



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

ROOM 32 ▪ CITY HALL ▪ BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05401
(802) 865-7144 ▪ (802) 865-7142 (TTY) ▪ (802) 865-7024 (FAX)

www.cedoburlington.org

Minutes to the CD&NR Committee meeting 7/14/10, 6-8 pm, Room 12, City Hall.

Chair Berezniak convenes the meeting at 6:10 pm.

Present for the committee: David Berezniak, (DB) chair, Ed Adrian (EA) Emma Mulvaney-Stanak (EMS)

Staff: Larry Kupferman, Jenny Davis (CEDO/CCAN), Tom Buckley (BED), Peter Adamczyk (VEIC), Brian Pine (CEDO)

Others present: (from the NPA steering committee) Angela Chagnon, Lea Terhune, John Voss, Carole Lavigne, Linda Chagnon (from sign up sheet)

- 1) **Agenda:** EA moves, EMS seconds the approval of the Agenda as presented; so moved.
- 2) **Minutes from the 6/2/10 meeting:** EMS moves to approve, EA seconds, so moved.
- 3) **Public Forum:** Lea Terhune described the recent Ward 4/7 resolution seeking to direct proceeds from the dog license fees to be used to support Dog Parks.
- 4) **NPAs: how to improve the purpose and function of the NPAs as presented by the NPA steering committee:**

Jenny Davis, CEDO/CCAN staff member, reported that in the first year of attending NPA meetings as a staff person, she is impressed with the forums and quality of materials and meetings but thinks attendance could be improved. She would like to partner with City Council on how to advance the mission of NPAs and be used by more people.

EMS: would like to hear the ideas from the steering committee.

John Foss: the whole world is now working via the internet ...

Lea Terhune: City Council needs to support the role of NPAs to engage citizens in civic affairs.

Jenny Davis: requests that NPAs report to the CD&NR committee on a regular basis.

DB: Ward 2/3 issues are picked up by Councilors from those wards.

EA: some observations: the NPA representatives tonight are primarily from Wards 4/7, the demographic is "older" (than he) and the internet is the medium of choice for families and is more effective at broadcasting a message and engaging people in issues and city affairs. He suggests more accessible on line format.

Jenny Davis: the relevance of issues is at play and how to better connect with council more regularly.

DB: Channel 17 live vs. recorded is a good way to be more interactive and be able to get feedback from viewers.

EMS: face to face contact time is very important as a neighborly aspect; the NPAs provide a good place for leadership preparation and encourages people to participate at all levels. Is the monthly schedule too often? Perhaps 6-8 meetings per year.

(Another member of the group): 1-1 communications is still valuable and neighborhood communication is not nurtured by Council or the Mayor; both need to nurture neighborhoods and people then become much more invested in the city.

John Foss: the perspective of who is most comfortable speaking in public and with whom; NPA can be a facilitator rather than the partisan nature of city politics; also, council should look at the budget that supports channel 17 and the NPAs for the sake of getting the word out.

Mary Esther Treat: topics are important to people, and people respond to topics of the day; concerned about facebook for liability issues; minutes and agendas are now disseminated through front porch forum.

EMS: how are topics chosen? Perhaps setting a topic as a theme or target certain streets in each ward as a NPA topic.

Lea Terhune: requests an agenda item at monthly CD&NR meetings for an NPA update. David Berezniak agrees.

Additional notes provided by Lea Terhune and Jenny Davis attached.

5) Property Owners Win with Efficiency and Renewables (POWER) potential ballot item for November bonding request; timing, process and update

Peter Adamczyk, VEIC, described the current situation with PACE on the national level. A PACE/POWER assessment is designed to be secured ahead of a mortgage, as designed by statute. Mortgage holders and regulators, FHFA in particular, have determined that it cannot support the position ahead of mortgages in the lien position and has acted to freeze the PACE program, putting at risk existing PACE programs in other states, and compromising the effectiveness of ARRA funds designed to support additional PACE programs. The regulatory body of nationally chartered banks also has discouraged the use as well by not recognizing the primary lien position of the assessment.

Tom Buckley reports that in the meantime, the POWER development team has received a preliminary approval from the Vermont Community Loan Fund for a line of credit (\$1M) in anticipation of a city wide bond vote. We ask the committee to sponsor the resolution to have a city wide bond vote in the November election.

EA: refers to recent press coverage of the FHFA regulatory dispute and wants to be sure that people are told about these current conditions.

The committee agrees to hear if the dispute is resolved at its August 4th meeting and decide how to proceed. The timetable requires that Council act at its September 13th meeting to warn of a bond vote in November.

6) Discussion: Diocese property and current property owned by Burlington College

Brian Pine reports that the sales agreement between Burlington College and the Catholic Diocese is still in play and the potential of housing on site may still exist, but the College has immediate plans to move their offices and classroom into existing facilities on the property. The college will pay property taxes based on the sale price they finally agree to.

DB: is not opposed to Burlington College's purchase of the property but does wish to be kept informed of developments as they are known.

7) Discussion: transition opportunities for privately owned affordable housing facilities: Wharf Lane, McKenzie House, the Bobbin Mill, South Meadows

Brian Pine reported that the most urgent timing is the potential sale of Wharf Lane on Maple Street-currently 37 affordable units; the annual income of residents is about \$12K. There is a HUD ruling in place giving the non-profit housing development organizations some time. Other housing developments that were developed with retiring tax credit programs include Bobbin Mill on South Champlain St. (52 apartments) and in the next few years McKenzie House and South Meadow.

The next meeting is August 4th in the Police Department Conference room 6-8 pm.

Agenda to include:

NPA update (10 minutes)
POWER/PACE update

Future meeting schedule:

September 1: Police Dept Conference room

October 6: Contois Auditorium

Nov 3: Police Dept conference room

Dec. 1: Contois Auditorium

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Notes submitted by Larry Kupferman