

Wards 1 & 8 NPA Meeting Notes

UVM Medical Center, McClure Conference Room

7:04 PM – 9:09 PM

December 12th, 2018

Steering Committee member present: Richard Hillyard, Ward 1

City Council Update

Adam Roof:

-Serves as chair of downtown improvement advisory committee, charter change is going on. Looking at creating a unified downtown/business district. This legislation is moving through city process, if it passes it will be on March ballot. More notes/information included in City Council agenda from Monday.

-Public meeting at BCA regarding downtown improvement had good turnout. There was some confusion around enhanced services offered. This will not be included in charter, rather it will be able to change with the needs of the district. Authorities that DID can operate within are located in charter, but not specific enhanced services.

Robust post-vote public process will occur.

-Also looking at inclusionary zoning ordinances, which dictate percentage of housing has to be affordable housing.

-No updates regarding start dates for City Place. City received \$72,000 from City Place developer/financier free downtown parking to help with business during the transition.

Richard Deane:

-Looking at charter change required for phasing out business/personal property tax, which taxes all property (computers, equipment) above \$45,000. Eliminating this tax could attract more business to Burlington, may appear on March ballot.

-Governance of downtown improvement district will be comprised of 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.

-Housing action plan- consolidation into Inspection and Permitting department. Will streamline permitting processes. Planning department is proposed to be co-located with CEDO.

-Resolution from Councilor Dieng and Councilor Hartnett, became a divided vote 6-6. Resolution sought to re-examine financial support for NPAs, possibilities of mini-grants. Councilors want to return to their NPAs and seek their input next year.

-Has had to recuse himself from City Council discussions of City Place Burlington, but knows that Devinwood has continued interest in mixed-use planning in downtown Burlington

Sharon Bushor:

-Part of the joint committee for community/neighborhood revitalization. Inclusionary zoning has been a long process. Consultant came in to examine the issue, met with committee. Council is having committee look at all the proposals. Information is available online as part of City Council agenda/minutes. There will be lots of opportunities for citizen input.

-Planning and zoning issue moving forwards as a charter change. Lots of people want one-stop shop for planning and permitting. There is still work to be done as far as how zoning/planning will have a role in permit reform.

-Public meeting was held at BCA about downtown development charter change. People wanted to know if that vote had to happen in March, or if there would be more time. Residents wanted to be empowered to make decisions regarding district.

Speak-Out:

-Are people happy with the way streets are being plowed? The no-parking lights should go on more.

-Jake Cornfeld, Salvation Farms: We aggregate food from across from state. And train/ hire people to clean and distribute food to food shelves and pantries across state. Job training is 6 weeks, 30 hours/week, teaches people basic employability skills, places them in food/manufacturing jobs after completion. Looking for people who feel that they have a barrier to employment.

-Phet Keomanyvanh, CEDO: Announcement on behalf of Valerie Russell, who manages CDBG. In the process of putting together a CDBG advisory board. The city gets a grant every year from HUD, and we're looking for volunteers from different neighborhoods to help review the grant applications from different non-profits and decide how we want to invest.

-Sam Donnelly: Planning to seek nomination for Inspector of Elections for Democratic Party at Democratic Caucus tomorrow night at Hunt Middle School at 6 PM. Grew up in Burlington, UVM attendee now. Wants to get involved to help run elections in a fair way that improves access for all citizens.

-Democratic Caucus tomorrow night, registration 6-6:30, will wrap up at 7:15. Hunt Middle School.

School Commissioner Update:

Kathy Orwell-

-Working on school budget right now. If you have input or questions, we are at beginning stages.

-Budget director will be at City Council meeting to answer questions.

-Last year's budget is available online through School Board site under "Board docs".

-Department of Education is examining personnel issues with counseling department.

-Martin Luther King Jr. Day is not being honored this year in schools, will look into why.

UVM Medical Center

Dave Keelty & Maria McLellan-

-Proposed sound barrier from gravel path to Mary Fletcher building

-Mock-up is on the road to give an idea for what it will look like

-Wall will be erected in response to complaints from neighbors of truck noise, exhaust fans, ambient noise

-Conceptual design will be effective in reducing noise from Mary Fletcher drive.

-Wall will be concrete with surface embedded with wood, other materials.

-"Goat paths" up hill will be rendered useless by wall, but the benefits of wall outweigh the negatives

UVM Athletics On-Campus Multipurpose Center

Lisa Kingsbury & Mark Smith

- New project expands events center onto existing parking lot, improvements on Gutterson, improvements on Health + Wellness area for students, new pool, indoor turf, and outdoor tennis
- Traffic circulation changes will be mitigated because traffic arrives before/after peak hours, workers will be bussed on site from satellite parking areas
- New areas will not create more traffic around center, as parking spaces will actually be lost in construction. There will be other lots open for games, big events and shuttles available to help with this.
- Cost is \$95 million, coming from University bonding (which will come from student fees) and fundraising, which UVM Athletics has been helping with

State Representative Update

Brian Cina-

- VT needs to prepare if it wants to retain young people. VT will likely also be home to climate refugees in coming decades and we need to reshape our economy, make hospitable communities
- Several legislators have submitted versions of Ethnic Studies bill, attempting to merge them into one version, enhancing it. Requests have been made to add material regarding Abenaki culture.

Selene Colburn-

- Studies incoming on weighting of students regarding funding.
- Funding from k-12 should not go towards governor's plan for higher education.
- Lack of a veto through majority made lake clean-up funds difficult to achieve, but the upcoming legislature now has super majority.

Barbara Rachelson-

- Hoping to improve current loan forgiveness program. Maine has created tax credit program for young people, wondering if that could be a model.
- Elimination of tax on Social Security has passed (though it is limited), and the effects will start to be seen.
- Recommending that language be added to ethnic studies bill regarding mandatory training for state employees, as well as training as early as kindergarten.

Chris Pearson-

- Financial briefing just occurred, retirement funds were discussed. None of the retirement plans are fully funded. Lots of pressure to move away from defined-benefits model.
- Positioning ourselves as leaders in climate change will be attractive to young people, marijuana industries are also proven to attract entrepreneurs and young people.
- Paid family leave has increased population of young families in Quebec.
- Proponent of addressing climate change, people seem to want to do everything but pass a carbon tax. Legislature agreed to do a study on effects on carbon tax. Getting this analysis funded was a victory, and results will come back in mid-January.
- Passed \$15 min wage bill which was vetoed last year, but pressure is mounting
- Have spent 150% more on lake clean up in recent years compared to the past, despite governor's clamp down on funds there will be funding source through the legislature this year

The Iceland Model

- Will be presenting a full presentation at next Wards 1 & 8 NPA
- How to cut down drug and alcohol use in youth

Minutes taken by Hannah Carpino-CEDO intern