

Ward 6 NPA Meeting: 10/1/15

Started at 7 PM. About 15 people attended. A few others trickled in throughout the night.

*Peter Keating welcomed everyone. Reviewed Agenda. Asked for approval of the September minutes. Motion, and second to approve was made. All Approved with "I." Minutes approved for September

*Lachlan Francis, UVM Student and SGA member Government gave an update: on the UVM and Office of Student and Community Relations (OSCR). He talked about Community Coalition, Off Campus Living Workshops, Student-Neighbor Liason Program, Conflict Resolution Services. He explained the First Community Coalition meets once a month and is a mixture of Students and City employees, discussing community issues that exist. Conversations such as off campus living workshops. Work with students ready to move off campus next year. Student that anticipate to receive a UVM preferred student "card." Also do new neighbor welcome bags. Getting to know the neighbors and doing the right thing. Conflict resolution sectors between neighbors and students, landlord students, etc. Also work with students that may have received more than three noise violations. University wide to place additional police officers in the neighborhoods that seem to have more alcohol and more student noise. The group is also "mapping" data on noise complaints.

2012-2013 when all this got started they had 530 complaints. At this point, in 2015 have 364 complaints. Over a 200 reduction in complaints. Looking to change status quo. Identify student leaders to help move this forward and keep the good momentum.

Question: What does it look like this Fall as far as noise? Is it better, worse, or the same?

Answer: From a data perspective Labor Day is the heaviest drinking weekend. Again working with education on students on being good neighbor, neighborhood patrols, working with Police Officers. MAY have seen a decrease in noise violation but slight increase in alcohol incidences.

Question: Any change in strategy with new Police Chief.

Answer: Talking a lot of community policing, officers getting out of their cars to do policing. See it as a positive way. He is using data and looking to put resources where they need to be.

*UVM update on construction from Lisa Kingsbury:

Construction has started on central campus. Lights on fields are starting to go in. 61 Summit St project is going well. Issue of water from Wednesday's rain, water going into the Harrington Terrace neighborhood. UVM is working on a fix. If can't get done on Friday UVM has asked permission from the City to work on Saturday to complete the fix. Will place on FPF. Project will be finished Spring 2016.

*Clare Wool was nominated for the Bloomenthal Award. The nomination write up was read by Peter Keating to attendees.

*John Caulo of Champlain College. No update but took questions from the attendees. Comment on grand opening celebration for CCM new building on Maple Street. Including neighbors. Great celebration. Anything new with Eagles landing. Still looking at budget. Making headway. Hope to make decisions quickly as to when start construction. January 2016 or January 2017.

*Karen Paul has update as City Council: Had coffee with Mayor at Spot this morning. Great turnout had lots of questions and time for people to voice concerns. Looking to do this on a monthly basis. People expressed to have it at night in place of morning times. Looking into that.

Downtown Mall: looking at update on project. Will be public in about 2 weeks.

Rapid Flashers. Two sets around the rotary. Start construction on the roundabout in about 2 years. Flashers are an interim safety measure. Goal of getting once additional crossing guard as well.

Waterfront update: Continuing to work on Marina, new Moran, last Tuesday meeting discussed how new Moran is progressing. 33 million dollar project. Many sources of funding including 11 million dollars in fundraising. Deadline is summer 2016 to raise money. Looking for monthly updates on fundraising and other financing resources. TIF ballot in March.

Form based code committee. Continues to do its work.

Noise calls. This weekend. South Winooski Ave. Within a couple of hours met with all tenants (Champlain College Students). Tenants all good understanding of what to do and not to do next time.

Resident on South Willard St had concerns. Sent an email to Rich Long. Karen forwarded on to John, David Provost. David Provost replied and by this morning action was in place.

CCM building of Champlain College is incredible. Please get a tour of the building.

Question to Karen Paul:

Question: Is Burlington looking into waste water, storm run-off...Are they looking into this?

Answer: Every construction project going forward is taking into consideration the storm water. Example is the roundabout. Once the construction starts the storm water situation MUST be taken into consideration.

*Peter Keating talked about what will be on November agenda: Residential Parking Study: It is lingering much more due to comments. Next month will be on agenda. Police Chief Brandon Del Pozo

*Yaw Obeng: Superintendent for Burlington School District. Introduced himself. Shared his entry plan. Has received much feedback already of what can be done differently and how to improve the District. Has been here 1 month. Has a plan and is available on the Districts website. Realizes there has been challenges and understands the board has stepped up. Would like it to be a unified plan going forward.

Would like training for himself and board to support community. Acknowledges Board members are volunteers.

Budget and financing pieces. He is now learning on how they receive grants, how their dollars are calculated. He comes from a system and structure that they balance the budget. By law have to. No opportunity to raise allotment. You get what you get. There is never enough money. But having to balance budget to make you look at things differently. An idea is using technology. Finding a way to reduce one development opportunity can save thousands. So far observing what Burlington has done in the past is to create a multi-year plan. Create a budget, vote on it, Backwards. Develop a budget that resources the plan. There is no a limit on great ideas out there.

I would like to NOT increase the budget. It is not my orientation to get more money. We have to make a plan and stick to the budget.

Found small things that we do that we can allocate the monies. Talking with groups on what are you going to "Stop." He knows there is a lot to "Start" but am focusing on what can be stopped to allocate the money. Come up with a plan.

Beefing up the Finance department. New Director, new accountant. Working really hard on cleaning up budget. Working on creating a budget with a contingency. May

mean tightening up belt. Looking forward to change. He believes it can happen if we are disciplined.

Work in schools and staff. What are we doing to prepare our kids to graduate as well as thrive in a Global Society?

Talking with Principals. Uses NBA as analogy. You are not the NY Knicks. We are the NBA. Don't look at own team. Look at organization. Want every school to be a good school. Want different administrators to be able to go into different schools. This would be good for the system.

Systems thinking is the same approach for capacity building for the staff.

State of limbo. We want to move to the new way of operation with some goals that we are going to be able to state a course. WE being residents, board, him. Identify goals, not for just one year but 3 or 4. Would like to spend time on goals so that they are successful. Would like to identify what we really want to do and go with it. Stick with it. Believe in empowering principals and teachers but have to deliver.

Entry plan includes learning tours. Getting into the community. A range within the community. Invite me I will come and talk.

Stephanie Seguino, School Board member: talked about supporting Yaw and what he would like to do. Will be a difficult budget year. If the budget continues as it it will have to increase 4%. There will be difficult decisions on the budget coming up.

Miriam Stoll, School Board member: Thank you for Mr. Obeng coming this evening. He was picked out of a pool of 60 people.

Q&A:

Q: Edmunds Elementary School House: Touch upon the sharing of teachers. 5 Elementary schools that are geographically spread throughout the city.

A: to be able to say that every school is an A1 school and every teacher is an A1 teacher. We identify some good strategies for all schools. Share the teachers amongst the schools as resources are needed. Would like to implant that way of thinking. Such as outdoor learning. Would this work here? Let's look at it. What is the new way of thinking?

Parents ask "How did school go." This is the evaluation of the schools.

Q: Include teachers in the conversations

A: Teachers are the front line. Of course will include. First day of school spoke with all teachers of the school district. Shared vision. Conversations are still happening. For example conversation of equity. But now asking what actions can we do.

Another example is bring in experts or attend a conference listening to the experts. But then go back in to work place and not sure how to implement. Let's start with our own.

Doing a survey of staff to share what

Q: What are the teachers doing for development? What is the theme?

A: I don't know. That's my question as well. Focusing on high priorities, what is the mission, what is the focus? Need to identify this by having these conversations.

Q: Is there a professional development plan?

A: Yes, it usually happens in the Spring. We will look at that.

Q: Curriculum, lack of knowledge, is important to know. Common CORE is important to know or we lack a common CORE district wide.

A: Our schools are doing well overall. If we have plans overall we will be doing great! Such as what is our IT plan? We have fertile ground, we have great community support. If we get our act together we can do great!

Comment from parent: We are looking forward to the new start with Yaw. Appreciate the good start that you have done."

Q: We are already hearing teachers say they are having us do this and that...Having a child in each Elementary, Middle, and High School, to have communication across the board.

A: Collaboration takes time and as long as we know that we can move forward.

Thank you to the Board as they fought for me to be here in Burlington. Happy to be here.

Gift to Yaw from the Wool family.

*Peter Keating reminded folks to sign the "Sign In" Sheet.

Note from Barbara Rachelson as the Legislative session will start January 4th 2016 she would like the opportunity to meet with folks to prepare. There will be a few morning coffees this fall and she invites all: Wednesday, October 14th from 7 0 8 am at

Mirabelle's. You may contact Barbara Rachelson at 802.862.1290 or barbara.rachelson@gmail.com.

Motion to adjourn done and seconded.