



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT &
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE
c/o Community & Economic Development Office
City Hall, Room 32 • 149 Church Street • Burlington, VT 05401
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Councilor Brian Pine, Chair, Ward 3

Councilor Adam Roof, Ward 8

Councilor Karen Paul, Ward 6

Attendance: Committee Members: Chair Brian Pine, Councilor Karen Paul, Councilor Adam Roof; Councilor Dave Hartnett;
City staff: Marcy Esbjerg, Gillian Nanton, Stephanie Morse, Brian Lowe and Ian Jakus;
Consultant, VB5: Didi Harris;
Public: Joe Speidel, UVM.

Thursday, June 7th, 2018

5:30 –7:00 PM

City Hall, Conference Room 12

Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:40 PM.

1. Review Agenda (5 minutes)

Councilor Adam Roof moved to approve the agenda with unanimous approval.

2. Public Forum (10 minutes)

No members of the public in attendance.

3. Approval of Minutes - 4/26 (5 minutes)

Approval of minutes was tabled until the next CDNR meeting.

4. Action Item: Sponsor - Resolution - Application for Vermont Sales Tax Reallocation (10 minutes)

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contact Gillian Nanton at Gnanton@burlingtonvt.gov

Gillian Nanton, Assistant Director, CEDO explained the resolution to go before council on June 25th which is an application for reallocation of sales taxes on CityPlace Burlington, a qualified project located in Burlington's Designated Downtown. If successful, the funds would be used to improve public infrastructure, such as sidewalks and storm water upgrades among others on properties adjacent to CityPlace Burlington. This is a competitive program, the state could reimburse up to 30% of the overall \$2.4 million available for the State of Vermont. CEDO has used this for past projects such as the Hilton Garden Inn and the Courtyard Marriot. The potential reimbursement funds would be in addition to the TIF funding. The applications are due on July 2nd and happen on a yearly basis.

Councilor Adam Roof made a motion to sponsor the provided resolution and have it placed on the agenda for the June 18th or June 25th City Council Meeting. Councilor Karen Paul seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Presentation on City of Burlington HUD Consolidated Plan (20 minutes) - Marcy Esbjerg, CEDO

Marcy Esbjerg, Assistant Director, CEDO, said she would supply a draft resolution regarding the consolidated plan that will go before city council. She explained the review and approval schedule for the upcoming month.

June 18 - Board of Finance review

June 25 - City Council review and approval

June 29 – Consolidated plan due to HUD

Marcy Esbjerg explained the CDBG grant selection committee process for 2018, and that the grant amounts changed when one program was deemed ineligible. The goal of the committee was to fund projects for impact rather than just spreading out the money. The grant awards must be large enough to accommodate for the large administrative cost burden, including the requirement to track all salary time. Additionally the majority of HOME grants will be going to the Cambrian Rise project.

Joe Speidel asked if there could there be an opportunity to use some of this funding for first time homebuyers, as recommended in the Neighborhood Project, or something along those lines.

Marcy Esbjerg responded yes as long as they are income eligible. Also renovating a house that could then be rented out to create housing would be eligible.

Councilor Dave Hartnett asked how we make sure people know about CDBG funding.

Chair Brian Pine responded that in his experience advocates and organizations are aware of this and demand exceeds supply.

Marcy Esbjerg responded this is not true of the CDBG funds for development projects, where most of the money is going out to the community now. In the last few years some projects were funded that weren't ideal. These are difficult projects that require federal wage restrictions and environmental reviews etc... For this reason some organizations like the King Center, the Sarah Holbrooke Center, and the YMCA don't want to use CDBG funds.

Councilor Karen Paul moved to approve the resolution to city council with unanimous approval.

6. Update on Early Learning Initiative - VB5 (30 minutes)

Brian Lowe provided an update on the next round of grants and follow up on the scholarship funding discussion. He also asked the group to review the grant scoring criteria.

Didi Harris, Strategic Initiatives Manager at Vermont Birth to Five explained the scoring criteria for the grants.

Brian Lowe stated that a key goal of the project is creating infant and toddler slots for low income children. The threshold for the Vermont Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) eligible children is set at 20% of new enrollment.

Didi Harris said the percentage of infants and toddlers receiving subsidy ranged from 16% up to 80% in the case of Sarah Holbrooke and around 50% for the YMCA.

Adam Roof asked for an update on the acceleration of the scholarship program.

Brian Lowe responded they always thought capacity grants might be a one or two year effort. They are envisioning the scholarship program using the current income qualification through the current state subsidy. The goal would be to expand the number of people who are getting state subsidy as well as scholarship money. The hope is in 2019 to continue with scholarship but also have some money for capacity, because without capacity it might displace other spots for children who are not scholarship eligible.

Didi Harris explained with increased HeadStart federal funding for early learning there is an opportunity to figure out how to augment the ELI with different funding streams.

Councilor Dave Hartnett said when this started he thought this would go to the neediest children to make sure they were on a level playing field. How will we know this is reaching those children in need in order to close the achievement gap, rather than just filling funding caps - for the kids that aren't already in the programs it seems there is a missing outreach component

Councilor Karen Paul stated the issue is to get the children and toddlers who are not currently participating into those spots. She suggested scoring applications higher if they are serving a higher percentage of low-income families.

Brian Lowe responded that it is important to understand that some programs may not be able to get to a higher threshold for low-income students because they don't have other programming to support it like the YMCA. We don't want to exclude these programs.

Didi Harris provided the example of the Robins Nest program that has a really stable operating budget and part of that formula is not to take more than 25% of CCFAP eligible children. They cost shift in order to support those infant and toddlers.

Councilor Dave Hartnett state he would be interested in seeing how this money is going to be used in addressing early reading and the achievement gap. He would like to know what the applicants are using the money for.

Chair Brian Pine responded that in the grant application they describe how exactly they will use the money. He said the program should focus on Burlington residents and asked if this could be verified?

Didi Harris said yes, but if a Burlington family moves then there could be an issue.

Chair Brian Pine asked how the ELI links up with the pre-k effort that the district is working on.

Didi Harris said from a VB5 perspective we have ten years of grant experience in using pre-K funds into community programs to allow families have choices. There are advantages to have school based programs, especially for children who have special needs, but it should serve mixed populations for the benefit of everyone. It's important that families have choices, and this works isn't competing with the ELI.

Chair Brian Pine said that the pre-K program is not a full day program (10 hours/week) but the ELI is full day.

Didi Harris confirmed the pre-K program the centers are only getting reimbursed for the 10 hours.

Councilor Adam Roof said the downstream costs of not getting to these kids makes an argument for better ways of reporting outcomes. Karen you said that \$500,000 is a lot but the system needs a lot more. We probably need to double or triple it but getting outcomes that could attract additional funding.

Brian Lowe said we are hoping that we could make the case that this can reduce downstream costs through this work.

Didi Harris said that VB5 has been really engaged in the intersection of childcare and healthcare policy and how early childcare is preventative. They can help make that case as part of our evaluation process.

7. Plans for July Meeting (5 minutes)

Chair Brian Pine said there may be a need to discuss recommendations from the Inclusionary Zoning Working Group. CEDO will follow up to plan the next meeting when necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 PM