

Newton Center for Active Living (NewCAL) project

NewCAL Working Group Meeting					
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2023					
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>	---
Mignonne Murray	<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>	X	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>	X	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>		Consultants (BH+A)		
Nancy Scammon	<i>P&R Department</i>	X	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	---
Maria Hernandez	NV5	X	Nancy Johnson	BH+A	X

Online Zoom meeting opened at 9:30AM.

Frank Kennedy (NV5) introduced Maria Hernandez, who recently joined the NewCAL team at NV5, as an APM.

The purpose of this meeting was to review the location for the (2) stained-glass panels, as well as a revised design for the reception desk and additional options for the store.

- 1. Stained Glass Panels.** BH+A presented (9) nine potential locations for the stained-glass panels for review and discussion. Each panel is 30" wide x 36" high.



Option 1: behind the reception desk in a light box, the box will provide continuous lighting.

Option 2: located on both sides of the double door to the library; this option allows the stained-glass to receive light from both sides allowing users to see them from inside of the library or the main lobby.

- This option is not feasible as the library doors will be open most of the time and the pieces will not be visible, the pieces could also get damaged.

Option 3: placed on the double height wall, with the two panel facing one another from opposite sides. One located close to the stairs landing and the other one above the window of the vestibule. This option will need a light box as well.

- Placing the panels on the stairs has the potential to cause agglomerations/accidents.

Option 4: located into the windows of the art room and the conference room overlooking the double height space. This option benefits from the natural light from both spaces; the panels are located 20' above the 1st floor which would create a challenge for viewing.

Option 5: both panels located together above the window of the vestibule in a light box.

Option 6: one of the panels placed into the vestibule window and the second panel located at the conference room window. A comment was made about the vestibule not having adequate to appreciate the piece entirely.

Option 7: both panels located above the staircase landing, in individual light boxes.

- Placing the panels on the stairs has the potential to cause agglomerations/accidents.

Option 8: placed on (2) east windows next to the lobby sitting area hanging from the window niche.

- There was consensus among the Working Group this is the best option as it is the most public prominent location for the panels to be displayed and viewed, while taking advantage of the natural light. There is also opportunity to display explanations to the pieces at the adjacent wall.
- BH+A shall develop a design for the framing and mullion design.
- The panels will be in the same orientation as how they are at the current senior center (outside to outside and inside to inside).
- A stained glass expert will be involved to design/build the light boxes to ensure the pieces will be preserved and properly maintained.

Option 9: located outside the dining room in a light box; this location could also provide opportunity for a description of the panels.

2. **Front desk** – In response to feedback at the last WG meeting, BH+A presented an updated design for the reception desk, with the majority of the desk surface at 34” with just the center portion at a standing height of 42”. This would allow visitors to approach the lower sections of the desk from either entrance and make the visual connection with a greeter upon entering. section The 3-D perspective also showed an opening for wheelchair access on the left side.



3. Exterior Elevations

- In response to feedback at the last WG meeting, diagonal/diamond pattern was presented for the inset panels along the gymnasium elevations, emulating the medallion language.
 - Main entrance – a brick header was added at the corner entry to maintain continuity with the windows; some elements are still under review/design; pending building name.
 - It was suggested that the cladding above the canopy should be solid which would make the name of the building easier to read. BH+A shall further explore material options.
4. **Store** – BH+A presented a few options for the store location. BH+A shall review with Mignonne and develop a few options for what the store shall be and whether any of those options could accommodate programming needs, such as a holiday bazaar.
 - It was noted that the store will require management to control and oversee items which are brought into the center.
 - There was consensus that the store should not be visible immediately upon entering.
 - It was noted that in the former senior center, the store was a focal point as a social nexus.
 - The library shall be considered as a location for the store.

5. **Building Naming** – Joan noted that the Council on Aging (COA) reached out and surveyed members as well as citizen participants who regularly attend in Community meetings and have been actively involved in the design process, for building name suggestions. Of the (13) suggestions, the COA voted to narrow down the list to the top three (3) options which are as follows:

1. NewCAL
2. The Cooper Center for Active Living
3. The Newton Center for Active Living

Mayor Fuller will make the final decision. The sign design will depend on the selected name.

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

- 01/19/23 Community Update Meeting - 6:30 PM
- 01/31/23 Working Group Meeting – 9:30 AM

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