

Wards 1 and 8 NPA
November 8, 2017
7-9pm McClure Conference Room, UVM Medical Center
Draft Minutes

Steering Committee member present: Anne Brena-Ward 8, Richard Hillyard-Ward 1
Meeting Start: 7:05pm

City Council Updates

Richard Deane-The new joint proposal will be a challenge. If don't come to a decision by January, then will lose the ability to direct the sale to Blue Water.

Fail to see the benefits of Keep Burlington Telecom Local (KBTL). It really isn't keeping it local because for 10 years' money is going to Maine and capital projects. Only after 10 years Burlington Telecom (BT) debt will be paid off then the City will profit.

As City Councilors need to respect Department Heads and don't go out to talk to staff but see the stress and concern of BT staff.

Sharon Bushor-The proposal that came forward was not ideal because TING and KBTL drafted it in the hallway and is concerning because can't make decision on. It was discussed that a 3rd party that's not council or administration work with TING and KBTL to do a joint proposal. This has been a difficult process to bring forward potential buyers and the conclusion of remaining two proposal vote resulted in a tie between the council. On the 13th if the council doesn't approve the joint proposal, then on the 27th will have one night to choose from the original 4 proposals which will be difficult. Need to keep to the time line of making a decision before end of year so the City has optimal financial outcome.

Mayor had concerns with ZRF particularly about management and made concerns known and ZRF withdrew. The issue that the council had with this and why this became a conflict is because the council was not given a chance to weigh in and decide if the concern was a major concern. If they do come back, then the concern is already out and there is no conflict.

Anyone can go to City Attorney to share that their involvement is a conflict of interest or even a perception. This is what Councilor Karen Paul did and details of what she shared is protected client and attorney confidentiality. City Attorney ultimate decision was that there was no conflict of interest in her involvement and Karen Paul was cleared vote in BT matters.

Adam Roof-Voted twice and tied both times in the decision of BT. KBTL and TING discussed a fourth amendment to give a general framework to meet over the next coming week to produced joint proposed to share with council on 13th. If council doesn't approve the joint proposal, then will re-open to all original four to decide for 27th.

The argument for KBTL on how it not only benefits subscribers but Burlington as a whole because they offer dividend pay outs and when you keep things local, more members will sign on. As you add subscriber then you earn revenue. Keeping it local would benefit the region. Keeping local keeps it where there is no risk of being sold and controlled outside of the community.

Speak Out

UVM-Have a request for proposal for a new building design for the College of Medicine. College of Medicine is currently in Gibbon Hall and not ideal for lab facilities. Dept. of Psychology in Dewey and this space is not ideal and will move into a renovated Gibbon building. New building south of water tower and north of Gibbon. Design phase will start in spring and will bring to NPA.

UVM Medical Center East Ave and Case Parkway in regard to noise. Will be having a meeting on Nov. 29th with residents and with UVM Medical Center Councilors. Will have dinner to talk about noise issues that have come up and work through the issues.

Friday 10th at Co-housing will be having a solar powering up event

Every year CEDO receives a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) which is a federal grant from Housing Urban Development (HUD) for communities for social organization to improve programs and services. Volunteers from each Ward are needed to help in the decision of the allocation of the CDBG. To be a volunteer

Have petition to put out question on the March ballot about F35 and how residents are feeling. Sat. 11th at 1-4 at Fletcher Free library will be a documentary called Citizen Jane and how she dealt with urban development.

October Firehouse Open house was well received having over 150 people who attended. Will be having this every year.

The Neighborhood Project-Gillian Nanton

CEDO is hosting an Interactive community open house on December 12th 4-7pm in Contois Auditorium. This is an open house about The Neighborhood Project which is one of 22 strategies in the Housing Action Plan. The Neighborhood Project went through Community Development and Neighborhood Revitalization (CDNR) committee and reviewed consultant proposals for the Neighborhood Project. The consultant that was chosen has since conducted outreach for feedback and tours to see what's happening on the ground. What's happening now is all the data is being mapped and the analysis of findings will be shared to help develop potential strategies for the neighborhood stabilization. The input from the Dec. 12th open house will be taken to inform priorities for future steps.

"Burlington is Open for Business, but not for Sale" Discussion

See attachment for development project examples and discussion questions.

Overall discussion can be good to hear about Wards 1 and 8 residents' concerns and may be an opportunity for all NPAs to have. Need to have a robust conversation on how these issues impact the whole City. Need to discuss the lack of engagement in the City and ensuring that people will attend. The City should invite people to have a robust involvement. Burlington Legacy Plan personally went out and talked to people on what they wanted to see. Also, need to look at technology to make it easy to use which will allow them to weigh in on local issues.

Meeting End: 9:05pm

Minutes taken by Phet Keomanyvanh-CEDO

