



Wards 2 and 3 NPA Meeting
Thursday, May 12, 2016
Draft

McClure Multi-Generational Center
241 North Winooski Avenue, Burlington

Meeting Start: 6:30pm

Welcome & Introductions

Facilitator: Ryan McLaren

Mayor Weinberger: Pine Street does need to go through the Burlington Free Press building in order for the Downtown renovation to happen. This is reflected in the building design, and is an improvement in flow from the current design. The zone that will be permitted to have higher heights encompasses only the development project, and would not apply to further proposals for development.

Citizen comments were put forward in support of the City Council's approval of the development project from the perspective of development and jobs, and against the approval from the perspective of a domino effect towards future higher height permits and adhering to Plan BTV.

Form Based Code Presentation

Plan BTV creates the vision that the Burlington community wants for the future of the city. The current zoning may allow that vision to be realized, but faces restrictions due to inertia, regulatory burdens, and barriers to development. One of the goals of Plan BTV is for walkable communities and inviting streets. Presently, there are several areas of the downtown that have limited walkability due to lackluster aesthetics and functionality. Mixed-use, incorporating recreation, retail, office space, etc. allows development to reflect the Plan BTV vision for the city. Form based code will allow future planning decisions to be judged based on how they help achieve the Plan BTV goals.

The form based code committee chose not to address the height of the mall project directly, as it would envelop an excess share of the committee's time and its relationship with the community. Initially, the form based code was going to include portions of the waterfront and high-density residential areas. These areas were taken out of the discussion, since they required a high amount of public input, and the core of the downtown area was focused on. Successful elements of walkability include more appealing and functional front-facing architecture with the street.

The form based code discussion has taken place over the past eighteen months and encompassed more than thirty meetings. The central question is: how do we ensure that the future of Burlington's downtown development aligns with the city's values and vision, in terms of sustainability, aesthetics, etc. The benefit of form based code is that it is predictable: the applicant knows what is expected of them, and the community knows what they can expect.

Willard Street Market Renovations

The Willard Street Market is zoned community commercial, which means a business that serves the community. It is being shifted from a traditional convenience store to a neighborhood market. It will have an unbranded aesthetic. Most notable changes will be the input of a catering kitchen and small deli, with a creemee window.

End of Session Report – House of Representatives

Impetus for the session was how to let hard-working families get ahead and have those opportunities. In the Health and Human Services committee, public health is a priority, especially protecting the most vulnerable and strengthening the Department for Children and Families. The State has invested in the system to hire more social workers and substance abuse screeners, as well as increased security. Another bill was an access to birth control; the current unintended pregnancy rate is 50%, and those constitute 74% of the Medicaid program. The bill knocks down financial barriers for traditional birth control and IUDs.

Opiate bill sought to control the number of illegal prescription medication, and curb the level of deaths related to prescription drug and opiate abuse. Access to naloxone allows for opiate deaths to be combatted by emergency services, which saves lives. Vermonters spent 19% more on prescription medication than the previous year, and curbing costs is a priority. Earned sick days and paid family leave is also a priority, including allowing three paid sick days to start, and the ability to earn up to five.

ABLE savings accounts allow anyone to make a contribution, accrues tax-free, and is not considered part of your assets. Those on SSI or SSDI are often working part-time, and upping the power of savings accounts enabled those to save more of their income

in a beneficial way. Newsline is a news service for those who are blind or hard of hearing, and includes national as well as state and local news services. The ban the box bill bars employers from asking about criminal background history in the initial application, with the exception of positions which are inaccessible to those with any kind of criminal history. The goal of this legislation is to allow those with a criminal history to get in the door, and have the opportunity to explain their history more fully in the application process.

NPA Stipend Disbursement

Motion on the floor to disburse \$400 to the McClure center, \$300 to the community dinner, and \$100 to the Archibald garden. Motions carried by acclimation.

Meeting Adjourn: 8:40pm

Steering Committee Members: From Ward 2, Tony Redington and Andrew Champagne. From Ward 3, Fauna Hurley, Infinite Culcleasure, Ryan McLaren, Barbara McGrew.

Note Taker: Matt Ketcham, CEDO Intern