



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 Adam Roof, Chair, Ward 8
Councilor Sara Moore, Ward 3
Councilor Karen Paul, Ward 6

Attendance: Chair Adam Roof, Councilors and Committee Member Sara Moore and Karen Paul, CEDO Assistant Director Gillian Nanton, CEDO Staff Ian Jakus, Joe Speidel (UVM), Lisa Kingsbury (UVM), Sandy Wynne, Caryn Long, Ibnar Stratibus, Stephen Marshall, Gabrielle Sealy

Thursday, October 18th 2017
5:30 – 6:30 PM
City Hall Conference Room 12 (CR 12)

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

1. Review Agenda (5 minutes)

- Meeting called to order 5:35
- Councilor Moore moved to approve the agenda, Seconded by Chair Roof and Karen Paul

2. Public Forum (10 minutes)

- Ibnar Stratibus asked about the status of the micro housing summit that had been discussed last year as part of the Housing Action Plan.
- Chair Roof responded that a summit had been postponed due to former Committee members Tom Ayers and Selena Colburn's departure. He added that CEDO is currently composing an ADU whitepaper that is expected for review in the winter.
- Caryn Long provided feedback on the 'Neighborhood Project' tour that she participated in. She stated that parking issues and the 'four unrelated' ordinance were the two biggest factors to focus enforcement on. Henry Street demonstrates that it is not the number of rentals but holding landlords accountable that makes the difference. Trash and unmanaged recycling issues

continue to be widespread. She felt that the consultant was not too enthusiastic during her tour, and that she would have preferred spending the project money on an enforcement officer and not an out of state consultant.

- Councilor Roof responded that the Neighborhood Project was funded by the Universities, Preservation Burlington, and the City, and was mandated through a court settlement, and therefore using it to hire an enforcement officer was not possible, but it could be included as part of the recommendations if that was founded.

3. Approval of Minutes – 7/20 (5 minutes)

- Councilor Moore moved to approve the minutes, Chair Roof seconded.

4. University of Vermont – Update on Quality of Life Partnership and data collection efforts. The University will provide a report on data collection efforts related to the number and location of students that reside off campus. The University will also update the Committee on its ongoing commitments to related “town-gown” quality of life issues. (35 minutes) – Joe Speidel, UVM, Director of Local Government and Community Relations and Lisa Kingsbury, UVM, Planning Relations Manager

- Mr. Speidel began by stating that UVM was grateful for efforts by City code enforcement and police officers as well as city councilors.
- Mr. Speidel explained UVM has created 754 beds since 2009 when they signed the agreement with the City (includes the 163 beds that is McCaulay Hall conversion from administrative to Residential in 2009). This agreement is the latest agreement and is still active.
- Mr. Speidel discussed that in terms of undergraduate admissions that they will hold at the same level for the next 5 years but as admissions is an art and not a science there may be slight fluctuations.
- Mr. Speidel explained the efforts to track off-campus student data. When first collecting addresses, the registrar’s office added a pop up box during online student registration for students to verify and update their address. Then they made it mandatory to verify the address many were just verifying whatever address was there. Starting in Fall of 2016 they wiped the address field so it would have to be re filled. Therefore this data is the most accurate to-date.

[SEE UVM STUDENT DATA PRESENTATION](#)

- Note: Compared with 2015 – Ward 3 had a large increase (13%) however we think that's a function of removing permanent addresses. The % is of the total students living off campus in Burlington.
- Note: Number of students who are using the local address option is 2800-2900 in the last year.
- Note: Given that there are 4,000 who are living off campus, the others are not living in Burlington, and are in neighboring towns or are studying abroad.
- Councilor Moore asked if in ward 8 Redstone lofts are taken out, Mr. Speidel confirmed this is the case.
- Councilor Paul asked if someone is living with their parents in Ward 3 how UVM accounts?
- Lisa Kingsbury responded that students only count if the local address and permanent address is different. This year they are only using local addresses.
- Ibnar Stratibus asked to add the total number of off campus students to the map.
- Councilor Paul stated that the map shows if students can't live right near campus then they want to live near downtown.
- Lisa Kingsbury states that in surveys Juniors and Seniors have said that they want to be near downtown.
- Caryn Long responded that the houses closer to downtown are cheaper and generally are in worse condition.
- Sandy Wynne stated she had an issue with the term downtown. That students define downtown as a much larger area than what we actually define as downtown. The survey results are probably not totally accurate because of that.
- Mr. Stratibus asked if UVM is involved in policing opiates?
- Mr. Speidel responded that UVM is doing our best on educating for opiate use. Also part of this whole effort is to work with the Burlington police department on data collection and analysis. The police departments share information and efforts to prevent sexual violence.
- Caryn Long stated that often neighbors don't bother to call, or there is nobody left to complain and that skews the data. A lot of older people are afraid to call and are afraid of retribution.
- Councilor Paul confirmed that she has had reports of fear of retribution by constituents.

- Mr. Speidel explained that in terms of prevention the University does the following:
 - letters in Fall and Spring
 - Have a Heart program to remind people to be quiet
 - Welcome bags to renters
 - Off campus living workshops
 - Off campus news
- Councilor Moore asked with the increase in officer initiated responses, do they know where these issue areas are? If there are concerns about retribution could those police officers patrol there?
- Mr. Speidel responded that if there is a hotspot then the police will go and check that area. He could get in touch with Matt Sullivan if there are areas they need to pay attention to.
- Councilor Moore posed the question that for those afraid of retribution, what steps those people comfortable taking?
- Mr. Speidel suggested that a coach, landlord, parent are all possible ways of redressing.
- Caryn Long said she had a bad experience in calling a landlord and the response was 'I am not their parents'.
- Sandy Wynne asked if everyone has to take the off campus living workshop. We have been trying to find a way to require it for a long time. She would be happy to teach them. That in cases of calling the landlord, management companies will interfere and that there are places that do more public shaming.
- Councilor Paul said hats off to UVM for finding out where the students are living. Finally we have reasonably reliable data. The students come and go, but landlords are always there, and if they improve their properties then they approve their tenants.
- Gabrielle Sealy stated that Councilor Roof has been helpful in addressing these issues and getting to know landlords and calling them. Last year SGA students went to neighborhood meetings which she felt was a success. The bus drop off location at the liquor store is an issue.
- Chair Roof stated that things are getting better but we can always do more. He's had great results calling landlords and the Mayor has made calls in the past. To address enforcement concerns he explained the City has 5 inspectors on staff. The biggest inhibitor to enforcement

isn't budget or staffing but is state statute that allows a period of time for landlords to fix the issue before inspection.

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:35

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