Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES:

Thursday, November 5th 2015 at 1:00 PM

Burlington Department of Public Works – Front Conference Room
645 Pine Street – Burlington, VT

–Meeting Minutes–

Members Present: Max Tracy (TEUC)
Joan Shannon (TEUC)
David Hartnett (TEUC)

Others Present: Chapin Spencer, DPW
Damian Roy, DPW
Jason Van Driesche, Local Motion

Max Tracy called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.

1. Agenda

Joan moved to approve the agenda. David seconds. All in favor.

2. Public Forum

Jason Van Driesche spoke to voice his and Local Motion’s support for the Railyard Enterprise Alternatives and the Parking Plan. He says that Local Motion has been involved with both and has seen them evolve and incorporate considerations for people walking and biking. He states that while neither of them are perfect that they are both solid plans and are heading in the right direction and have Local Motion’s support.

3. Minutes of 8/04/15

Joan did not read the minutes from the last meeting in August and asked not to vote on those minutes. All in favor.
4. Mandatory Recycling – Chapin Spencer, DPW

Mr. Spencer states that the resolution passed in 2014 by the city council, one of the conditions of the resolution was that the TEUC would evaluate and forward the draft to the ordinance committee by September 2014. This item is presented at this meeting to see if the TEUC would like to see an ordinance change.

The Mandatory Recycling resolution states that if a residential or commercial project produces more than 40 cubic yards of construction and demolition waste (C&D) and is within 20 miles of a facility that can recycle C&D then that waste must be brought to that facility. There are two C&D recycling facilities within 20 miles of Burlington so all projects – residential and commercial – that produce at least 40 cubic yards of waste must by law bring that waste to be recycled. These facilities will separate what can be recycled at that facility with the remainder being sent to the landfill.

Mr. Spencer asks whether or not the city wants to require anything more stringent than what the state requires and what the county is likely to require.

Mr. Tracy states that as part of a construction permitting process there is an opportunity to include an educational portion into that process to further educate contractors to the Mandatory Recycling requirement. Ms. Shannon and Mr. Hartnett support this.

Mr. Tracy offers to draft the resolution to include this educational portion into DPW’s permit process.

5. Update on Parking Plans, Chapin Spencer – DPW

Mr. Spencer speaks to the different aspects of the Parking Plans, offering updates to the TEUC regarding the public input schedule for the Residential Parking, Downtown Parking and the TDM Action Plan. He talks of getting away from the model of giving away free parking in the downtown as it has virtually bankrupted the traffic fund but that DPW wants to provide more parking opportunities to those that need them and also opening up private lots to overnight public parking when possible.

7. TEUC Goals, Max Tracy – TEUC

Mr. Tracy wished to talk about the TEUC’s goals, structure, and understanding what type of issues should go before the TEUC.

Mr. Hartnett suggested issues such as what type of bus routes should serve the NNE and also an effort to install GPSs on busses so that those using public transit know where and when a bus will be at their bus stop.
Ms. Shannon expressed her views that the role of the committee is not really to establish their own goals but to look a bit deeper at any recommendations or motions that have previously been looked at or have come out of other city governing bodies. She further states that her role as a city councilor and as a TEUC member is to help residents navigate the various cities entities for public issues and advocate for her constituents in their stead.

Mr. Tracy asks whether the TEUC should only address issues that are referred to the committee and Ms. Shannon stated that that is what city council intended for the committee, that if the committee wished to initiate items for resolution that they would have to get approvals beforehand. Mr. Tracy expressed his view that the TEUC should be able to initiate topics that can then be sent to other boards and committees.

8. Railyard Enterprise Alternatives, Chapin Spencer – DPW

Ms. Shannon left before the start of this presentation due to a prior engagement.

Mr. Spencer expressed a need for a resolution from the TEUC in preparation for seeking City Council approval. This project is different than traditional scoping projects in that FHWA has a concept called Planning and Environmental Linkages that allows all environmental assessment work to be carried forward into the Environment Impact Statement. This is meant to expedite the process and is the first project in Vermont being done this way. This project is not connected to the Champlain Parkway in any way and neither is dependent on the other. The four main components to the purpose and need for this project are economic development, livability, multi-modal connections, and improving access to the rail yard. There are seven different alternative designs at this time with the goal to reduce that down to three alternative designs.

6. Councilors Updates

None Given.

7. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 2:36 pm

The date for the next TEUC meeting was not decided.