

Burlington Planning Commission

149 Church Street
Burlington, VT 05401
Telephone: (802) 865-7188
(802) 865-7195 (FAX)
(802) 865-7142 (TTY)

www.burlingtonvt.gov/pz

*Yves Bradley, Chair
Bruce Baker, Vice-Chair
Lee Buffinton
Emily Lee
Andy Montroll
Harris Roen
Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur
Holly Ransom, Youth Member*



Burlington

Planning Commission Long Range Planning Committee

Meeting Notes

Thursday, May 21, 2015 @ noon
Planning & Zoning Office, Ground Floor, City Hall

Members: J. Wallace-Brodeur, H. Roen, E. Lee

Staff: D. White, M. Keenan

1. Agenda

2. FY16 Capital Improvement Plan

The Committee will discuss the proposed 1. FY16 Capital Improvement Plan and develop comments for the Commission to forward to the Board of Finance and City Council.

DW – Provided a brief overview of history and process. Role of Commission is really to focus on big-picture and how capital investments impact (positively or negatively) the ability of the City to develop according to our plans.

JWB – Questioned the extent to which capacity issues (particularly in the Downtown area) inhibit our ability to support and encourage new development where we want it most.

MK – A major commitment being made by the Administration to address long un-supported capital needs, and additional monies were ID'ed for the Council this week. Still a \$1.3m shortfall being discussed how to address. As one example DPW is proposing an increase in water rates to help address shortfall in needs to make improvements to old and aging infrastructure.

HR – Also need to consider how the City provides service to its citizens – things like a one-stop-shop for permitting.

MK – A permitting study is being proposed for the GF which can lay the groundwork for that type of project. It will become part of the CIP once it gives specific direction for needed capital improvements

HR - Questioned about how Conservation Fund fits and potential purchase of land such as BC?

DW – The Conservation Fund is a dedicated fund. If there are specific capital needs (like a land acquisition) that are ready to be implemented, they will appear in the CIP. But conversations like those around the Burlington College property are still ongoing with no specific role for City funding identified so it doesn't show up now.

MK – Biggest question facing the Council is: is it more important to approve a level budget now and consider changes after 6 months (Scenario #2), or approve all of the projects with the identified dedicated funding for them and if the funding comes to pass then they will get done (Scenario #1).

JWB – Seems much better to clearly include these prioritized needs with anticipated funding sources now, and if they can't get done then they get shifted into the future. Otherwise should the additional monies become available they could easily get allocated to other projects.

JWB - Will need to highlight key areas for future conversation about long term needs related to future growth and development. Things like Water/Wastewater/Stormwater, parking garages, etc.

EL – What about the future of Memorial?

MK – City will need a plan for Memorial by sp '16 so that will be a conversation over the coming months to decide what we do with the building.

DW – Key take-aways to be communicated to the Council:

- Articulate very strong support for the effort to systematically and thoughtfully begin to address the long-term capital needs of the City and its infrastructure. It is very long overdue and absolutely critical to meeting any of our land use and development plans and objectives anywhere in the city.
- Support the recommendation of the CIP Manager to approve a phased but fully-funded capital plan, including those currently un-funded prioritized needs with potential funding so they are ready to go should the funding come available.
- Looking forward to getting a better understanding over the course of the next year of more specific long term needs and priorities related to supporting future growth and development, and being able to craft a new Capital Facilities and Services Plan to be part of the Municipal Development Plan and used as a basis for calculating revised impact fees.

3. Adjourn – 1:00pm