All Wards NPA

April 19th Room 12 City Hall

Start time-6:30pm

Welcomes and Introductions


NPA Current Events

Ward 2 and 3 NPA location looking to change from Champlain Senior Center on N. Winooski to Parks and Rec. new community space on 20 Allen St in the fall. The 35th Anniversary for NPA is this year. Looking for steering committee volunteers from each NPA to join a 35th Anniversary Planning Committee and ask each Ward to pitch in $75 for an event. Funding for this event could come from City Council’s 50k annual neighborhood funds too. The City already does a Celebrate Burlington event in August where a proclamation recognizing NPAs can be read by Mayor and City Council but NPA should do a separate grassroots event in City Hall Park or in Contois in September to increase public exposure about NPAs. Should reach out to Bernie Sanders to attend.

This year Leddy Beach Bites will be twice a month so 4/7 NPA will want to take advantage this event to get the word out about NPA meetings.

There are issues with low student involvement local issues and voting. Many students graduate or move out and don’t vote or participate in local government. It would be helpful to send out absentee ballots because many young people forget or decide not to vote otherwise. Town meeting day had some days for registration and voting which increased voters. There needs to be an effort to reach out to UVM political science students so they will work with NPA’s. Currently there is a Community Coalition that is made up of UVM, Champlain students/facility and neighborhood members. This is a possibly entry too.

The effort to increase attendance in wards 2/3 NPA by providing food and music proved to work. 2/3 NPA invites other SC to their meetings to enjoy the food, music and environment.

Show and Tell

Dana met with students and they are helping with design work and landscaping at Schmanska Park. He is following up to invite them to present their work at the 1/8 NPA. 4/7 is having meetings live streamed on Facebook and CCTV and is asking from their City Council reps. to fund the livestreaming equipment. City Council has a total of 50 thousand annual funds for discretionary community projects. 1/8 had a resident who came to share that East Ave is going to be paved but traffic speed is an issue and there should be some traffic calming measures put in place. As a product of 1/8 NPA advice, a BPD did a 5hr shift and issued $2,700 in speeding fines. This was a great result from NPA support to produce evidence traffic speed issue to be brought to DPW for calming measure for East Ave.
242 Main and the RFP Memorial Auditorium

Memorial auditorium hasn’t been updated and maintained since it was built in 1928, the same year as City Hall. Memorial is a central civic and historical venue. It was closed last year due to cost of maintenance. Many programs, BCA, music, art had to move out and relocate. UVM looked at buying Memorial but later turned it down. At March Ward 6 NPA James Lockwood of Big Heavy World presented on the history of 242 Main as a youth venue that is needs to be preserved and asking NPA to endorse for the Memorial Auditorium RFP to include 242 Main. Charles propose the NPA host a public meeting to invite all the past programs and users of Memorial on they feel about the space being sold. There should be public input about the civic and economic costs of the space being sold or destroyed. This public meetings would invite the City and all the groups that make up RFP, and NPA Steering Committee members can facilitate. In the past the NPA hosted a successful public forum on gentrification. This City wide Memorial Auditorium public meeting would need to be approved by all the NPAs in order for it to be a sponsored as a City wide NPA public event. Each present SC member at the All Wards tonight will go back to their NPA for a vote on hosting an All Ward Memorial Auditorium public forum. Ward 5 NPA was not present tonight.

All Wards Professional Development Workshops

Phet will be working with City Attorney’s Office to develop an orientation for new SC members about open meeting law and best practices on running effective meetings. Phet will also work with CEDO’s AmeriCorps program for members to conduct Cultural Competency training at All Wards. Estimated time for these trainings will take place in the fall.

Translated NPA Advertisement

Outreach to New American communities have gained some interest in NPAs and attending. Translated NPA flyers have been requested. Interpretation services would also be required at meeting.

Financial Report

The City’s fiscal year ends June 30th and new fiscal year 2018 start July 1st 2017. Balance of NPA FY 2017 do not roll over to FY18. Please submit all receipts to Phet by mid June for processing. See current NPA budget balance attachment.

End Time 8:15pm