

All Wards Neighborhood Planning Assembly

December 3, 6-8 pm

Fletcher Room, Fletcher Free Library

Minutes

Present: Charles Simpson, Barbara McGrew, Benjamin Chason Sokol, Charlie Giannoni, Sara Giannoni, Richard Hillyard, Lea Terhune, Barry Trutor, Matt Cropp, Jason L'Ecuyer, Jim Holway, Roy Collette, Kesha Ram (staff)

- Quarterly financial report
 - Question regarding Ward 1 expenditure that Kesha will take back to CEDO Finance staff.
 - Financial report was accepted.
- NPA best practices
 - Financing/budgeting
 - CDBG process has changed, leaving NPAs without resources to allocate to community/neighborhood improvement projects that they had in the past.
 - The following motion was made by Matt Cropp and seconded by Barry Trutor:
 - *"We [the All-Wards NPA Steering Committee] feel that the Neighborhood Planning Assemblies should be re-funded and re-empowered to directly make small grants to community projects for publicly beneficial purposes. We ask that each Ward be allocated \$5,000 yearly by the City for this purpose, and ask that candidates running for election on March 4th take a public position on this issue."*
 - Discussion was then had on the use of the funds and timing to include this in the next City budget. The resolution passed unanimously.
 - Another funding issue was raised by Charlie Giannoni about funding for part-time staffing of each NPA. The issue was discussed, no action was taken.
 - Policy/precedent for entertaining commercial presentation requests
 - Development pre-application
 - NPA steerers determined that more communication was needed with Planning & Zoning to ensure developers visited NPAs early in the process and welcomed their participation.
 - CDBG representative recruitment/communication
 - Diversity in NPA membership/leadership
 - Each steering committee now has one high school or college member.

- Town Meeting Day candidate/ballot item best practices
 - Mayoral debates in February: One per "District"?
 - NPAs will decide whether to hold a joint debate with their neighboring ward or seek a separate debate for their ward.

- Development issues
 - Burlington College land
 - Charles Simpson works with Friends of Burlington College and wants to hold a public forum on the potential uses for the land being sold by Burlington College. The NPA steerers agreed he should organize a forum and they will get members to attend.
 - Development parking changes
 - Developer requirements in the downtown and relation of the changes to the Housing Action Plan were discussed.
 - Burlington Town Center project
 - Concerns and questions about public process were raised.
 - Form Based Code
 - Barbara McGrew raised concerns about aesthetics and quality of life in relation to this change.
 - Farrington Mobile Home Park sale