

5/12/2022 Ward 2/3 NPA Resolution 1:

“The Wards 2 & 3 Neighborhood Planning Assembly endorses the establishment of a temporary Shelter Pod Village and Community Resource Center on Elwood Avenue to support community members who are experiencing homelessness and we encourage the city to take proactive efforts to keep abutting neighbors informed about development plans and activities at the site.”

Introduced by Jess Hyman, Ward 3

Recommendation to vote “No” on the Pod Village Resolution.

From Solveig Overby, soverby@burlingtonvt.gov

I recognize that the pod village plan which is the subject of the Resolution 1, was made by well-meaning, housed people.

However, I voted against the proposal at the March 16th Public Works Commission meeting for lack of details upon which to make a decision. The public is still coming up short on the details. I will be voting “No” on this NPA resolution for the following reasons:

- 1) The plan is expensive and perpetuates dependency of the houseless population on social service agencies.
- 2) There was no consultation with the homeless population or in particular, the Sears Lane residents whose homes were demolished prior to the Elmwood lot plan being chosen. Housed people have decided what houseless people should have for housing.
- 3) The plan denies houseless residents the dignity of making choices for meeting their housing needs and preferences. There is no opportunity for, or credit given, for being resourceful in managing one’s housing with limited resources.
- 4) No budget has been provided to the public showing the projected costs for construction and operation of the pod village for three years
- 5) No social service agency has agreed to manage the facility
- 6) No document specifying the state regulations which govern the management of low-barrier shelters has been provided to the public

My opinions are informed by the works of John F.C. Turner, in particular, his books, [Housing By People](#), and [Freedom to Build](#) where Turner says, “where dwellers are in control, their homes are better and cheaper than those built through government programs or large corporations.”