



Ward 6 Neighborhood Planning Assembly
Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Aiken Hall, Morgan Room, Champlain College
Meeting Minutes
Draft

Steering Committee members in attendance:

Charles Simpson, Peter Keating, Caroline Saba, Julie Richards, Clare Wool

Start time: 7:09pm

Agenda overview and approval of April 7, 2016 Minutes

April 7th minutes approved

Champlain College Update: John Caulo and Sandy Yusen

Rozendaal Courtyard project approved to put down carpet landscaping to improve usage. Project will be completed during summer break - start May 14th finish by 8/12.

Off campus housing report; Eagle Landing extension of one year to complete design. Start some construction in fall and finish project July or August 2018.

College has signed letter of intent with downtown mall developer to house upper classman students. When they get to an agreement they will have discussion of value of student bed cost. Right now no discussion of RAs but they do have a code of conduct for students living on campus and off campus to uphold.

College has recently hired architect to build Information Technology and Science (ITS) building. For financing they will fundraise instead of going to the bank. Don't have a timeline or a budget yet. Still doing preliminary research.

Champlain Events; see attachments

UVM Update-Lisa Kingsbury

Last week of class; graduation on May 12

Summer Move Out Project (SMOP) is a collaborative event with the City and Champlain College to allow off campus students to unload unwanted (but still usable) household goods. Students bring clothing, books, household items, furniture, and non-perishable food items down to this annual community event. Leftovers will be donated to local charities and reuse stores. SMOP will take place Wednesday May 25th 11am - 3pm on lower Buell Street and Loomis Street in Burlington.

UVM is in the final stages of a campus wide plan for active transportation, working with CCRPC and the City.

Alumnae House landscaping concern and response. See attachment.

Form Based Code: David White and Emily Lee, Joan Shannon, Andy Montroll

Form Based Code came out of planBTV which was 3 year process to lay out a public vision for Burlington's Downtown and Waterfront. One of the recommendations out of planBTV is move into Form Based Code. This looks at design, mass and height. Goal is to keep to planBTV as our city evolves. In the current zoning process there is a lot of subjectivity in Development Review Board (DRB) process. Form Based Code makes development much more predictable.

David White, Director of Planning and Zoning will be going to all the NPAs to get more public feedback before final vote. Master plan for downtown of planBTV vision is focused on economic vitality and being walkable. They are making sure that zoning regulations reflect this. See Form Based Code on Planning and Zoning website <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/planBTV/FBC>

FBC requirements consider:

Types of building allowed in that area. Low density vs high density. The types of building mix uses. The frontage of each building.

Within each district there are different allowable heights.

Currently there are bonus if the developer can build parking.

Form based would allow a developer to pass through the DRB unless they want to go beyond the prescribed height.

Within downtown they want an increase in activity. Form based identifies where to have shops that promote this. PlanBTV vision was to open up St. Paul and Pine Street (the Town Center mall developer said they can do this).

Parking is not supposed to be in the front but in the back. Form based is getting away from big garages but hidden away underground, in the back, and above. Vision is to limit single passenger cars and move more toward promoting different modes of transportation. The Great Streets initiative which will define how wide sidewalks should be, as well as accommodate bike facilities. This project will have consultant hired in a couple of weeks.

The design of the mall will need to change to conform to Form based code. The mall proposal is 160 feet high. This project is still in pre-agreement and the height still under review.

The Form Based Code and mall redevelopment are a separate process. The developer for the mall is going through another current zoning process.

City Council update-Joan Shannon

The Mall pre-development agreement was approved-Monday 10-1 vote.

Pre-Agreement includes mixed uses, is 160 feet high, includes affordable housing, retail, cinema (maybe) up to 80 units of Champlain College student housing. Champlain College lease will help with financing the development. Still a lot of process ahead. Also after 15 years the City can relook at the agreement to see if things are still working.

The mayor was given \$100k from developer to look at project from outside of the developer's staff. Next step is for planning commission to look at zoning. It can take two month review and a 3D model will also be done.

Burlington College Property Update-Jesse Bridges and Andy Simon

City council approved development agreement in December to acquire 12 acres for \$2 million. \$500k is from the City's Conservation fund. The VT Land Trust contributes a \$1.5 million loan. Waiting to hear back about \$500k funding from State Conservation Fund. Zoning changes relate to moving building height allowances next to lake closer to North Avenue. The project still needs to go through the DRB process and ACT 250. Champlain Housing Trust and Eric Ferrell looking to develop 160 units of affordable house and senior housing.

This summer the bike path is being realigned in urban reserve and a park at the end that will be ADA accessible. An ecological restoration project partnering with the Rubenstein School planted over 500 trees on the site. The community garden on site will be expanded.

Andy Simon works with Save Open Space – Burlington (SOS-B) and worked with Jesse and supports the Community Garden and public space. The problem is the housing which will be the largest housing development in the City at 700units. SOS-B has ecological concerns because they feel it's the wrong location and will have storm water impacts on the lake. See attachment.

School Board update-Stephanie Seguino and Miriam Stoll

In the past there was a lack of leadership and financial planning which Superintendent Yaw Obeng is building. Moving to implement proficiency based learning and Superintendent has put together a team to resolve scheduling issues. Superintendent is using data to inform scheduling and has put a lot of work and focus on supporting students that have been left behind.

There has been a shift about decision making. Decisions will be based on data and not the pressure from a few. In the past the district was influenced by the loudest voice in the room which was not representative of the whole student body.

Superintendent has matched principals based on their leadership and skills to different schools to be more effective. This is new way of looking at seeing the whole district and not just individual schools as islands.

The Superintendent is not shifting away from public input but is looking at where the public input can be most helpful such as when hiring a new principal. Public input will be at the beginning to inform the Superintendent on what skills and leadership to look for in a candidate and at the end of the year evaluation about the principal. This type of public input process is more appropriate and has not been done before. We are moving away from how decisions are made because Superintendent Obeng is ultimately responsible for Principals and should have the power to decide. Parents can be helpful but are not experts in PBIS and Proficiency based Learning.

Annual Election of Steering Committee Members

Ward 6 Steering Committee Members elected
Charles Simpson, Peter Keating, Caroline Saba, Clare Wool

Meeting Adjourn: 9:10pm

Minutes submitted by Phet Keomanyvanh-CEDO Community Engagement Specialist-
Public Engagement

