Start: 6:30 pm

Community Members Present: Chris Trombly, Ward 7 SC; Martha Molpus, Ward 7 SC; Nate Orshan, Ward 5 SC; Phet Keomanyvanh, CEDO; Ben Lahey, CEDO; Gene Bergman, City Attorney’s Office; Kymelya Sari, Seven Days

Introduction, Ground Rules, Questionnaire:
Respect the agenda and process, listen to others speaking, share your opinion politely, treat people respectfully

Open Forum:
No comments made by any of the six people present.

Open Meeting Law - Best Practices:

Gene Bergman, City Attorney’s Office:
Reminds those present about what a quorum is and about the requirements for meetings where a quorum is or is not present (ie. no decisions made without quorum, quorum meetings must be warned, etc.). Reiterates the importance of accessibility of NPA meetings (ex. accommodations must be offered for people who are hard of hearing). Talks about the intricacies of accessibility (ex. one person needs a service animal while another is afraid of that animal) and talks with a ward member about the issues of having a meeting in a bar. Chris Trombly asks a question about the necessity of a quorum in electronic communications about scheduling and agenda-setting, and it is clarified that discussion is fine, but debate is discouraged and that these communications are public record when in correspondence with city officials.

Clarifies that NPAs are public bodies because they were created by a resolution for the purpose of advising city council, which is itself a public body. People should be able to call in or Skype into a meeting and should be able to hear and be heard by those present. Talks about expectations for minutes, most importantly that they be public fewer than five days following the meeting and suggests that they be extensive.

NPA Budget Update:

Phet Keomanyvanh, Community & Economic Development Office:
Each ward gets $400 a year, managed by Phet and CEDO. Discussion of the $50 approved from each NPA to be used from budgets on the Memorial Auditorium meeting. Suggestion that the next NPA steering committee meeting should be a “last call” for city reimbursements for expenses, and Phet explains why the system in place causes reimbursements to take a while to come into the NPAs. She says she’ll look into possibilities for speeding up the process.

Asks for W9 forms to put people in the system for city reimbursements and reminds people to fill out vendor request forms for expenses.

**Memorial Auditorium / 35th Anniversary:**

Jim Holway (4/7 steering committee) is feeling sick and is absent, so Martha Molpus (4/7 SC) takes over. Explains the process of organizing the Memorial Auditorium meeting and how the NPAs got the video tour of the building and speakers who would give historical information rather than their opinions on the issue. Goes over the agenda for the Memorial meeting and talks about the questionnaires that went out to assembly-members and reads the questions on the form and their results:

**Would you support the city finding funding from various sources to restore the Memorial Auditorium for civic and cultural uses**

YES - 51
NO - 9

**Would you support the city tearing down the Memorial Auditorium and building a new Auditorium on the same site?**

YES - 8
NO - 49
MAYBE - 3

**Would you support the city selling the Memorial Auditorium property to other entities like UVM or private developers?**

YES - 3
NO - 57

Talks about the resolutions presented by the Save Memorial Auditorium group and about the questions they raised about passing resolutions without quorum. The resolutions were as follows:

1. a motion to advise City Council and the mayor to maintain Memorial Auditorium in perpetuity as a publicly-owned community commons

2. a motion to advise City Council and the mayor to empower and honor an NPA-led public process to determine and ensure that the future uses of Memorial Auditorium reflect public priorities
Trombly and Molpus state that they would’ve liked to discuss the resolutions in this meeting were there more people present. Orshan states that Ward 5 has not received the resolutions and suggests that the *ad hoc* committee on Memorial Auditorium reach out to each NPA about the resolutions.

Trombly suggests that if a meeting like the current all-wards meeting present, the process should be formalized, as no one is here and therefore no discussion can be had. Suggestion that NPAs could create a sub-committee of members who are not on the steering committee to deal with specific issues, and Phet states that said sub-committee members would need to be agreed upon by all NPAs, but that she’ll check with the city attorney’s office.

**Discuss the purpose/need/role of the ‘All-Wards’ meeting**

Trombly explains that the point of this section is to better define all-ward meetings and their bylaws. Orshan moves that this discussion happen when more steering committee members are present, but says that he thinks there should be bylaws, and that those should be reconciled with the bylaws of all other NPAs.

Discussion of a celebration of 35 years of NPAs, and Phet states that how business-related that meeting would be is up to the NPAs. She reminds them that if such a celebration would require funds that would need to be approved by individual steering committee.

Phet talk about the history of all-wards meetings, that being that they used to be looser discussion without agendas. She says that the purpose of all-wards meetings should be steered away from campaigning and towards discussion.

The discussion is tabled.

**Closing Comments / Action Items:**

Orshan previews the items to be discussed at the next night’s Ward 5 meeting, and everyone agrees that it was valuable for those present to have discussed all-ward meetings, and Molpus states that she is disappointed that there was not greater attendance.

Phet talks about hoping to bring in other bodies (Americorps, etc.) to present at NPAs for professional development purposes.

**End:** 8:09 pm

Minutes taken by Ben Lahey, CEDO intern