



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT &
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE
c/o Community & Economic Development Office
City Hall, Room 32 • 149 Church Street • Burlington, VT 05401
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Councilor David Berezniak, Chair, Ward 2
Councilor Emma Mulvaney-Stanak, Ward 3
Councilor Ed Adrian, Ward 1

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Minutes to the meeting on 2/9/11

Committee members present: Councilors Berezniak (chair)(DB), Adrian (EA), Mulvaney-Stanak (EMS)

Staff present: Bruce Seifer, Ron Redmond, Kirsten Merriman-Shapiro, Jennifer Stauber (Parks and Recreation Department Parks Planner), Larry Kupferman

Members of the public: Elissa Nelson, Ward 5 NPA steering Committee

Chair Berezniak called the meeting to order at 6:38.

A digital voice recorder was in operation for this meeting and an audio file will be created and stored for the use of the committee and others and posted page at www.ci.burlington.vt.us/commissions on the Community Development and Neighborhood Revitalization page or in another accessible location.

1) Agenda:

EMS moves to amend the agenda to include the following items: 5.1 update on the Marketplace drop box proposal and 5.2 Downtown Transportation Grant application sponsorship.
EA seconds and so moved.

2) Draft minutes from 1/5/11 and 1/12/11: EA moves to approve both sets of minutes; EMS seconds and so moved.

3) Public Forum: no one from the public present to speak at Public Forum.

4) NPA Updates: Elissa Nelson, Ward 5 NPA steering committee person reported that after the Parks and Recreation Department presentations to all wards NPA, the steering committee is anticipating a report back from Mari Steinbach and the department as to the survey results sought at the meetings. The Ward 5 meeting questioned the Departments budget covering the maintenance of all city buildings and if that made sense to the department and its resources. Ms. Nelson also offered that there is an effort to make all NPA by-laws in line with each other to make them as similar as possible.

Ms. Nelson said that the NPA steering committee is interested in working with the Planning and Zoning Dept on the public engagement for the HUD Challenge Grant and to make that effort a topic for next year's Neighborhood Improvement Night.

Ms. Nelson also mentioned that the Planning Commission has reviewed a proposal for NPA consideration of major development review and the NPA steering Committee is preparing a response to the Planning Commissions initial proposal.

DB asked which of the NPAs had standardized by-laws and which have not?

LK described the combined Neighborhood night of Success and Legacy Annual meeting on 3/31/11 to which all city commissioners will be invited and honored for their service to the City. Invitations are underway for the event to be held at Memorial Auditorium.

5) “Arts Tax Free” zone along the Pine Street Corridor

Bruce Seifer, Assistant Director for Economic Development was present to address questions on this topic. While he is not a proponent on a tax free zone, he has worked closely over the years with SEABA to support the efforts of small businesses and the arts community in the south end of town. He has supported efforts to brand the area including helping make plans for directional signs as part of the Southern Connector/Champlain Parkway development.

DB refers to other interest in “district” designations particularly in the Old North End; he asks that Doreen Kraft update the committee on the “District” discussions she is having with various parts of town.

EMS refers to the original Council resolution regarding this discussion; it does not refer to “tax free zones”.

5.1) Charity Drop Box update:

Ron Redmond showed renditions of 3 designs for charity drop boxes planned for the Church St. Marketplace along with estimates. He is looking for private funds to pay for the installations designed by Metalworks and estimated to be \$1500-3,000 plus installation. Ron hopes the designs fit into the Marketplace as well as offer a playful and artistic approach.

5.2) Downtown Transportation Grant application:

Kirsten Merriman-Shapiro (KMS) and Jennifer Stauber requested the Committee sponsor a resolution to Council to approve an application to the VT Downtown Program for a transportation grant in support of continued efforts with the SAFTELU/Waterfront North transportation improvement plans.

DB: why isn't South Winooski Ave a focus of this grant application?

KMS: the funds will be used to support the efforts at waterfront north, in conjunction with the public outreach to address access issues to get people from Battery street to the waterfront and in conjunction with Sen. Leahy's office as part of a phased process for improvements at the waterfront. It is not that Winooski Ave could use some attention but that these state dollars will be used to leverage much larger federal dollars not yet available for Winooski Ave.

EMS: why is the Clean and Clear program part of this resolution?

KMS: we need to see if the City is eligible with regard to stormwater issues as part of any transportation improvement project. If so, we will apply for those funds as well.

EMS and DB wish to have traffic calming efforts in place on No/So Winooski especially in the downtown area.

EMS moves to sponsor the resolution as presented; EA seconds and so moved.

The meeting adjourned on a motion by EMS at 7:27 pm.

Notes submitted by Larry Kupferman

DRAFT