

Burlington Planning Commission

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Burlington Planning Commission Long Range Planning Committee Special Meeting Notes Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 5:30pm

Attendees: Harris Roen, Chair, A.J. LaRosa, Emily Lee, Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur, Meagan Tuttle, other interested parties

1. Agenda

No changes to the agenda.

2. planBTV: South End Plan

M. Tuttle presented a revised plan framework for the draft planBTV South End and discussed examples of how the strategy for a more fine grained land use policy could be utilized.

Discussion included:

- Can the innovation district say something about "net zero" or the most energy/resource efficient buildings? Perhaps look into the 2030 District concept as a recommendation for the area. Need to address transportation efficiency as part of this. There must be a carrot or incentive for buildings that achieve these standards if we really want to see them—particularly considering the level of remediation that must be done on sites in the South End.
 - A meeting on March 24 about 2030 Districts—will bring notes for a future discussion.
- The South End is the neighborhood of "non-conformity." This is part of its character and the plan should articulate that this is ok and that we want to see buildings that are both creative and modern. There is too much space available in the South End to follow the traditional model. Innovation should not be just in "use" but also in "form and design."
 - Suggestions for zoning tools will not be a part of the plan, but a note about the general design aesthetic/form is important high-level policy to be included. The zoning tools are just examples to help bring clarity to discussion.

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- There should be a careful selection of the photos and illustrations used in the plan. The representative images tell the story more than the words do, so people will have a vision of what the plan says through the images before they even read it. This is important; should go through the draft to make sure all images have a purpose and citations.
 - Will ensure that Goody Clancy's update includes a thoughtful review of the images used/cited in the plan.
- Regarding the Champlain Parkway, the plan shows a road that can't be/won't be built. The Pine Street Coalition is coming up with recommendations for design interventions. If the plans for the Champlain Parkway move forward, planBTV South End can't show connecting streets, because it will be a limited access highway and that won't be permitted. Is the plan about showing the reality, or the future opportunities to fix the design? Either way, it is important to know what is possible given the most current information because the plan cannot outline a vision that is in conflict with reality or that the City doesn't have the ability to influence. Additionally, section on Champlain Parkway doesn't fairly describe the level of tension/uncertainty of the project—seems too upbeat and assumes construction on track.
 - Will get a status report for a future meeting when Mobility element is discussed.
- What is the purpose of showing redevelopment sites and saying what they could be? What if they get developed in a way that differs from the plan? What if others want to work on projects that the plan discusses, but in a different location?
 - The plan is meant to provide ideas and suggestions for the future use of sites in keeping with the plan's vision. Implementation will help guide exact locations/projects that will take place.

3. Draft Plan Public Input Strategy

The LRPC reviewed a draft Public Input Strategy for the re-release of the plan. Discussion included:

- Are the activities listed in a particular order? Should some happen concurrently? Would be helpful to see this as a timeline of events.
 - Will update for next discussion adding "tentative" timeframes for events.
- What is the purpose of the presentation of the revised draft? Is it to take feedback and have a discussion or is it just to tell people what's in the plan?
 - Up to the Committee to determine, but initial plan was to tell people how the plan has evolved, and use the follow-up activities as a way to have a discussion about its strategies.
- NPA meetings are important and should happen early in the process.

4. Announcements

M Tuttle will send a poll to LRPC members for meetings in April to continue discussion of revised plan framework and other plan elements. There were no other announcements.

5. Adjourn