1 and #2 (north side).** A suggestion was made about the possibility for a movable wall between these two rooms, in lieu of a permanent built wall. It was explained that a movable wall would have additional costs associated relative to the wall itself as well as structural requirements.
4. **Exterior Display.** Having the ability to display/fasten banners with artwork on the exterior of the building should be provided. Josh noted that hooks should be provided for in the design and during construction, rather than retrofitted afterward. Josh also noted that the City’s legal department is developing a policy regarding outside signage.

Stained Glass Windows. Alex noted since the last WG meeting, there have been two (2) meetings to review locations for the (2) stained glass panels. Given the small size of the panels, merits were discussed of placing the panels together, as a composition, with an informational display. If east facing, the panels would receive good light early in the day. Consideration can be given to evening backlighting.

A question was raised about consideration to protect the stained glass from impact. BH+A will need to study options for protection.

5. **Furnishings.** Sample furnishings will be provided for review and test fitting.

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

- 09/14/22 Design Review Committee Meeting – 6:00PM
- 09/15/22 Community Update Meeting – 6:30PM
- 09/27/22 Working Group Meeting – 9:30AM (cancelled due to Rosh Hashanah)
- 10/11/22 Working Group Meeting – 9:30AM
- 10/12/22 Design Review Committee Meeting – 6:00PM
- 10/20/22 Community Update Meeting – 6:30PM

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