

Ward 1/8 NPA Draft Minutes

December 13, 2017, 7:00-9:00pm

McClure Lobby Conference Center, UVM Medical Center

**Steering Committee Members present:** Richard Hillyard (1), Anne Brena (8)

**Start:** 7:03 pm

**Welcome and Introductions**

Richard Hillyard wishes everyone happy holidays and addresses changes to the agenda. The Parks & Rec director will not be in attendance.

Anne Brena motions to nominate Gabrielle \_\_\_ as the Ward 8 representative to the CDBG Advisory Board, which passes.

Cindi Cook advocates for her inclusion in the Ward 1 Steering Committee, which passes.

**City Council Update** Adam Roof, Sharon Bushor, Richard Deane

*Sharon Bushor:*

Opens the floor for questions about the Burlington Telecom controversy. Says that night was very sad for her, and that she wishes the community could have kept the telecom. Believes that the council did a good job up until the establishment of the final four bidders, at which point “it got bumpy.” The final meeting to select a buyer did not reflect the amount of thought that went into the vote (due to interruptions, delays, last minute changes). She says she doesn’t believe that the votes were there for Keep Burlington Telecom Local, and that she had enough information about the new, joint offer to vote for that offer (Schurz and ZRF). She speaks to how painful it was to hear a gasp in Contois Auditorium when she voted for the Schurz/ZRF proposal.

Speaks about other happenings in the city, namely an update to city ordinances that adjust some crimes from civil to criminal offenses. Public urination, defecation, and drunkenness would become criminal offenses upon multiple incidences. She adds that this proposal would include the ability to erase such criminal offenses from one’s record as a reward working with a restorative justice group.

*Adam Roof:*

Speaks about the ordinance and public safety committees working with the aforementioned ordinances. They convened members of many different communities (civil service, homeless, public safety, etc.) to gather more information and opinions about the issue. Set forward eight recommendations: increase capacity of low-barrier shelters on a temporary basis, improve communication between public safety organizations, review encampment removal process,

increase opportunities for those experiencing homelessness, improve access to public restrooms in downtown core, provide antibacterial and sunscreen products to people who can't afford them, request that Chittenden County Homeless Alliance give quarterly reports to the Council, look at how to better fund housing retention specialists and street outreach teams.

Addresses low turnout at the Neighborhood Project assembly, but says he believes it went well.

*Richard Deane:*

Talks about Public Engagement Plan created in cooperation with DPW to establish guidelines for DPW public outreach and to improve public relations.

### **Speak Out**

New entrepreneur announces project to open Stone Cutter distillery in the area near the funeral home facing City Market. Stone Cutter will be meant to provide quality spirits and cocktails, and will operate in cooperation with Filino's Pizza.

Adam Roof speaks to the responsibility and conscientiousness of the Stone Cutter owners.

Community member states his disappointment for how the present City Councilors have voted in low-income and college student housing issues. The Council recently sold housing to a landlord named Bove, who has apparently been in violation of the law and have been bad about making fine payments. Adam Roof addresses these concerns, to which the community member responds that he has visited homeless community members who say they are not heard by city councilors. Roof replies that cooperation between this speaker and City Council has been bad, and clarifies that this is not a vilification of homeless people, but an effort to punish those who lack regard for the law.

To the Bove issue. Roof clarifies that the recent agreement with Bove (whom he agrees has acted like a slumlord) will be forced to cooperate with the city. A new rating system will have tenants rate landlords, which will force Bove to improve.

A UVM Medical representative speaks about a recent meeting to deal with noise complaints in the area from construction. Meetings with consultants and others will occur in the future to continue working to improve quality of life for nearby residents.

### **YMCA Presentation:**

Greater Burlington YMCA President & CEO Kyle Dodson stands to present about new building project. The Y owns new property and is working on raising funds to build a new structure. He says the current Y building "shows that it's from the 1950s." This would be a 28 million dollar project, that money coming from sale of the old building, donors, and community fundraising. He reminds everyone that "the devil is in the details," so progress may be slow, but community energy has been positive. He presents several preliminary drawings of what the future building may look like.

## **Parks & Rec Projects:**

*Max Madalinski, Parks Project Coordinator*

Parks outreach work has included electronic surveys and in-person surveys. He describes public response to the possibility of new games courts in Schmanska Park and shows several aerial views and concepts of what courts could look like. A goal is to have parks ADA accessible.

Other projects involve improvement of trail connections and playgrounds, and general landscaping efforts.

A community member who lives near the park shares his opinions of the parks proposal and of current park maintenance and accessibility. He is upset about the removal of maples in the park planted by community members, and Madalinski ensures him that no trees will be removed.

## **BHS Renovation:**

*Jim Holway (Ward 4 Steering Committee Member), Kate Stein, and another community member*

Explain the Burlington High School needs to be renovated. They talk about community sessions to ensure students, teachers, future students, and the community are heard and are on board.

There are \$27 million in deferred maintenance on the school, so they argue that that money has to be spent no matter what. They are trying to keep and renovate current assets, as well as create new assets. The goal of the group is to write a recommendation to the superintendent in January regarding what the community wants from this project. They explain to the audience how they can find the project video online and request to come back for a full presentation at a coming meeting.

**End:** 9:14 pm

Minutes taken by Ben Lahey, CEDO Intern