

**All-Wards Neighborhood Planning Assembly**  
**March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 6:45pm**  
**Offices of Channel 17, 294 No. Winooski Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401**

**Minutes**

Attendance: Richard Hillyard, Charlie Giannoni, Infinite Culcleasure, Lea Terhune, Jim Holway, Jason L'Ecuyer, Charles Simpson, Barry Trutor, Sharon Bushor, Adam Roof, Marcy Esbjerg, Max Webster, Sara Olsen (press)

Lea Terhune begins meeting by offering a review of the meeting agenda.

Previously scheduled time to “Debrief on the Election” is replaced with an introduction period for elected Ward 8 City Council Representative Adam Roof. It is decided that time at the end of the meeting will be given to discussing potential conflicts of interest concerning NPA steering committee members and members of City Government.

AmeriCorps member Max Webster distributed a current financial report on NPA spending. It is determined that available funding might be affected by rental payments for meeting space for certain NPA groups. NPAs may submit rent payments for reimbursement. There is an option for a CEDO internship project to locate available free meeting space within the various wards.

Max Webster gives a brief introduction on the We All Belong AmeriCorps program to committee members. It is suggested that steering committee members use the We All Belong network to learn about community issues. It is also suggested that more effort be put into place to get We All Belong members to attend and participate in NPA Meetings.

City Councilman elect, Adam Roof of Ward 8, provides the group with an overview of his reasons for running for council and his vision for the city. Adam states his commitment to finding ways improve the partnerships between the City of Burlington and area colleges. Richard Hillyard suggests emphasizing the efforts of UVM student Tyler Davis who had previously proposed a “student ambassador” model to get UVM students engaged with NPAs.

Charles Simpson provides the group with an overview of the January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015, Open Space Summit. Meeting attendees are provided with the Save Open Space Burlington “Open Space Declaration” which was crafted in response to the event. Sharon Bushor discussed ongoing efforts to preserve land in the area around Burlington College within city council. Charles states his disappointment that Save Open Space Burlington was not invited to participate in the public process discussions around the Burlington College land development proposal.

Group agrees to plan a Housing Summit in response to the success of the Open Space Summit. A task force including Charles Simpson, Lea Terhune, Jim Holway and Jason L'Ecuyer is assembled to begin planning event.

Jason L'Ecuyer presented a resolution proposed by Matt Cropp designed to reintroduce \$5,000 dollars of funding to each NPA for a total of \$40,000 for community project proposals. Money would come from the general fund. Marcy Esbjerg informs the committee that they should be as specific as possible in their request for funding in terms of how the funds will be distributed, managed and used by the NPAs.

Charles Giannoni suggests a resolution that would call for funds allocated to the Public Engagement Specialist position within CEDO to be removed and distributed equally among each NPA group to provide a stipend to hire a staffer to manage NPA administrative tasks.

Group agrees on vote no to discuss potential conflicts of interest as pertaining to city government positions and instead chooses to focus on potential conflicts of interest that might face NPA steering committee members. It is agreed that no steering committee member may use their position for political influence although as a citizen, they can engage in any political activity. NPAs are not to be used as a platform for partisan political activity.

Infinite Culcleasure suggests that future conversations be held around the responsibilities of the Public Engagement Specialist and their role in regards to supporting the NPAs.

Meeting concludes.