

Wards 1/8 NPA

October 11, 2017

7:30 - 9:00 pm

McClure Lobby Conference Room, UVM Medical Center

Draft Minutes

Steering Committee Members Present: Anne Brena (8), Dana Kamencik (1), Richard Hillyard (1)

Start: 7:30

Updates on Burlington Telecom from City Councilors:

Sharon Bushor:

Every constituent she has spoken to supports a coop, and she wants to grow the profits of the company while allowing citizens to control its fate in some way

Richard Deane:

He is “torn.” He says that BT is doing so well it seems “dumb” to let it go, but we need to think about what risks we face if it doesn’t work. Keep Burlington Telecom Local has to be evaluated the same as an outside bid, we can’t treat them differently even though they’re local. The past (BT doing well) does not predict the future, where anything can happen, especially in the telecom business.

Adam Roof:

We’re stuck between “a rock and a hard place.” Either we vote for lots of risk or what lots of people want in the coop. If it were just about the numbers, something a computer would do, he wouldn’t be in this job. He wants to make the best decision based on his judgement, and says all the city counselors look at it this way.

Other City Council Updates:

Adam Roof:

Says that as chair of the public safety group he wants to work on low-cost, citizen-run safety efforts. Event at city hall coming soon looking at how UVM gathers information about their students.

Sharon Bushor:

Thanks everyone involved in the Memorial Auditorium meeting. We need to remember that Memorial Auditorium was created for veterans and served so many functions in the community. “That building has been there for us, and we haven’t been there for it.”

Adam’s committee brought in a consultant to look at neighborhood stability, find out more at event in November.

Announcements:

Maria McClellan, UVM Medical Center:

Working to coordinate transportation of critical condition patients between hospitals. We (UVMHC) are expanding partnership with Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and utilizing a helicopter to expand access to medical care. More information to come.

Fire Department:

Fire station open house coming up, information of Front Porch Forum

East Avenue Speeding Controversy

Richard Hillyard:

Explains that there have been many complaints of speeding on East Avenue, complaints of low police speed enforcement, and objections to the possibility of Department of Public Works (DPW) paving the road at the risk of more speeding

Chapin Spencer, DPW:

DPW is working on many methods of improving road safety, from reflectors to more islands. They are also making more public works improvements in the coming years thanks to a publicly improved bond.

East Avenue and Queen City Substation Improvement Project:

Scott Mallory, Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO) executive:

VELCO is working with Burlington Electric Department (BED) to install devices to limit the level of possibly dangerous “fault current” in the substations. Current proposal is for two limiting devices to be added with the existing substation.

Before construction begins, proposal must be approved and permit must be granted by the VT Public Utility Commission, and the start time on construction could be anywhere from April to September of 2018. Construction would be short-term and not too major. VELCO has consulted with a noise modeling expert to ensure that the project would not be too disruptive to communities.

Lisa Kingsbury, UVM campus planning, clarifies that UVM will be meeting with VELCO to work on the logistics of the project.

VELCO will publish information about expected timeframe and who to contact with questions when the project is further along.

City of Burlington's "Assessment of Fair Housing"

Marcy Esbjerg, CEDO Assistant Director:

Numerous housing and civil rights acts throughout history ensure fair housing in the US (to “foster inclusive communities”). Burlington receives the Community Development Block Grant

(CDBG) and with Winooski is required to report on fair housing in order to continue receiving CDBG money.

Key Issues: local or regional segregation, racially or ethnically concentrated areas of poverty, disparities in access to opportunity, disproportionate housing needs, evidence of discrimination in housing.

Report looks for trends among protected classes in Burlington. USA Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides Burlington with demographics data and asks the city to analyze. Worked with UVM students to create graphs that demonstrate the decrease in white population and increase in minority and foreign-born populations. Also an upward trend among male citizens, and downward trend among women and families with children.

Data provided does not raise concerns of segregation. However, the “trend of segregation” has increased since 1990. Areas with the highest density of non-white population are also those with highest levels of renter-occupied housing.

Where there is family-oriented public housing, there are high-levels of citizens from African-descent/other national origin. Suggests that people are settling where there are other people like them, some suggestion of patterns of segregation here.

Report also looks at access to opportunity (good transportation, schools, jobs, etc.). Opportunity is not necessarily a pattern with race as much as with socio-economic status. Black populations have a higher exposure to poverty than other populations.

Report assesses lack of facilities within houses and at the cost burden of housing on income (30% of income on housing is bad, 50% is severe). In Burlington, black households had high rates of burden, while Native Americans had high rates of severe burden.

Key Findings:

Higher percentage of non-whites live in PHA managed properties than percentage of non-whites in the population as a whole. Half of residents in BHA managed properties have a disability. Properties with concentrated racial/ethnic populations correlate with properties with family units with more than 2 bedrooms

Perceived unfilled need judging by surveys with people with disabilities. 16% of people below poverty line have a disability.

Again, Vermont Legal Aid, Fair Housing Project, and Human Rights Commission all found nothing noteworthy in terms of segregation or discrimination.

Goals and priorities: increase affordable housing options, maintain/preserve affordable housing, assist income-qualified households to maintain housing, increase employment/economic opportunities, increase educational opportunities, support fair housing education and outreach

End: 8:56

Draft minutes taken by Ben Lahey, CEDO Community Outreach Intern