

# Ward 6 Neighborhood Planning Assembly

June 4, 2015, Minutes

Greek Orthodox Church, 600 So. Willard Street, Burlington, VT

Present: Approximately 18 people

Peter Keating moderated and announced the agenda. The minutes from the May 2015 meeting were approved.

1. John Caulo representing Champlain College provided an update on college events. These include a Friday-Saturday meeting with students and parents, for which van connections will be provided. The Eagles Club on St. Paul Street has been demolished to make way for a new college dorm. Student parking for dorm residents will be at their Lakeside Lot. Question (Q), how many parking spaces on-site? Answer (A), 66, which will be for the public, not students, perhaps leased out and merged with the City's Downtown Parking District system. Q. What if students park there? A. If they register with the college as required, they'll be caught and we ticket them. Q. Number of present spaces? A. 42. Q. Leased to corporations? A. We haven't determined that yet. Q. Status of the Ethan Allen Club? A. We are in talks with the YMCA but no contract at this point. Q. Are you looking at other city property for dorms? A. No. We might place students in the Town Center at some point. Q. Will asphalt work be done to repair Maple Street? A. We are assessing the problems there and whether it is a city or college responsibility.
2. Megan Moir, DPW. She introduced the city's Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning process. There will be public input via a link online at DPW, <http://www.burlington.gov/DPW/Stormwater/IMSWP>. The problem is the extent of impervious surfaces and stronger rain events, leading to capacity problems and overflow periods from combined systems. Code requires houses to have backwater protection valves but many houses lack them. Several creeks have serious erosion problems, our storm infrastructure is aged, and we are obliged to reduce phosphorus runoff into the lake. We could be facing 38 million dollars in upgrades over the net period of time. Q. Our present building processes are covering green spaces. Isn't that the problem? A. We review any paving or building project over 400 sq. ft. Q. What of pollution on Pine Street? A. You mean the Barge Canal? There are systems that could be used to recycle/treat water in that area. Q. Are these improvements all in the present capital budget? A. Some, for pipe replacement.
3. Peggy O'Neil on the So. Union St. Pop-up bike lane. We are planning this as a temporary demonstration, making South Union one-way from King to Rt. 7, and adding a temporary marked bike lane. Barriers slow cars. We want to see how this fits with the city's emerging bike/walk master plan. For more information contact [peggyov5@gmail.com](mailto:peggyov5@gmail.com). The demonstration will not affect parking. Chapin Spenser added that there was no date set yet and no establishment of duration of the test but it could last 30 days. It would likely be in late summer or early fall.
4. Gene Richards, Burlington International Airport manager. He thanked the mayor and council for their support in helping the airport improve its financial picture and achieve a balanced budget. They now have 160 days of reserve; new service to Charlotte, and various amenities at the terminal. Q. Aren't you demolishing housing around the

airport? A. We came into this program from a past administration. We are not purchasing additional houses. There are 19 more that can be added before the present program ends. It is a voluntary program. We won't be building on any of that land. Q. What about a livable wage for the airport contractor, Skinny Pancake? A. They invested a million dollars in improvements and created 80 jobs. They pay close to the livable wage. Q. What of the hotel plans? A. The hotel is planned for above or just north of the existing parking garage on present airport property.

5. Councilmembers Karen Paul and Joan Shannon gave a council update. Shannon listed the section titles in the Housing Action Plan and said that the PlanBTV South End recommendations would be released June 16. Council is reviewing aspects of form-based code, including the 14 story height in the core area as proposed by the Town Center developer. Council voted to send an interim agreement to UBER, the car-ride company that essentially puts them under the existing taxicab ordinance. A final agreement will come later. Karen Paul thanked Gene Richards and noted that Richards and Mayor Weinberger, when on the airport commission, wanted to eliminate the home-buying program. A council meeting on 6/17 will address Waterfront issues such as the Moran project, for which there is no MOU yet. This is a 30 million dollar project. The Board of Finance has firmed up the General Fund budget, at 66 million dollars. It has a small surplus of 72,000 dollars, better than past years. Vermont Gas is working on Cliff Street. The City is working on a 10 year capital plan that has identified 180 million dollars in needed projects and 119 million in funding. The gap needs to be addressed. Bargaining on pensions with the four city unions continues.
  6. Stephanie Seguino gave an update from the Board of Education. The new superintendent still needs paper work related to immigration to be approved prior to his being able to join the system. The present superintendent, Howard Smith, will continue in the office until the replacement arrives. There is no school deficit this year. State Law H361 has added budget constraints to the system that penalize budget growth beyond set limits, for Burlington that is 2.18 percent increase. Yet the same services as this year are estimated to cost an additional 3.4 percent next year. The schools will be developing a capital budget plan and will be addressing the need to relocate programs now at the Taft School. This month will be the first graduation for the Parent University program, which provides classes for parents. The Diversity and Equity committee sent in their third annual report which finds that gaps still exist among various student groupings in the areas of academic performance and discipline. We are developing alternatives to the usual school suspension system and providing trauma identification education for teachers to help them deal with troubled students.
  7. State legislators Johannah Donovan, Mary Sullivan, and Barbara Rachelson gave an update on the Montpelier session. A number of items were passed, some awaiting the governor's signature, including the end-of-life bill, a bill to contain the growth of school spending, a vaccination bill, and a bill that outlaws life without parole as a sentence applied to juveniles. Other legislation provides financial aid to first-time home buyers and finances water quality remediation for runoff into water bodies including Lake Champlain. Each will return in the fall for another update.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm. Respectfully submitted, Charles Simpson