



Wards 4 and 7 NPA Meeting
Wednesday, June 22, 2016
Draft

Robert E. Miller Community Center
130 Gosse Court, Burlington, VT

Meeting Start: 7:00pm

Steering Committee members: Michael McGarghan, Matt Cropp, Linda Deliduka,
Martha Molpus

Welcome & Introductions

Facilitator: Michael McGarghan

Chris Trombly, Ward 7 resident, was nominated for the Steering Committee. Out of 26 Ward 7 residents, 25 voted Yes, with Mr. Trombly abstaining.

Sandi Omanovic, Ward 7 resident, was nominated for the Steering Committee. Out of 26 Ward 7 residents, 25 voted Yes, with Mr. Omanovic abstaining.

Open Forum

The Rivers Edge' gate is currently kept locked; there is a proposal to open the gate to create an emergency exit. The resident voiced support for keeping the gate closed, due to safety, cost of maintenance, and concern about excess traffic.

Coalition for a Livable City advocates that the proposed mall redevelopment height goes against community benefit and PlanBTV vision.

Resident voiced a concern about the Burlington College development compromising one of the most prominent natural open spaces in City limits.

The bike lane pilot project is slated to begin Thursday, June 23, and is on schedule to be completed by Monday, June 27, pending weather.

Presentation by Don Sinex, Mall Developer

Mr. Sinex's first thought upon reviewing the site was how it could be improved to better serve the purposes of living and working downtown in a present-day economy. He met with Mayor Weinberger and was informed of PlanBTV. His design integrated the plan, and his team is committed to environmentally sound development to increase vibrancy and investment. This will increase the walkability of downtown, and the ability to live and work in Burlington. The current design is not relevant; essentially an outdated suburban mall concept in the core of a downtown. The project will bring 900 construction jobs during development, and 1,200 permanent jobs in diversified sectors. The project is still in the design and public input process, and is receptive to feedback; the project has already been changed in design many times in response to constructive public input.

Burlington Police Department – Lt. Michael D. Warren

Lt. Warren has been in law enforcement for 18 years. His primary area of responsibility is the New North End. Some of the concerns heard from residents include vandalism using BB guns and bricks to break windows. Although these are low-level offenses from a criminality perspective, they are important to the department, and resources are being allocated. Neighborhood coordination is encouraged to deter and respond to vandalism and related offenses; email list serves and Front Porch Forum are avenues for this.

CCTA – David Armstrong

GMTA merge will be rural and add more routes, including 15 minute service from Cherry at no additional cost to the city. Transit station will open in August or September, and will have public bathroom.

Automatic vehicle location, so patrons can know when a bus is coming, will be available in a mobile app. Additionally, mobile app will be used for ticketing, to provide an alternative to cash or a paper ticket. In response to a public question, adding debit card functionality to the fare boxes would be a retrofit upgrade costing approximately one million dollars; the mobile app option will be more cost-effective.

Currently in the process of a redesign to look at systems changes across the area to be more efficient and effective, including the Bridge Program which uses data to inform the department about how patrons are using the system.

Elected and Appointed Officials

Councilor Kurt Wright – Charter change in March. We are the only City that uses Party designation in local municipal races. This will be put on the ballot.

Looking at residency requirement update, requiring department heads to live in Burlington. If a hardship exemption exists, they would have one year to move into city.

Councilor Tom Ayers-Pilot project to be implemented beginning Thursday the 23rd and finishing by Monday the 27th. A City Council meeting on October 17th will address whether to keep the change or move back to the current configuration. Public input is accepted in all forms, and a survey will come in August or September.

Anne Judson, School Board Commissioner – We're focused on the needs of safety and education, not wants. Champlain school is overcrowded. Bond may come in the fall, but working with City on where to save money and share cost. Looking to cut 1.2 million.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03pm.

Note Taker: Phet Keomanyvanh, CEDO