


Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, December 6, 2022					
Date: Zoom Meeting (online)					
Time: 9:30 AM					
Attendees:					
Working Group		Present	City Staff		Present
Susan Albright	<i>City Councilor</i>	X	Seth Bai	<i>Veteran's Services</i>	---
Sandra Butzel	<i>Community Member</i>	---	Devra Bailin	<i>Planning</i>	---
Jayne Colino	<i>Senior Services Dir.</i>	X	Nicole Banks	<i>P&R Commissioner</i>	---
Jini Fairley	<i>ADA Coordinator</i>	---	Amanda Berman	<i>Planning</i>	---
Bea Goldsmith	<i>Community Member</i>	X	Barney Heath	<i>Planning Director</i>	---
Joan Belle-Isle	<i>COA Chair</i>	---	Ellen Ishkanian	<i>Mayor's Office</i>	---
Maureen Lemieux	<i>Chief Financial Officer</i>	---	Zachery LeMel	<i>Planning</i>	---
Brooke Lipsitt	<i>Community Member</i>	X	Jack Neville	<i>P&R Commission</i>	---
Josh Morse	<i>Public Buildings Comm.</i>	---	Rachel Sherman	<i>City IT</i>	---
Richard Rasala	<i>Community Member</i>	X	Linda Walsh	<i>Public Health</i>	---
Sue Rasala	<i>COA Member</i>	X	Tom Rooney	<i>Public Buildings</i>	---
John Rice	<i>Community Member</i>	X	Consultants (BH+A)		
Nancy Scammon	<i>P&R Department</i>	---	Joel Bargmann	BH+A	---
Alex Valcarce	<i>Public Buildings</i>	X	Dan Chen	BH+A	X
Jonathan Yeo	<i>Chief Operating Officer</i>	---	Camile Wimpe	BH+A	---
			Catherine Brownell	BH+A	---
Consultants (NV5)			Wendy Zhuo	BH+A	---
Frank Kennedy	NV5	X	Kim Yehwan	BH+A	---
Tom Murphy	NV5	---	Mike Kelly	BH+A	X
Melissa Gagnon	NV5	X	Canston Fitzwater	BH+A	X
Maria Hernandez	NV5	---	Nancy Johnson	BH+A	X

Online Zoom meeting opened at 9:30AM.

The purpose of this meeting was for BH+A to share updates to the design in specific areas.

1. **First Floor Furnishings** – Dan Chen presented a first pass at a furniture layout and to help define the lobby and lounge areas.
 - a. Lobby - large comfortable chairs organized alongside the staircase sidewall was shown to define an immediate sit-down area upon entering the facility.
 - b. Lounge – Dan Chen presented an alternative design option, where the chair storage room orientation changed from north-south to east-west, keeping the doors in the original location. The juice bar was also relocated to be facing the east windows (Walnut Street). There was consensus to keep the original layout of the storage room and eliminate the double doors on the far-right side of the activity/dining room to create more usable space for the lounge area.
 1. Idea was suggested to use sliding barn doors instead of a pair of swing doors on the chair storage room to avoid interrupting corridor circulation.
 2. Amount of furniture seems meager. Architects will explore the option to increase number of seats (14-16 seems appropriate). Carpeting will further define spaces.
 3. Furniture arrangement does not seem to be conducive to conversation.
 4. Not all chairs should be large and stuffed. There should be a variety of seating styles to address different user needs.
 - c. Library – In response to feedback from the last meeting, to provide furniture for quiet reading as well as for public computer spaces, the following changes were incorporated:
 1. Bookcases located on the west wall and computers on the southern wall.
 2. All computer stations will be ADA compliant/adjustable to be used by different users. Number of stations TBD depending on furniture and computers available. It was noted that 27" is the minimum clearance from the floor to the underside of a table.
 3. At least two computer stations shall be provided. Possibly a kiosk should be placed at upper floors.
 4. An idea was proposed to use four (4) square tables instead of two (2) rectangular tables, to provide greater flexibility to the space.
2. **Communicating Staircase - 2nd to 3rd Floor.** Dan Chen presented an alternative design solution with a “U” shaped staircase, where the landing will be half in the corridor and the other half over the art room, with the stair continuing to the third floor. This solution will not create any interference in the art room due to the landing height being 7’ above the sink. A bench will be provided at the landing to create a resting spot.
 - a. It was suggested that a storage area could be created at the soffit area, below the stair, with built in casework.

- b. The kiln room should be named the “kiln/ceramics room.”
 - c. It was noted that the stairs always start and end at the elevator.
- 3. Storage Area for Deck Furniture.** A storage room was created on the third floor, potentially 45 SF.
- 4. Walking Track Width.** BH+A prepared a sketch to show a 3-lane track and how the AC system ducts will be configured.
 - a. Concerns were noted that the width of the lanes appeared too narrow. The Working Group agreed two wider lanes were preferred to create a more comfortable space for the users.
 - b. The ducts are 8’ high above the track; the engineering team is working on designing a quiet system.
- 5. Isolating Gym and Walking Track.** A question was asked about the possibility to isolate the gym and walking track from the rest of the building. It was noted that access to restrooms will be required for the gymnasium so creating a barrier to separate building access does not seem possible. It was also noted that the new facility will be open much longer hours than the current facility and there will be custodial coverage.
- 6. Exterior Façade and Entrance.** Dan Chen explained materials for the corner entrance are still being developed and refined.
- 7. Exterior Façade Highland Avenue Elevation.** Dan Chen presented a new brick pattern outlined with stone to create some interest and articulation on that façade. Per feedback, the design team will explore more design solutions, including alternative brick patterning. Some comments included:
 - a. Header bricks above the large squares should be omitted as they give impression of masonry infill being a window.
 - b. The white stone border emphasizes what would be a large window block.
- 8. Building Name.** A question was asked about the decision-making process to name the building. Josh Morse noted the name has not yet been selected; although Mayor Fuller would like 3-4 suggestions for review which will be ranked by the Council on Aging (COA). This topic will be added to the agenda for the next COA meeting.

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

- 12/14/22 Design Review Committee Meeting - 6:00 PM
- 12/15/22 Community Update Meeting - 6:30 PM
- 12/20/22 Working Group Meeting - 9:30 AM
- 01/10/22 Working Group Meeting - 9:30 AM

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