Commissioners Present: Commissioner Archambeau, Commissioner Barr, Commissioner Bose, Commissioner Gillman, Commissioner Hogan (Chair), Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanvco (Vice Chair), Commissioner Overby (Secretary).

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Commission Chair Hogan.

ITEM 2 – AGENDA

Commissioner Archambeau requested that Item B be pulled from Consent Agenda.

ACTION: Commissioner Barr made a motion to accept the agenda with Item B placed on the Deliberative Agenda as 4.1. Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco seconded. Unanimous approval.

ITEM 3 – PUBLIC FORUM

- Wendy Bratt raised concerns about the proposed Higher Ground venue at Burton. She stated that the venue is adjacent to a residential area. There will be a high volume of traffic before and after events which will pose problems for people in the neighborhoods as well as pedestrians and bicyclists that use the area. The DRB accepted the traffic study with no stipulations. Is there a way for buses to provide transportation to and from the venue to cut down on traffic?
- Laurie Smith stated support for Ms. Bratt’s comments. He is supportive of the work that is currently happening on Queen City Park Road, but there needs to be better facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians before the Higher Ground venue is allowed to open.
- Tony Redington stated that he is gathering more information regarding the roundabout evaluation at North Avenue & Cambrian Way. He stated that it was taking too long to bring the Shelburne Street roundabout to construction and the Administration hasn’t done enough to advance the project. Additionally, he stated that he’s learning about transportation and racism and we need to look at how transportation affects low income and minority residents of the city.
- Sharon Bushor stated that she wants to talk more during the University Place agenda item. She also stated that traffic relief will happen when the Champlain Parkway is built. She also stated that busing can relieve traffic in the neighborhoods as it has for Vermont Lake Monster games.

4 – CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Overby asked how long the temporary pick up parking would last. Director Spencer stated that with Commission action tonight, the temporary pickup parking would
continue through April 2021. He mentioned that the COVID-19 Expanded Sidewalk permits are due to expire at the end of October, and that this winter we would see where we are with the pandemic before deciding on the seasonal encumbrance strategy for the 2021 season. Commissioner Overby wants to maximize public engagement and Commission review to ensure the allocation of public right-of-way for private use is done fairly.

ACTION: Commissioner Barr made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with Item B removed. Commissioner Archambeau seconded.

4.1 – COLLEGE ST PARKING ADJACENT TO CITY HALL PARK (formerly 4B)

Senior Engineer Laura Wheelock provided an overview of the request to remove two parking spaces on College Street, add one motorcycle parking space, and allow vehicular access to Park Lane for Parks’ service needs and Burlington Fire Department’s emergency vehicle access.

Commissioners Hogan, Archambeau, Overby, O’Neill-Vivanco, Barr ask questions about the timing of the request, the alternatives that were evaluated, the financial and operational impact of the proposal, and how the Commission can be more engaged earlier during the Development Review Board process. Commissioner Archambeau expressed concern about loss of revenue with the removal of meters at a prime parking location as well as safety concerns at a location with excessive foot traffic. Staff replied that the project was transferred to Public Works to manage during the construction phase, that this park access need and location was finalized during construction, and it was a reasonable proposal given the projected higher level of programming in the park. Commissioners expressed desire to get these requests prior to the completion of construction. Director Spencer said he understood and he would be happy to discuss the issue of the Commissions role and timing of input in the development process.

ACTION: Commissioner Bose makes a motion to approve staff’s recommendations:

- 7 No-parking area. No person shall park any vehicle at any time in the following locations: On the south side of College Street beginning one-hundred-ten (110) feet west of Church Street and extending west for twenty-six (26) feet.
- 26 Motorcycle parking. The following locations are designated for the parking of motorcycles only: On the south side of College Street beginning one-thirty-six (136) feet west of Church Street and extending west for eight (8) feet.

Commissioner Gillman seconds. The Chair requests a roll call vote. Commissioners Barr, Bose, Gillman, O’Neill-Vivanco and Hogan vote yes. Commissioners Archambeau and Overby vote no. The motion passes 5-2 in favor.

ITEM 5 – UNIVERSITY PLACE STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Senior Engineer Laura Wheelock and Associate Engineer Philip Peterson provided an overview on this collaborative planning effort between the Department of Public Works and the University of Vermont (UVM). During this initial concept design phase, two different concepts have been developed for the rehabilitation of University Place – a basic design and an enhanced design. Both concepts propose to change the street into a one-way corridor northbound for vehicles and remove most of the on-street parking. A public survey period recently ended with
many positive responses and a strong concern for safety along the corridor – especially for those walking and biking.

Commissioners Gilman, O’Neill-Vivanco, Overby, Bose, Barr and Hogan raised issues regarding the cost of the project, project elements (on-street parking, carriage stops, bike lanes, plaza), timing of upcoming decisions and UVM’s appetite for investing in this corridor. Commissioners expressed appreciation for the two step approach with a presentation one month and a request for a decision the following month.

Sharon Bushor appreciated process with significant public engagement and ensuring the designs work for emergency services. She too wanted to better understand the funding split between the City and UVM for each concept.

No action was taken.

ITEM 6 – DPW FY’21 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Director Spencer provided an overview on the department’s proposed FY’21 goals and objectives. He has been providing the Commission these annual goals and objectives for many years at the request of the Commission. This document has not been modified since it was quickly presented at the September 2020 meeting. Commissioners have said this annual document helps with the annual review of the Director and City Engineer. Many of the objectives are multi-year efforts so they have been brought forward from previous years.

Commissioners Overby, O’Neill-Vivanco, Bose and Hogan asked questions about asset management, expanding public engagement to underrepresented populations, alternative fuel policy for fleet, engineering standards and the Commission’s role in advancing these goals and objectives.

No action was taken.

ITEM 7 – SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 MINUTES

Commissioner Overby submitted proposed edits to the 9-16-20 minutes earlier in the day. Staff has reviewed and suggested a few minor changes to the proposed changes. Director Spencer reviewed Commissioner Overby’s edits with staff’s recommended modifications.

ACTION: Commissioner Bose moved to approve the minutes as amended with Commissioner Barr seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 8 – DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Director Spencer referred to the written Director’s Report in the packet and touched on the opening of City Hall Park and St Paul Street, the Integrated Clean Water Plan, the South Winooski Avenue lane reassignment, and the suspended FY’21 Commission report to the City
Council. City Engineer Norm Baldwin updated the Commission on the unauthorized South End skate park and the waterfront rail / bike path relocation project.

ITEM 9 – COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

- Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco requested a briefing on Queen City Park Road and the Burton Higher Ground proposal next month and expressed support for doing additional work at the Park St / Manhattan Dr / Rt 127 intersection.
- Commissioner Overby passed along a request from former Commissioner Wood to have the recycling toter lids closed once they had been picked up to prevent rain and snow from getting in and also echoed interest in doing more for the Park St / Manhattan Dr / Rt 127 intersection.
- Commissioner Archambeau asked about the timing for Winooski Avenue recommendations, the sign and marking improvements at 1 Intervale Avenue, the temporary protected bike lanes along North Avenue, public communication on smaller issues and overall level of service for the department during COVID-19.
- Commissioner Barr reported that an attendee at the W1/8 Neighborhood Planning Assembly spoke about sidewalk hazards in a couple locations including by Burlington Health & Rehab on Pearl Street.
- Commissioner Hogan is appreciative of the effort that went into the lane reassignment along South Winooski and thought the Integrated Water Quality Plan questions were great.

ITEM 10 – ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Commissioner Barr moved to adjourned. Commissioner Gillman seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10pm.