

January 9th, 2019

**Wards 1 & 8 NPA Meeting Notes UVM Medical Center,
McClure Conference Room
Meeting Draft Minutes**

Steering Committee member present: Richard Hillyard, Ward 1

Meeting Start: 7:00pm

City Council Update

-Adam Roof, Ward 8

-Public update on City Place on Jan 22nd at City Council meeting from Brookfield.

-Better signage for residential parking coming on Bradley Street.

-Public Safety Committee: Will be giving recommended policy around civilian oversight of police department. Will be working on homeless encampment removal policy.

-Sharon Bushor, Ward 1

-Transportation, Energy, and Utilities Committee: Working on prioritizing pedestrian safety efforts, there is still work to be done. There is currently a five-year wait between requests for pedestrian crossing lights and installation of lights.

-Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission: Funding now available for 2020 for planning projects (not actual construction, just planning). Hoping to get sidewalk gap analysis. Also looking into protected bike lanes on Colchester Ave.

-Colchester Ave- Barret St-Mill St intersection: unanimous decision made- ruled out roundabout, supported other alternative options. Supported "Alternative One", will recommend to City Council.

-City Place decision was made in good faith with what we believed was good, factual information. It's challenging to understand exactly what is going on.

-Richard Deane, East District

-Resolution was offered at City Council by Joan Shannon about plastics reduction, who asked that we put an advisory question on March ballot about restricting use of plastic bags, straws, other items within Burlington. Didn't have opportunity to vote, but do support it.

-Burlington Wildways Coalition: upcoming summit brings together stakeholders, people who own wild and open land. Will be scheduled for end of January/ beginning of February. Website will be launched soon for more information.

-Food trucks in the downtown: resolution passed by licensing committee to talk about how food trucks should work within downtown district. Currently no restrictions except limited amount of spots for "peddlers". Committee will examine their appropriate role in downtown environment.

Speak-Out

-Richard Hilyard: City should be doing more to prevent pedestrian accidents/fatalities like that one that occurred on North Ave. Changes need to be made faster, such as installing the flashing pedestrian lights.

-City Place lack of progress is disappointing. News reports say the market for downtown office space is soft. This information should have come up during a feasibility study.

Wayne Senville: Many signatures have been collected for Keep the Park Green issue. We hope that City Councillors will separate their feelings about the park from the issue of including question on the ballot.

-Front Porch Forum allowed Mayor Weinberger to post city-wide about Keep the Park Green. KTPG was not given the same permission to post city-wide to respond to the Mayor. This seems unfair, as we had to pay to post into different forums. Very delayed, cumbersome process

Carol Livingston: Will downtown improvement district be expanding into side-streets? Also, will all businesses be required to pay into the upkeep/services of DID? Business owner friend is concerned about being to able to afford these changes and remain open.

Jack Hanson: Running for City Council Wards 1 & 8 (East District). Nominated by Progressive Party, have lived in district since 2012, work at Green Mountain Power.

Kristin Merriman-Shapiro, CEDO: In December, Mayor Weinberger, City Council asked CEDO to take another look at Moran Plant. Parks, Arts, & Culture committee holding meeting in January.

Construction of “lab building” for UVMMC

- Very early stages of planning, only schematic drawings are currently available.
- Two phase, multi-year project
- Given building and Dewey Hall both need improvements, psychology programs will share in new lab building
- New construction will be attached to health science research facility (Given, Rowell) in front of water tower
- Will hold research laboratories. No gain in square footage for either college, will just relocate research facilities out of Given into new building, and psychology into Given
- No new parking facilities will be built
- Hoping to finish design elements and permitting process by spring of 2020. Would begin formal application to city probably by April or May, then will get in front of DBA and DRB, as well as Act 250.
- \$45 million project

Michael Long- Ward 1 Resolution

- Protecting neighborhood from overcrowding by supporting Code Office director in enforcing “no more than four people occupying an individual residence”
- 15-17 Weston St named specifically in resolution, has been questionably sub-divided and there are many more than 4 people per unit. Has been in and out of court
- There are certain ways unconventional family units (of more than four people) can be recognized as a family so that they are not targeted by this
- Concerns about diversity/equity- will poor families/people be unfairly effected by this? Non-traditional families?

-Motion to postpone vote until Michael Long can attend and speak more about the subject

Adam Roof- Downtown Improvement District (DID)

-This initiative did not originate from city administration (Mayor's Office)

-An improvement district is a designated area that pays a tax for enhanced services within district

-Improvement districts do not provide government services, create public policy, manage right of way or public spaces, create policies around policing or law enforcement, or levy taxes or bonding

-Church St marketplace district is an improvement district, funded by 40 businesses

-Board of Finance met five times and eventually made a recommendation to City Council, eventually went through charter change

-Charter change means it has to go through voters

-Fee payers of DID are non-residential properties. Non profits are fee payers unless they provide social services. Non profits can file hardship claims if they cannot pay

-Fee rates submitted by governing board to council for approval.

-Boundaries will be slightly expanded from current district.

-Governance of DID includes 13 voting directors and 4 non-voting. 7 appointed by city council- 1 resident who lives in boundaries of district, one in city limits, one from non profit located within district, 2 owners of businesses within district, and 2 owners of real property within district. 6 directors appointed by DID itself. 4 ex-officio members- DPW, Parks and Rec, Police Department, City Council.

-City Council votes on Jan 28 whether or not to place question on the ballot

-Significant public information sharing campaign: presentations at NPAs, on Channel 17, town hall meetings, digital presentation (FB live), Front Porch Forum

-Language in charter change is clear that DID will not be an arm of the police department.

Purpose statements to support more vulnerable or homeless populations. No private entity could hire their own security to enforce laws

Meeting End: 9:00pm

Notes taken by Hannah Carpino, CEDO intern

