

Newton Council on Aging and Advisory Board Meeting Notes
Tuesday, March 26, 2019

Attendees: A. Cooper, S. Davidow, J-E. Heffron, A. Hoffman, J. Irish, J. Johnson, M. Knapp, N. Krasner, N. Meltz, M. Meyer, D. Murphy, J. Norstrand, J. Pelletier, E. Picard, J. Picard, L. Samelson, A. Sharma, L. Shaw, C A. Shea, T. Shoemaker, G. Szerlip, E. Watkins

Notified: D. Anger, E. Dugan, E. Lorant, J. Murray Schulz, D. Smith, E. Rosenbaum

Staff: J. Colino, N. Scammon M. Leipsitz

Guests: J. Belle Isle, S. Rasala, F. Lewis, D. Paulson,

- I. Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions, Minutes Approved
- II. NewCAL Update: Josh Morse, Building Commissioner
 - A. Materials Distributed/Noted:
 1. Handouts – attached
 2. Map of potential sites
 3. City NewCAL Website: continuous updates
 - B. Thank you to members of the EBC (Executive Building Committee).
 - C. April 17 - City Council, Public Facilities Committee, 7:00, room 204. Support always welcome.
 - D. Vision Statement heavily revised from original version; focus on seniors
 - a. Is there a cut-off for who is a senior? No cut-off
 - E. Building use/Management, etc.
 1. Parks/Rec will not move any senior programming. Priorities by J. Colino with N. Scammon.
 2. Building is community asset. Will provide rental income, but it is not a profit center.
 3. Management: City will do a “management study” re who will be lead agency or a mutual arrangement; Study will be done with the help of project teams and City Hall.
 4. Staffing will be determined at “the other end” of the project
 5. Will there be a place for seniors at all hours? How to assure that teens won’t take over spaces during the summer/other times?
 - a. Jayne will decide how to manage the space.
 - b. The Guiding Principles will be used to figure out how to move forward.
 - F. NewCAL First Look (see handouts)
 1. Programs/activities: lots of opportunity for expansion
 2. Hours: Open at least from 7:00 to 7:00 seven days a week.
 - a. Other new senior centers have -
 - i. seen an increase in use
 - ii. flexible space,
 - iii. commercial kitchen with prep kitchen
 - iv. cafeteria to accommodate 200 people
 3. Types of Spaces
 - a. Bubble diagrams show activities and clustering of spaces re relationships
 - b. Fitness Room – 1500 sq. ft.
 - c. Pool: decision will partly be made on site capacity.
 4. Location Options
 - a. Map shows city-owned parcels; Not locked into city-owned parcels

- b. Lincoln Eliot not an option
 - c. Initially 12-15 may be viable; then cut in half
 - d. Need to study current and historic restrictions
 - e. Need to respect needs of the neighborhood and the project
 - f. Site Assessment Committee; does not have COA representation. Must determine difference between COA involvement and senior involvement.
5. Financing
 - a. No override
 - b. 30-year bond
 - c. Operating costs; administration has stated funds will be available
 6. Community
 - a. Working with community agencies may offer additional programming opportunities.
 7. Time-Line
 - a. Five years to project completion (one year so far, plus four more)
 - b. Site-selection will be difficult and take a lot of time
 - c. Site Assessment through Working Group -> COA for comment -> Working Group
 8. Parking
 - a. Best guess – 75 spaces
 9. Culture
 - a. Globe article – seniors don't want to be seniors
 - b. "Frameworks Institute" change attitudes; <https://www.frameworksinstitute.org/>
 10. Thanks to Josh for his work
- III. Updates:
- A. Sandra Davidow appointed to COA/AB; Joining Transportation T-DAT
 - B. MBTA must be involved in bigger picture
- IV. Action Team Reports:
- A. Transportation, T-DAT:
 1. Via – first meeting with law department, 3/27. May be early launch. Current riders will get information, then information sessions for the community.
 2. MBTA – 2nd phase of route expansion, mid to late this year; how people pay for MBTA service, e.g. digital access pass; big changes for communities and seniors.
 - B. Communication, C-DAT:
 1. Need updates from all Teams. See handout
- V. Senior Center
- A. Ilana Seidmann, Program Coordinator is back.
 - B. Elizabeth Lund going back to Program Assistant/half-time
 - C. Thanks to Julie Irish for Irish Step Dance troupe at the Sr. Center. People brought friends.
- VI. Age-Friendly - Making a Difference: We are transforming but not quite there yet
- A. Everyone must think "age-friendly." How to push the agenda?
 - B. Examples of impact:
 1. #60 bus stop; MBTA not eliminating after pressure from seniors and others
 2. Northland "age-friendly" housing

Meeting Adjourned 9:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 23, 2019, 7:30, Newton Senior Center