

Report to NPA 6 on the All NPA Assembly on the Future of Memorial Auditorium,
Sept. 26, 2017, Contois Auditorium

Attendance: Well over 100 people participated in this forum with comments from the audience lasting an hour and a half.

Program: Video tour of the facility created by Margaret Harrington Tamulonis:

<https://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/memorial-auditorium-tour>

Historical overview and slide show by Tom Visser, Chair of UVM's Department of Historic Preservation

Management overview by Alan Abair, long-time property manager of the facility.

Questionnaire: 77 people completed the questionnaire.

- A. Type of events attended: Average was 4.957 out of 12 listed. Most frequently listed were Farmers' Market; City Market Annual Meetings; Theater; Dance; Major and Local Music; Tech Events, and Sports Events. 242 Main was frequently listed under "other".
- B. Do you support the City seeking outside funding for restoration? 65 yes; 10 no; 2 Maybe.
- C. Do you support tearing down the facility and rebuilding a similar civic structure there? 10 yes; 64 no; 3 maybe.
- D. Do you support selling the building to other entities: 4 yes; 73 no.
- E. Other ideas for the facility? Here the list was two pages of items that emphasized both social/cultural activities and economic/entrepreneurial uses. (e.g. "Arts have City Arts; tech has Generator Space; time to invest in music: performance, practice space, lessons, for both pros and beginners so Burlington is a world class music city.")
- F. Resolutions: Two were offered from the floor at evening's end. The first advised City officials to preserve Memorial as a public facility; the second asked officials to reflect public priorities in that preservation effort as expressed through the NPA structure. Both passed unanimously.

Charle Simpson, NPA 6 Steering Committee; All NPA participant.

I can add that on Sept. 7, six people in the audience here filled out the same survey.

- A. Events attended: 4.3
- B. Support for the City seeking outside preservation funds: Yes, 6; No, 0.
- C. Support for demolition and rebuilding a similar public facility on the same site: Yes, 0; No, 3, others asked for more information, said "depends"; "if public process".
- D. Support for sale to another entity: Yes, 0; No, 6.
- E. Other ideas included:
 - stabilize, artist housing; cultural incubator space; makerspaces; tear down adjacent motel and houses.