

W18 NPA Minutes – November 11, 2020

Additional information about W18 and NPA meeting is available on our facebook page →
<https://www.facebook.com/Ward1and8NPA>

Agenda:

7:00 Announcements
7:10 Introductions & Speak-out
7:25 City Council Update: Jack Hanson, Zoraya Hightower, Jane Stromberg
7:40 Update on Racial Justice Alliance Operation Phoenix R.I.S.E: Mark Hughes
8:00 Update on PCB testing; BHS; COVID guidelines in city schools: Commissioners Aden Haji & Kathy Olwell
8:20 Pathways Vermont - The Pathways Vermont Support Line and how individuals in the Community could use it as a resource: KC Carpenter and Abby Levinsohn
8:35 Landlord/Tenants: Evictions - Charter Change Update: City Councilor Zoraya Hightower
8:55 Suggested Future Agenda Items: Attendees
9:00 Adjourn

Attenders:

Abby Levinson
Aden Haji
Carol Livingston
Caryn Long
Cynthia Cook
Dave Cawley
Erhard Mahnke
Hannah King
Jack Hanson
Jane Stromberg
Jean Hopkins
Jonathan Chapple-Sokol
Kathy Olwell
KC Carpenter
Lauren Wilson
Marcie Gallagher
Sandy Wynne
Serrill
Sophie Quest
Tom Derenthal
Zoraya Hightower

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 PM

Announcements:

- Hannah King - Request made for topics and issues to be addressed in future NPA meetings
- Carol Livingston – Appreciation expressed for NPA funding of the voting project

- Sophie Quest – Announced the Old East End Winter Carnival on Feb 27th, 2021
- Jack Hanson – Announced he is running for a 2nd term as East District city councilor.
- Jared Wood [via Jonathan] – expressed concern about increasing covid cases and a need for community focus.
- A Joint Institutional Parking Plan meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov 17. Location was not provided. See info here → <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/sites/default/files/Agendas/SupportingDocuments/20201110%20minutes%20draft%20for%20approval.pdf>
- NPA – The NPA is looking for a volunteer to bring meeting summaries from the DRB to NPA.

City Council Update:

Jane Stromberg

- Charter Change committee – Police oversight model work is proceeding.
- Charter Change committee – Just cause eviction work is proceeding

Jack Hanson

- Ordinance committee – Residential parking policy for landlords and tenants is in development
- Ordinance committee – New building fossil fuel ban is in development
- Is concerned about the UVM transportation demand management plan. See this for more information → <https://www.uvm.edu/transportation>

Zoraya Hightower

- Reparations – Selected a consultant to advise city council
- Police and altercations??
- Polling places – Some locations lack robust wheelchair access
- City Place – Developer is responding to the City's lawsuit

Racial Justice Alliance Operation Phoenix R.I.S.E: Mark Hughes

- Mark Hughes presented Operation Phoenix and RISE, describing an overview along with accomplishments to date and actions in progress. More on both fronts can be found here → <https://vtracialjusticealliance.wordpress.com/2020/06/12/operation-phoenix/>

BSDVT - PCB testing in city schools: Commissioners Aden Haji & Kathy Olwell

- Aden Haji presented options facing the school board. BSD is moving forward with extended PCB testing in BHS structures to better understand what remediation is necessary. Testing will take weeks to months. In the meantime, in person classes for the Tech Center are being moved to private alternate space, e.g. Aeronautics will be at the airport, criminal justice at the police station. Classroom trailers and the old Macy's building are being considered as alternates for BHS in person classes. An in depth description can be found here → <https://www.bsdtv.org/2020/11/10/bhs-btc-update-november-10/>

Pathways Vermont [PV] - KC Carpenter and Abby Levinsohn

- A presentation described the PV phone hotline. The Vermont Support line is a free, confidential resource for all Vermonters over the age of 18 who are looking for someone to talk to. The Support Line is staffed by individuals who acknowledge that they have experienced a broad range of struggles of their own and are willing to be open about them.
- The PV program page is here → <https://www.pathwaysvermont.org/what-we-do/our-programs/>

Just Cause Eviction [for Landlords & Tenants] - Zoraya Hightower

- Zoraya Hightower described a remedy for tenants forced to leave apartments for no cause. The proposed language is below. The change, if approved by City Council, appear on the Town Meeting day ballot in March 2021.

“Shall the Charter of the City of Burlington, Acts of 1949, No. 298 as amended, be further amended by adopting and adding a new section 48(66) to read as follows: ‘To provide by ordinance protections for residential tenants from eviction without “just cause,” where just cause may include, but is not limited to (a) a material breach of a written rental agreement, (b) violation of state statutes regulating tenant obligations in residential rental agreements, (c) non-payment of rent while just cause may exclude (a) expiration of rental agreements (b) personal disagreements. The ordinance may also set a maximum rent increase with the purpose of preventing de facto evictions. The ordinance may require that landlords provide notice of just cause and other legal requirements as part of the rental agreement;’” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council directs the Charter Change Committee to report back to the City Council ~~at its August 24, 2020~~ **no later than its December 7, 2020** meeting so that the question can be considered in time to be warned for public hearing ~~for the November special election~~ **for the March 2021 Annual Meeting.**

More information on Just Cause Eviction can be found here →

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1DbdX5N6J2MKo1g6VsDFdrio0ei8-mZ3IS8jO5bNj3Y0/edit?usp=sharing>

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/sites/default/files/Agendas/FINAL%20Just%20Cause%20Eviction%20Burlington%20Memo.pdf>

Meeting End Time: 9:00 PM

Minutes written by Tom Derenthal