

NO LOST PLANNING TIME, BUT A NEW SENIOR CENTER/POOL COMPLEX

Is it too late to create a Senior Center/Pool Complex? The answer is: NO!

EVERYONE wants a new Senior Center. But many are concerned that the time and planning spent to date will be for naught. That is not so. Here's why.

The **Senior Center** building planned for 345 Walnut Street should continue. All the planning continues. Let's just move the entire project - as is - to 100 Walnut Street.

MANY people want a new, full-sized, all-year pool. The question is: Where can it be built? So far, the City has no answer. But there is one.

The current **Gath Pool** site is seriously problematic for a full-sized, all-year pool. Let's just move it to 100 Walnut Street. And design a multi-generational pool attached to the Senior Center as befits Newton.

The Central School Administration build is by all accounts in great disrepair. Many think it should be entirely replaced. Let's move it to a new building (behind the existing cherished façade) at 345 Walnut Street.

HOW COULD/WOULD ALL THIS WORK?

NO LOST PLANNING TIME. KEEP MOVING FORWARD.

JUST CHANGE THE LOCATION.

A PROPOSED TIMELINE. EVERYONE WINS!

1. Locate interim space for the Central School Administration. (There are any number of appropriate rental sites.) Move staff and programs at 345 Walnut Street to interim site.
2. While the interim site is located and prepared, continue the design aspects for the new Senior Center. As planned.
3. Planning for the full-sized pool also can begin immediately following the decision to move it to 100 Walnut Street as part of the combined Senior/Pool Complex.
4. Planning for a new Central School Administration building at 345 Walnut Street also can begin. Including discussions about retaining the current façade.
5. Once the Central School Administration is relocated to its interim site, demolish the 100 Walnut Street site. Regardless of what is currently proposed (all new or maintaining façade) at 345 Walnut, there will be a period of demolition.
6. With planning completed, begin construction of the Senior/Pool complex at 100 Walnut Street.

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7. While construction is on-going, programming for Seniors will continue unimpeded at 345 Walnut Street. Seniors will not miss a day of programming.
8. With construction on-going, swimming at Gath pool will continue unimpeded at Albemarle.
9. When the Senior/Pool Complex construction is completed, Seniors can move in, and Pool programming can begin.
10. The current Gath pool can be removed as part of a comprehensive plan for sports at Albemarle.
11. Once the new Senior/Pool Complex is open, demolition and construction of the new Central School Administration building can begin immediately.

NOTE: All three of these projects are very important to all residents of Newton. Estimates are that each might well cost some \$25 million, for a total of \$75 million! That type of investment demands that we give full consideration to what is in the best interests of the Newton residents, now and in the future. It also demands that we give highest consideration to the most efficacious way to achieve these goals. One way or another, we will all pay for it.