

Neighborhood Planning Assembly, Ward 6
Meeting Notes from Nov. 5, 2015

Present. approximately 30 people at Aiken Hall, Champlain College

1. Peter Keating, moderator, asked that notes from the October meeting be approved; they were without change.
2. John Caulo presented a Champlain College update. The Eagles Club project is ongoing as an in-house effort with construction set to start fall 2016 for a fall 2018 opening. Street art from Hand Held Collective will enliven some of the walls temporarily.
3. Lisa Kingsbury from UVM said that their construction projects--STEM, Alumni House, new housing--were underway. Virtue Field has new lights and UVM will keep noise levels for night events below 55 dB. Landscaping will be the final phase of Alumni House reconstruction.
4. City Market staff presented information on the planned second story on Flynn Ave. in the South End. It will comprise 16,000 sq. ft. of retail, larger than the present stores 12,000 sq. ft., and will have about 100 parking spaces. Aim is to relieve pressure on the existing store and 20 percent of the business is expected to shift. Remediation studies are still incomplete as is a request for a needed zoning change. Question: As half the 4.2 acre plot is not being used, could you be point person in organizing a food processing business there for local producers? Answer: Not at this time. Q. Height? A. Two stories around the perimeter which will include a potential community room and demonstration kitchen. Q. Response from NPA 5? A. Support but come questions on traffic impact.
5. Residential Parking Study. Chapin Spencer, head of DPW, presented recent changes in the Residential Parking Plan (RPP) These included dropping commuter parking permits as it was the most contentious item; dropping the use of area rather than street for resident parking permits; possibly introducing time limits to RPP areas; permits will be per dwelling unit and be two permanent, two transferable; license plate readers are being studied. He said the advisory committee didn't support the prior plan and that the consultants were now dropped and DPW was in charge of planning continuing changes.
6. Resident and activist Barbara Headrick gave a critique of recent modifications of RPP, indicating that while she appreciated the efforts of neighbors and the willingness of the DPW to work with them, there were still problems. The mayor is on record as favoring meters and commuter parking on streets such as Summit; zone permitting still isn't definitively excluded and will impact some streets with overflow parkers; permits should be by house not residential unit because some houses have been subdivided. Caregiver passes are a potential loophole in that HIPA makes information on who is a caregiver impossible to obtain. There needs to be more information on revenue and expenses of RPP. Q. We need a cost benefit analysis. A. (Spencer): We expect resident permits to generate \$60,000 with fees extra. More information will be available later.
7. Councilmember Joan Shannon said BED was cutting positions to save \$14 million. She said the Hilton Garden Hotel has requested a permit for a permanent café on

Main Street in front of the old armory building. It would be 7 by 20 feet and rise up toward the west from sidewalk level. The sidewalk there is about 15 ft. wide. What do people think? She also said council had removed the recommendation for housing in the Enterprise Zone of the South End because it was divisive and distracting but the issue could be revisited later. The Mayor will be at Feldman's Bakery for a neighborhood Q and A Nov. 10th, 8:00 am. Q. Let's use the Vergennes example as a model for sidewalk café. Q. Why not a permit on a seasonal basis to test the idea? Q. It will bring people out.

8. Councilmember Karen Paul gave an update as well, indicating that a large rally was now taking place in front of City Hall to denounce racial hate. Waterfront developments were on-going as was planning for the up-dated mall on Church Street. Additional opportunity for public comment on the latter will be possible. Burlington Telecom is planning to be sold and the details re: public interest will be posted on Front Porch Forum.
9. Chief Brandon Del Pozo spoke about community policing and related matters. He indicated that police across the country were now under more scrutiny than ever. He said that community input can help but not entirely determine policing priorities, especially as to dealing with such matters as the homeless, used of public space, and such. The force is efficient in the area of responding to 911 calls but this doesn't solve all policing issues. If we want a vibrant city hall park, that happens via use--a farmers' market, better lighting--not just by policing. Community policing means the public has better access to the police and thus will provide more information. Burlington is small enough so that we can identify most potential criminals. A personal approach is possible here rather than policing through statistics. We have two new community affairs officers who will help with police-community relations. Working with other agencies is also necessary, including housing agencies. We will add a domestic violence prevention officer next year. Q. Biggest challenges? A. We may need additional officers eventually because community policing is labor intensive.
10. Stephanie Seguino of the School Board presented an update, saying the budget is being finalized. Act 46 is a challenge because it limits budge increases to 2.14% and costs for existing educational services are expected to rise over 4% next year. Cuts will be necessary. There's a comment form on the school website. Please participate. We and the new superintendent are looking at a system-wide approach for infrastructure improvements and we've added new personnel to the finance department. Early investment in children yields a 700% return to society, studies show.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Simpson