

Addendum to the draft minutes of the  
Community Development and Neighborhood Revitalization committee  
Friday, July 18, 2014

#### Noise ordinance protocols

- City Councilor Selene Colburn has been looking into noise ordinance protocols and discovered that the process is as follows:
  - Someone calls in a complaint. They can meet with an officer if they choose to. An officer responds, and if there is evidence of noise they issue a ticket. If the complainant is present they can make a statement. Police Dept. volunteers call people back to follow up.
- There is a comprehensive enforcement policy that includes proactive patrols (some in conjunction with UVM or paid for by UVM), warnings/education, and hundreds of tickets that are written.
- Having a person at the site of the complaint helps to identify the source of the complaint and adds detail to the report to make it a more effective response.
- A neighbor can make a sworn statement about noise and a ticket can be issued. A statement could be made the next day if that is preferable. The person making the sworn statement must attend court if the ticket is contested because it is their statement being considered, not a police officer's report.

#### Addressing problem properties

- There has been some follow up with owners of problem rental properties for over 10 years, sometimes based on anecdotal evidence. The Burlington Police Department (BPD) is hiring a person to look at data that will allow an evidence-based response to these houses. In addition, there is a paid student worker at BPD (funded by UVM) who will be involved with the process.
- Bill Ward, Director of the Code Enforcement Office, has identified the top 12 problem properties and begun to address them. He has talked with property owners and property managers about past problems that have occurred and asked how the owners plan to avoid future problems. Positive actions have been taken on most of the properties.
- The plan is to coordinate a response by the City (Code Enforcement and BPD) and the University (Office of Student and Community Relations) to promptly and directly address problem properties and change behavior there.

#### Fireworks

- BPD conducted a Booth St. walk-and-talk to address fireworks use there.
- There are state regulations against fireworks but the courts usually don't have the resources to address them (\$100 fine).
- In Burlington it's illegal to use fireworks in a City park, but noise tickets can be issued if the person can be identified (which is often not easy to do).
- Fireworks fall into the General Noise ordinance so specific people need to be identified to issue tickets.
- The City Council could change the ordinance around General Noise tickets and look at expanding the fireworks ordinance to apply citywide.
- Karen Vastine from the Community Justice Center (CJC) said that ticket recipients can accept responsibility and reduce the amount of their fine if they work with the CJC (through a restorative noise session: 2 hours long, learn from victims of noise and think about community impact, make a plan for having social gatherings that don't impact neighbors). Can reduce fine by \$100 for attending the session and another \$100 for doing 10 hours of community service.
- Information on the CJC at: <http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CJC/>

- A community member from Booth St. said that what works is talking to neighbors, during the day, about the impact of fireworks, an approach taken recently by a group of neighbors in Ward 2.

Housing Plan ([http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CEDO/Downtown-Housing- Plan](http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CEDO/Downtown-Housing-Plan)). Incentives for increasing housing supply across all income levels. [HANDOUT]. Some of the solutions include:

- Regulatory relief
- Parking
- Inclusionary housing requirement – look at the number of units that trigger requirement.
- Look at historic preservation and home improvement standards.
- Look at building codes, some of which exceed the national standard.
- Consider changes to the fee structure, and process, to get permits.
- Lisa Kingsbury from the UVM Campus Planning Office updated the committee on efforts to find housing for students displaced when Chittenden Buckham Wills comes down in May 2015 – there may be a gap until new housing is built. Quarry Hill housing for students starts in August (~126 beds), and discussions are underway about new beds (~150) at Quarry Hill, and with the Sheraton (to lease ~80 beds), with another 35 beds to be located in residence halls.
- The 850 juniors and seniors who live on campus will be asked about considering other options (including those listed above) to free up beds for undergraduates.

Briefing on CEDO Economic Development activities and priorities – Nate Wildfire

1. Facilitating development – want projects to include all of these aspects
  - Is it catalytic? (An investment in time, energy and money will cause additional investment in those areas)
  - Is it fiscally responsible? Want projects to generate more revenue (taxes, gross receipts, payroll, etc.) over time.
  - Is quality of life improved through the project?
2. Policy – current and new
  - Parking
  - Development process
3. Responding to business
  - Private sector, institutions, non-profit community, entrepreneurs
  - Needs and opportunities

Peter Owens – CEDO restructuring

- FY15 budget process prompted internal restructuring for CEDO. Looking at a more efficient team structure with four areas of focus: economic, housing, justice and community development.
- The finance person will be located in the Clerk/Treasurer's Office.
- The graffiti position will go to Code Enforcement.
- The sustainability position will be full-time with a combination of central and grant funding.
- Assistant Director of Community Development will take on additional management.