Commissioners Present: Commissioner Barr, Commissioner Bose, Commissioner Hogan (Chair), Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner Munteanu, Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco (Vice-Chair), Commissioner Overby

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Hogan called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

ITEM 2 – AGENDA

Commissioner Barr made a motion to approve the agenda
Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco seconded
Unanimous approval

ITEM 3 – PUBLIC FORUM

Michael Long commented on Ballot Item 4. DPW and the city are not allowed to advocate on a project just inform the citizens. Item 4 is advocated. There is a lot of misinformation on how TIF works and it does affect the taxpayers.

Caryn Long seconded what Michael Long stated and also stated that things can go wrong. City Place is supposed to pay for schools but who is going to pay for additional police protection and fire protection. TIF is robbing the education fund. TIF is the biggest sales pitch fund this with a bond.

Sharon Bushor stated that the process that changed regarding traffic calming. We got a notice about a preferred solution and the residents were not asked about the preferred solution. The process is too lengthy. The residents are not asked about the process. I am asking the Commission to reflect on the process you were involved in; there is a concern about parking being removed. There needs to be communication and dialogue.

ITEM 4 – CONSENT AGENDA

A – Approval of Draft Minutes 1-19-22
Chair Hogan stated there were proposed edits that were circulated earlier. Robert Goulding, DPW Public Information Officer, stated that he sent another copy of the minutes with some changes he made to spelling of names and a comment in public forum. Commissioner Overby had changes in the minutes as well. Commissioner Hogan asked about the proposed edits. Mr. Goulding stated they involved the Main Street Great Street presentation and also the phrasing in Director Spencer’s report about the COVID 19 operations.

Commissioner Munteanu made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes. Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco seconded with the approved amended minutes. Commissioner Barr abstained from voting, as he was not present at last month’s meeting. Unanimous approval.

ITEM 5 – ANNUAL LAKEVIEW/COLLEGE STREET GARAGE OCCUPANCY UPDATE

Division Director Jeff Padgett stated we have delegated authority to enter into monthly agreements with customers wishing to rent space in the parking garages. The occupancy rates were still low in 2021 at 30-40% full and there were a couple of peak times where occupancy was at 85%. There are 700 workers who have permits for free parking and currently we see 125 parking on a daily basis, we will be evaluating this because we don’t need to have this many spots for free parking when for the most part only 125 are being used take some away but will give them back if needed. Starting in March 1st, we will be transitioning to Park Mobile in the garages. There are some issues with parking groups. The 100 Bank Street tenants nothing has changed there is still an allocation of 200 spots.

Commissioner Munteanu asked who was eligible for the free parking spots and asked if we are encouraging use of other means of transportation. Division Director Padgett stated the businesses downtown are for the front line workers. This is part of the removal of the two hours free parking from the Marketplace Garage. This is not encouraging bike/ped but that is not my job but we do have bike racks in stock we just need to figure out where we can place them. Commissioner Munteanu asked about the bike lockers in the Market Place Garage if they were being rented. Assistant Director Padgett stated that there are no bike lockers at Lakeview Garage. Director Spencer stated that the bike lockers were used to store stuff long term we need to figure out how to provide secure bikes. Commissioner Overby stated she never supported the free parking for employees and asked if switching to Park Mobile will, there no longer be cash or credit card payments will it have to be done through the app. Division Director Padgett stated it would work the same as we have on the street now. There will be a kiosk for payment.
Questions about the 100 Bank Street and their 200 permits that are available and was informed that the allocation hasn’t changed. How can we get more people to visit the garages? They are not attractive and we need to make more signage for people to know where the entrances to the garages are.
Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco asked if they could track the employee parking and if 700 are used on a daily basis. Assistant Director Padgett stated with the use of Park Mobil we will know who is parking there.
Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco asked how we are encouraging net zero energy while out department needs revenue. There are not ample transit options that run in the evening.
Division Director Padgett stated doesn’t see job as generate more traffic we want to make the garages attractive and say let’s go to that garage it is fast and efficient place to park.
Commissioner Hogan questioned the usage of the Marketplace Garage about encouraging pattern validation program worked. AD Padgett stated the program was too hard to use, too many avenues to pay and with Park Mobil you get a free hour of parking.

ITEM 6 – SOUTH END CONSTRUCTION COORDINATION PLAN UPDATE

DPW Engineer Cory Mims stated that we are going to give an overview and update on projects in the city. We have completed concrete crack repairs on 189 and Winooski Bridge. In 2022 VTRANS will have a Class 1 paving in Burlington and Winooski. Vermont Rail and Amtrak project will be finished in the spring.
The roundabout is a little behind but is schedule to be finished in 2023.
Champlain Parkway went out to bid and we had a mandatory pre-bid meeting. March 18th bids will be received and we sill award it in April.
The first phase of the project will be Home Avenue to Lakeside to Pine and Pine to Kilburn, there will be a shared use path. This will start in 2022 and completed in the Fall of 2024.
Main Street Great Streets we have some designs on that. City Engineer Baldwin stated the scope of work is going for a TIF vote in March and we will be engaging stake holders in conversations. This a one to two years before the design process.
The railyard project we will start the outreach with stakeholders in early March and we will provide an update. We are working on engaging the public and using different languages to get more people involved.

Commissioner Bose stated it would be helpful to outline public engagement several times and chart out construction with stakeholders. Make it very clear about the way the department is heading with the projects. The roundabout is a good example of getting updates.
Commissioner Overby asked about the Champlain Parkway require stoplights and not roundabout for safer intersection, does the current bid plan have any or are we required to spend money for stoplight at the intersections?
City Engineer Norman Baldwin stated we have to advance with the design as proposed, there is no option. Project has to be built as designed.

ITEM 7 – BRIGHT STREET TRAFFIC CALMING – PARKING ADJUSTMENT

We are making a parking change on Bright Street through traffic calming from requests from members of the neighborhood. Our recommendation is to moving to the west side from the middle of the street to end. This would slow down the traffic and we could rehabilitate the curb on the southwestern side of the street and add some new greening. This would provide traffic calming and more beautification of the street. There is an accessible parking space from 48 to 41 Bright Street.

Commissioner Overby had some concerns about moving the parking to the west side of the street. There is a fire hydrant on that side of the street as well as the Bright Street Coop has a walkway there where their recycling is put on their pick up day as well as the six foot parking away from fire hydrant. Commissioner Overby asked what the other alternative was and was informed that there would be two mid-block curb extensions.

Commissioner Barr stated the chicane is a good tool if it is in place properly. Need to address the ADA space moving as it might make it difficult for the person using it. Commissioner Hogan asked about the logic for traffic calming and City Planner Nicole Losch stated that City Council granted $300,000.00 for traffic calming to make headway on all the requests that we have. We have three other streets as well as this one that we are planning for traffic calming – Birchcliff Parkway, East Avenue and Scarff Avenue.

Commissioner Barr mad a motion to accept staff’s recommendation. Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco seconded
Approved 5 Ayes – 1 Nay

ITEM 8 – DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Traffic calming program has evolved and we are working to get down the list. Have listened to concerns of Mrs. Bushor on the East Avenue traffic-calming project. We will have more updates for next month’s meeting.
Kudo to staff working on the water main break at Overlake Park over the weekend.
Thanks to staff for winter plowing during the storm

ITEM 9 – COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION
Commissioner Barr commented on snow removal the sidewalks and roads were clear, salted, and walkable. Asked if recycling bins could be placed back where they belong instead of left in road or bike lanes.

Commissioner Overby mentioned the flowerpots on Main Street and South Winooski Avenue people are being forced out into the street, not a good idea to have that particular flowerpot there.

Commissioner Kennedy commending staff- car was towed and everyone was really nice and helpful when called to see where car was. Was wondering if there could be something online so we can find out where car is. Director Spencer stated this was a privacy issue with the plate numbers.

Commissioner Kennedy asked about College Street and South Willard Street no signal for pedestrians.

Commissioner Munteanu stated the quality of the sidewalks after the storm was good. Also had concerns about College Street and South Willard Street. Traffic goes fast and there is a high volume of pedestrian traffic at this intersection.

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco stated she has a friend who lives on Catherine Street and she admitted that the parking change is working well. Also had a question about fining people who have private plower who plows the snow into the sidewalk. Director Spencer advised her to call Customer service, we will let the Excavation Inspector know, and he will contact the property owner.

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco stated the water main break on upper Cliff street was handled quickly, crews arrived within 45 minutes worked all night great job.

Commissioner Hogan also had issued with snow from private plowers. Appreciates work from storm clean up. What happens when there is a clear drainage issue?

City Engineer Norm Baldwin stated there is follow up with property owners. The biggest issue is sump pump issues that drain from yards and the water freezes on sidewalk making it slippery.

ITEM 10 – ADJOURNMENT –NEXT MEETING MARCH 16, 2022

Commissioner Barr made a motion to adjourn meeting.

Commissioner Overby stated she remembered her other comment she wanted to make. This was in regards to the remediation of the sewer going under the municipal parking lot at Main and S. Winooski and down College Street. Stated sewer line was installed in late 1980s on College St. near the Fletcher Library. Does DPW have access to that data from when the ravine sewer was assessed as too complex and expensive a problem to
remediate? City Engineer Baldwin stated Martha had done an extensive study on the library and what was done for work.

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco seconded the motion for adjournment
Unanimous approval

Meeting Adjourned 9:10 p.m.