



## REIB City Council Committee

September 19, 2023 5:30 pm - 7:30pm

Sharon Bushor Room, 149 Church St, 1st Floor City Hall, Burlington VT

### Minutes

#### Attendance

Kim Carson	Phet Keomanyvanh	Mark Hughes
Ethan Fellows	Ali Dieng	Benjamin Traverse
Melo Grant	Christine Hughes	Winston
Karen Paul	Grey Barreda	

**Meeting Commenced:** 5:39 PM

#### **1. Approval of the Agenda**

- A motion to approve the agenda was made and unanimously approved by all councilors.

#### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes (July 18, 2023)**

- A motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 18, 2023, was made and unanimously approved by all councilors.

#### **3. Public Forum**

- Reverend Mark Hughes expressed support for REIB, highlighted upcoming events, and extended an invitation to all for the back-to-school block party. He also mentioned the work of the VTRJAlliance and the RKC, thanking the councilors and REIB.
- Christine thanked everyone who contributed to the revitalization campaign.
- Mark emphasized the need to work more closely with Neighborhood Planning Assemblies (NPAs), increase community understanding, and improve outreach for events like the back-to-school block party.
- Councilor Grant suggested that Mark could reach out to Ward 2 & 3 via email and attend their monthly dinner.
- Public forum closed at 5:58 PM.



#### **4. REIB Updates**

- **REIB Reorganization**

- All positions have been posted, and active engagement is ongoing for hiring two manager positions.
- A comprehensive grading matrix, in collaboration with HR, is being developed, emphasizing flexibility in education and work experience.
- Manager positions will be involved in hiring those below them.
- The goal is to have all positions filled by the end of the year, with applicants both in-state and out-of-state.
- Over 60 applicants are being considered, with discussions about potentially using headhunters for finding qualified candidates and the possibility of consultants.
- Ensuring candidates can effectively translate and demonstrate their experience is a priority.
- Interviews for manager positions are ongoing, with an emphasis on familiarization with local community members and retention.

- **Youth Public Safety Task Force**

- Recently renamed the Youth Public Safety Task Force.
- Community-based requests for data have been made, addressing community frustrations regarding the absence of a report.
- Emphasis on the importance of respecting the community and convening stakeholders.
- Data does not show a specific gun or youth violence problem but does indicate safety concerns related to youth both as victims and offenders.
- Caution against imposing a sense of urgency, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive approach to avoid unfair targeting of Black and Brown youth.
- Councilor Dieng expressed concerns regarding the data's lack of support for addressing gun violence, citing a significant increase in issues over the past year from the media.
- Kim noted the forthcoming report from VNAAC, emphasizing the importance of defining the scope and not over-prioritizing specific demographics.
- Melo pointed out the potential harm caused by sensationalized media narratives.
- Mark highlighted the need to address conflicting narratives about Burlington's safety.

- **Reparations Task Force**

- The committee has requested documents and information and is focusing on fulfilling these requests.
- Emphasized the need for a data-driven, harm reduction-focused approach, considering the broader context and potential external challenges.
- Interest in organizing another community forum to keep the public informed.



- Discussion of the importance of safe reduction sites and collaboration with relevant committees.
- Clarification on missing Reparations Task Force members, with efforts to coordinate with relevant organizations for appointments.
- Collaboration with the city's legal department to ensure organized data and momentum.

### **5. Community Forum**

- Councilor Dieng expressed concerns about alignment issues between the public administration, city council, and the mayor's office.
- Discussion of the need for a commission to examine issues with the previous REIB director, with varying opinions among committee members.
- Councilor Dieng sought notes from REIB regarding missing Reparations Task Force positions.
- Christine expressed the wish for Pablo, the chair of the Reparations Task Force, to be present in future meetings.

### **6. Scheduling Next Meeting**

- Topics for the next meeting will include the Reparations Task Force and an update on REIB positions.
- The next meeting is scheduled for 10/17/23.

### **7. Motion to Adjourn**

- The meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.