All Wards Neighborhood Planning Assembly

December 3, 6-8 pm
Fletcher Room, Fletcher Free Library

Minutes

Present: Charles Simpson, Barbara McGrew, Benjamin Chason Sokol, Charlie Giannoni, Sara Giannoni, Richard Hillyard, Lea Terhune, Barry Trutor, Matt Cropp, Jason L'Ecuyer, Jim Holway, Roy Collette, Kesha Ram (staff)

- Quarterly financial report
  - Question regarding Ward 1 expenditure that Kesha will take back to CEDO Finance staff.
  - Financial report was accepted.

- NPA best practices
  - Financing/budgeting
    - CDBG process has changed, leaving NPAs without resources to allocate to community/neighborhood improvement projects that they had in the past.
    - The following motion was made by Matt Cropp and seconded by Barry Trutor:
      - "We [the All-Wards NPA Steering Committee] feel that the Neighborhood Planning Assemblies should be re-funded and re-empowered to directly make small grants to community projects for publicly beneficial purposes. We ask that each Ward be allocated $5,000 yearly by the City for this purpose, and ask that candidates running for election on March 4th take a public position on this issue."
    - Discussion was then had on the use of the funds and timing to include this in the next City budget. The resolution passed unanimously.
    - Another funding issue was raised by Charlie Giannoni about funding for part-time staffing of each NPA. The issue was discussed, no action was taken.
  - Policy/precedent for entertaining commercial presentation requests
  - Development pre-application
    - NPA steerers determined that more communication was needed with Planning & Zoning to ensure developers visited NPAs early in the process and welcomed their participation.
  - CDBG representative recruitment/communication
  - Diversity in NPA membership/leadership
    - Each steering committee now has one high school or college member.
• Town Meeting Day candidate/ballot item best practices
  o Mayoral debates in February: One per "District"?
    ▪ NPAs will decide whether to hold a joint debate with their neighboring ward or seek a separate debate for their ward.

• Development issues
  o Burlington College land
    ▪ Charles Simpson works with Friends of Burlington College and wants to hold a public forum on the potential uses for the land being sold by Burlington College. The NPA steerers agreed he should organize a forum and they will get members to attend.
  o Development parking changes
    ▪ Developer requirements in the downtown and relation of the changes to the Housing Action Plan were discussed.
  o Burlington Town Center project
    ▪ Concerns and questions about public process were raised.
  o Form Based Code
    ▪ Barbara McGrew raised concerns about aesthetics and quality of life in relation to this change.
  o Farrington Mobile Home Park sale