



# Neighborhood Planning Assembly Draft Minutes

NPA:  
(choose one)

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| Wards<br>1 & 8 | Wards<br>2 & 3 | Wards<br>4 & 7 | Ward<br>5 | Ward<br>6 |
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Date of Assembly : 4/10/2019 Start Time: (Commence): 7:02 PM

Location: McClure Conference Room Finish Time: (Adjourn): 9:01 PM

Note taker: Hannah Carpino

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

Cindy Cook, Richard Hillyard, Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Carol Livingston, Caryn Long

Discussion Topics

- DPW
- City Council Update
- Early childhood education

Actions Taken / Decisions Made

- Resolution passed regarding fixing sidewalks
- Linda Rivzi joined Steering Committee

## Agenda Items and Actions

### Introductions and Announcements:

- Heather Wick: Trash receptacles needed in student blocks. Bike lanes on N. Union Street have been damaged by plows.
- Public Works Commission will be considering changes to bike lane on Colchester Ave next week. Have been concerns about safety. City is looking at removing some parking along top part of hill to make continuous bike lane from Winooski bridge and upwards. Meeting is Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at DPW Offices.
- Old East Neighborhood Coalition: Want to promote history and livability of neighborhood, which is old with narrow streets. Trying to talk to LocalMotion about walking/biking in the area, improving safety.
- Richard Hilyard: City Councilors who voted for City Hall Park voted to divert money from Schmanska Park.
- Richard Deane: Barn at Schmanska Park was not permitted as assembly space. Trying to examine existing building and make improvements to open it as assembly space.
- Karen: Runoff into lake continues to be an issue. Streets are very dirty here, but don't get cleaned frequently. Could streets be swept more than once a season?
- Open house on April 27<sup>th</sup> at East Ave Co-housing between 4- 8 PM.

### City Council Updates:

Adam Roof, Ward 8:

- Committee assignments made for City Council
- Looking forward to working on License committee!
  - Charter Change: Paulino, Shannon, Tracy
  - Community Development & Neighborhood Revitalization: Pine, Paul, Dieng
  - Institutions & HR: Dieng, Pine, Freeman
  - License: Roof, Tracy, Hanson
  - Ordinance: Mason, Roof, Bushor
  - Parks, Arts & Culture: Shannon, Dieng, Paul
  - Public safety: Freeman, Roof, Shannon
  - Transportation, energy, utilities: Tracy, Paulino, Hanson
  - Tax abatement: Mason, Bushor, Freeman

-Finance: Bushor, Wright, Paul, Pine

Jack Hanson, East District:

- Excited to work on transportation, energy, and utilities committee to address climate change.
- Been getting oriented to City Council, meeting with different departments.
- McNeil District Heating Proposal: bill has passed in House, is moving over to Senate.

Sharon Bushor, Ward 1:

- Report from consultants in DPW on Monday. Involved water, wastewater, and stormwater. Did regional comparisons, evaluation of Burlington's services, facilities, and staff. Report said we were not doing enough maintenance/upkeep.
- Working on a resolution with Councilor Hanson about investing in spaces for pollinators, utilizing pesticides only when absolutely necessary.

### Steering Committee Members

- Linda Rizvi, Ward 8: Have lived in Ward 8 for decades. Have raised children here, worked as Ward 2 School Commissioner. Looking forward to returning to public service
- The members present voted to appoint Linda Rivzi to the steering committee

### Chapin Spencer, Director of DPW & Rob Goulding

- Have received requests from the neighborhood in 2017 about traffic calming on East Ave. Two other requests (Booth St and Ward St) will be answered this year. DPW addresses traffic calming requests in the order that they are received.
- Speed radar signs will be installed in several areas
- Looking for some quick-build solutions in the interim
- DPW meeting this month about city standard for mid-block crosswalks. There are state specific guidelines, but Burlington is working to develop their own.
- Heard feedback about bike share program. E-bikes have been recommended strongly, many concerns about e-scooters. May not be able to launch e-bikes until August.
- E-scooters will be given further consideration in light of community comments

### Sidewalk Safety Questions and Concerns

- In the Old East End, no sidewalk on Mill St leading up to businesses. Pedestrian signals are great, but a path would be great. Mid-block crossing at Chase St will be installed, and further improvements to Old East End are coming.
- Toxicity of road salt is a concern for pet-owners. DPW had a trial of liquid material which was less harmful for pets, but it was ineffective for snow/ice clearing, and will be discontinued.
- New sidewalk plows have blower and plow attachment, which can be changed for different snow conditions. 4 new tractors this year, 4 coming next year. Average age of Burlington sidewalk plow is 11 years old.
- Frost heaves often leave sidewalk panels uneven, and dangerous for pedestrians. Climate change will only make this problem harder to deal with: more rapid freezing/warming cycles
- 3 miles for sidewalk reconstruction per year since 2016. A lot of that is focused on larger chunks of sidewalk, but 2,400 SeeClickFix reports come in per year about smaller areas.

**-Members passed a resolution to request that the City take immediate action to address significant sidewalk safety and accessibility issues, rather than wait until a given stretch of sidewalk is scheduled for a complete rebuild.**

#### Riverside Development Project

This presentation was deferred at the presenter's request to next month's NPA meeting.

#### Crisis in Early Childhood Education and Day Care Availability - Susan Linskey

- 77% of infants in Vermont likely to need childcare will not have access to high quality childcare
- Mayor Miro Weinberger has tried to take steps to strengthen quality of early childhood education
  - First Steps scholarship program, which helps qualifying Burlington families find a childcare program
- NPAs should begin to have conversations about young children in the neighborhood, providers, and what care providers might need
- Sustainability of program: cost saving, long-term infrastructure, funding
- H.531: aiming to make childcare more affordable statewide. Invests additional funds in the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP), expands income eligibility, increases financial assistance available. Also makes investments in the workforce: helping repay student loan debt of early childhood educators

#### Discussion of Wards 1 + 8 Funding and Future Meeting Topics

**Members approved a resolution to request an increase in annual funding from \$400 to \$2,500.**

- UVMMC as a location: is it convenient for everyone?
  - Make parking instructions and availability of child care clearer.
  - Gert input from members who were not at the meeting
- Potential agenda items
  - May: Edmunds building project, Neighborhoods Project, landlord/ tenant conversation, Lake Monsters season preview, UVMMC tour before meeting time, Riverside housing project
  - June: state legislators recap on the legislative session