

NewCAL Open Office Hours Discussion Topics

Comments

August 24, 2018

September 7, 2018

September 28, 2018

10:00-11:30 AM

Newton Senior Center

Questions about current Newton Senior Center Experiences

1. *If you were trying to convince someone to come the Newton Senior Center for the first time, what would you say?*
 - Quality activities, nice people, books
 - Variety of programs
 - Volunteer opportunities
 - Very welcoming
 - Great exercise classes and teachers
 - Eating lunch here save money
 - Good case management (answers to referral questions)
2. *If you visit the Newton senior center – why do you come and how often?*
 - a. *What are some of your positive experiences?*
 - Tai Chi
 - Programs
 - Affordability
 - Connect with others – Interact
 - Staff friendly and helpful
 - Help with computer, lpad and phone
 - b. *Where is there room for improvement?*
 - Larger Space Needed
 - Facility leaks, heating and cooling problems, mice
 - Promotion
 - Paper survey box in lobby
 - Classes for seniors at NNHS (off hours)
 - c. *What do you enjoy the most?*
 - Exercise, Reading
 - Activities
 - Bingo

d. *What would you like to see?*

- Educational sessions
- Comparable to Needham's Senior Center
- Outdoor space – Bocci court
- Lifelong learning opportunities (Lasalle College, Boston College)
- Guest Speakers – relevant topics
- More parking
- More entertainment and music
- Wood floor (easier on knees)
- Larger kitchen
- Self-formed groups such as: Cooking for one
- Keep senior center in Newtonville
- More support groups on various topics
- Access for Seniors to School gymnasiums
- Senior Center built next to a parking lot that the City owns
- A teaching kitchen – nutrition programs
- Computer lab – teaching use of I phone, I pad, etc.
- Building large enough for a senior wing and community wing
- Building open for longer hours

3. *If you have not visited the Newton Senior center – why not?*

- Working
- Caregiving
- People are all old or too old for me

4. *Do you visit senior or community centers in other towns?*

a. *What do you like about these centers?*

- Waltham – Space for exercise
- Needham - Location and parking space
- Belmont- modern
- Wellesley - it's pretty
- Plymouth

b. *What didn't you like?*

- Distance from home
- Wellesley could be more accessible (must avoid Rt. 9 traffic)
- Wellesley has outgrown space already

Questions about hopes for future Newton Center for Active Living

5. *What do you think will make the Newton Center for Active Living a success?*

- Some quiet rooms
- Discussion groups such as sports, stock market, current events
- Flexible space
- Dedicated senior programs space

6. *Are there spaces around town of spaces that you think are good examples to inform the design of the NewCAL? Indoors or outdoors?*

- Newton Free Library has a variety of meeting space sizes (but did not like the designated teen and children space that excluded other patrons)
- NNHS should be used more for senior/community programming

7. *Would you be interested in participating in NewCal activities in different locations within Newton?*

8. *How do you feel about an intergenerational center?*

- No, only for seniors
- 50+
- Senior Center only
- Seniors might not have as many services and space if multi-generational
- Would like programs that mix children and senior
- Space for seniors only – companionship and social connections

a. *What would keep young people away?*

b. *What would keep middle aged people away?*

c. *What would keep older people away?*

- Parking
- Transportation
- Not feeling like there is designated space for older residents

d. *What types of activities could be integrated and what should be separated?*

- Prefer facility focused on adults 50 years old and above – too tricky to accommodate wide spans of ages
- Maybe to have young visit once in a while, but building to be only for seniors
- Programs involving high schoolers
- Community wide programs held at NewCal; art displays, performing arts, art/music appreciation

Features seen in other centers or that are desired:

- Lots of parking
- Gathering area for informal activities
- Flexible space
- Acoustics
- Doors open to other communities?
- Involving academic community – Lifetime Learning Program – Newton Community Education
- Separate room for gift shop
- Storage
- Library – quiet space – inexpensive shelving – books to borrow
- Café area – other than dining room - near reading area (quiet space)
- Fireplace
- Wireless available
- Auditorium – movies
- Vestibules – lockers – cubbies in Art Room for art projects
- Open coat closets
- Long coat racks outside bathrooms
- Changing areas – showers – benches
- Boot racks
- Larger exercise space with equipment
- Walkway around building
- Social Adult Day Care Program
- Combining Center with housing
- Details: stair treads, chair molding, chair rail along hallways
- Podiatrist clinic
- More fee-based programming
- Retail store – Newton swag
- Travel agent – more trips
- Centrally located
- Single structure

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More space for exercise
classes - 2 rms. wooden floor

Dedicated lunch space - cafe
setting
Microwave for use) Self food service
refrigerator

Next to a parking lot City owns

Intergenerational -

Dedicated space for seniors

Seniors should have access to gyms
at schools

Dedicated gym space with equipment
for seniors

20,000 seniors

Need space for seniors only - companionship
social connections

A teaching kitchen

- nutrition

Computer lab - teaching iPhone,
I pads, etc

Building large enough for a

Senior wing

+ Community wing

Building open for longer hours