



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  
802-865-7144 VOX • 802-865-7024 FAX • [www.burlingtonvt.gov/cedo](http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/cedo)

---

**Councilor Brian Pine, Chair, Ward 3**

**Councilor Karen Paul, Ward 6**

**Councilor Ali Dieng, Ward 7**

Committee members: Chair Brian Pine (BP), Karen Paul (KP), Ali Dieng (AD)

City staff: Ian Jakus (IJ), CEDO; Patti Wehman (PW), PID; Brian Lowe (BL), IT; Caroline Felix (CF), IT; Belan Antesaye (BA), CEDO

Other Attendees: Dave Hartnett, Sandy Wynne, Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, William Daniel, Charles Winkleman, Christie Delphia, Matt Gardner

Thursday, January 16th, 2020

5:30 – 7:00 PM

City Hall – Conference Room 12

### **Draft Agenda**

Meeting started at 5:33

1. Review Agenda (5 minutes)

Councilor Ali Dieng made a motion to approve agenda, seconded by Chair Pine, unanimous approval.

2. Public Forum (10 minutes)

Dave Hartnett said that he is still waiting for an update on Brookfield. Thinking about how we got here with the hole in the ground and the police chief. Since the Burlington Telecom sale it's a matter of being honest to the people of Burlington. When I think about the police department, if we had been honest we would still have a police chief, if Sinex came to us, this could have been different. People of Burlington like honesty. There are councilors who have not been honest. 5 years with a hole in the ground, lost jobs, court cases, we have a chance to start again.

Matt Gardner said there is a lack of trust in the council and the government. Tonight we have tenant protections on the agenda, do we have tenants on the council? We are getting a lack of engagement by our public officials.

Charles Winkleman said that he has read the review of research and findings. The Tenants Union was not made a part of the BTV Housing Summit, and 20 pages of review, and no tenants have been involved in this process. With Chair Pine being a landlord it is difficult to avoid a conflict of interest. It is difficult to believe this will be a fair process. We are here to listen and see how we will be ignored again.

Sandy Wynne said that she thinks that we are a small city and we have a few people that volunteer to be city councilors. I wouldn't want to be a city councilor. Having worked on affordable housing task forces, just because you aren't part of a particular group, doesn't mean that you can't make change. It shouldn't come down to whether you are a part of one specific group doesn't mean that you don't care.

### **Approve Minutes (5 minutes) 12.10.19**

Chair Brian Pine made a motion to approve the minutes, Councilor Karen Paul seconded, unanimous approval.

### **3. Old North End Arts & Business Network update (ONEABN) (20 minutes)**

BP said the Network approached for City funding and received \$7,000 of funding for a coordinator to survey the businesses, and see what their needs are and how to collaborate with these individuals. The funding goes through a nonprofit called Vermont Performing Arts League and they used to manage North End Studio. What they're working on now is a door to door survey. Like the Old North End version of SEABA.

AD asked if it is a fee based organization, and how many members are there.

BP responded that he didn't know if dues are required to be a member. Businesses and artists.

AD asked where the survey will be available.

BP said that he will follow up regarding the survey.

### **4. City Equity Report Update - Brian Lowe, Chief Innovation Officer (15 minutes)**

BL said that Councilor Dieng asked for clear equity indicators that show citywide metrics, versus the city specific projects.

CF said they are putting more rigor to the metrics this year and partnered with the City of the University of New York and their Equality Indicators project. They've tested these metrics and revised the methodology. They have been in close contact with them as we put together these metrics.

BP asked about the difference between equality and equity.

CF said there are different definitions, the way the indicator framework is set up is that it can be applied through an equity lens.

CF said there are two platforms that will be open to the public. There is a company called ODS that will be a city repository for data, that will be available for download. There will also be the BTV Stat dashboard, to communicate the performance metrics coming out of the BTV Stat program. The Equity indicators we want to highlight in both of these forums, it won't be a static report.

BL said that Burlington does not meet the criteria for requiring Language Access Services by the federal government, but the Mayor wanted to pursue this, and determine how this can be done for the many languages spoken in Burlington.

BP said that other city's are looking at how library fines and fees are disproportionately affecting minorities and low income. Are we tracking that.

BL said right now they have not examined that data in detail. Next year will look more at procurement policy, city wellness.

AD said that he didn't see anything about ageing, or senior populations, or sexual orientation, and most importantly, religion.

BA said the categories are not limited to the six we identified, there are subsets of demographics.

#### 5. Tenant Protections – Review of City research and findings - Ian Jakus, CEDO; Patti Wehman, Code Enforcement (30 min)

There was general discussion about the availability of eviction data that it is not available at the City level, that the records to get that data are kept at the courthouse possibly on paper. That the City will look into the possibility of getting this data. Patti spoke to Vermont Legal Aid and determined that the data is very difficult to get, and is labor intensive. AD suggested checking if the Sheriff's Office has records on evictions.

BP asked if these recommendations are from Code Enforcement and CEDO?

PW talked with many stakeholders outside of the City including tenants and legal aid, CVOEO, property owners. These recommendations are what came out of it.

IJ said there was a working group with the Mayor's Office, CEDO and DPI.

BP asked if there are action items coming out of these recommendations.

PW said that the Certificate of Compliance ratings are available on the City's Property Database, as well as specific code violations. Looking to develop a legend on what the CoC actually means

and what the criteria is. This information will be available as part of the City's Open Data efforts as well.

KP said that you want to be able to do it by property and there are 153 with a one rating, and it is very difficult for a person to get that data. Most landlords are done with LLC and don't have their name on the property.

PW said that the Open Data system will be a lot more user friendly. We are acknowledging that no one had looked through the data for quality control.

CF clarified that the Open Data will be linked into the AMANDA system.

Unknown said that some of the old paper records are still being entered into the system.

PW responded that the only data available is from since electronic records were started.

Sandy Wynne said that you cannot connect an LLC to the owners name.

KP said often the agent of the LLC is an attorney that is listed.

BP said to quickly go through these recommendations because this is the start of the process.

PW said that as far as Minimum Housing Standards versus adopting the international standards, it's going to be a lot easier to enhance what we have. These standards have been difficult to enforce because we have to go back many times for a few people. Bill looked at the two codes side by side and are in the process of making recommendations and strengthen what the Housing Board of Review can do, and add some more responsibilities.

BP said that the HBR is appealable to the courts.

PW said that tenant advocacy resources could draft some language that educates tenants, such as the CVOEO handbook, and Patti is working with UVM to educate students.

IJ said that Seattle has a legal requirement to distribute tenant rights information with the lease.

BP requested that we ask the City Attorney if the City can change to a just cause eviction law because in the past he looked into this and had to go through the state legislature.

William Daniel asked why we didn't examine San Francisco's 40 year old rent control program. Go to the rent board's website. As it is one of the longest, and was shocked we didn't even examine it.

IJ responded that given time and capacity restraints the goal wasn't to dive deeply into rent control policy specifically because there is so much different research available on the topic.

Sandy Wynne asked about landlord licensing.

PW said that the existing minimum housing code is able to address many of the concerns that licensing would address.

AD asked how licensing would play out.

PW said that she would talk offline about the full process of rental registration and how that system can provide many of the protections that a licensing system would.

Christie Delphia said that the issue of landlords abusing the system by prettying up their properties is an issue. Also that the code requirements do no bring the buildings up to current code and they let many bad properties continue to exist.

PW confirmed that it is required that old buildings are brought up to current code, they are preexisting non-conforming.

7. Next Steps (5 min)

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for February 12th

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Dieng at 7:12PM. Unanimous approval