

Ward 6 NPA Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 4, 2024

Meeting Location: 391 Maple Street, Room 206, in the SD Ireland Family Center at Champlain College

6:30 | Call to Order, Announcements, Public Forum

Public Comment: Nick Atherton, returned to live on South Willard Street after 14 years. Notices that traffic hasn't changed. No bike facilities or improved pedestrian facilities. He bikes to work every day. People speed, pedestrians are pushed to one narrow sidewalk.

Becca Brown McKnight, new City Council member. Plan BTV, which sets out plans for bike and ped infrastructure -- we're half way through a seven-year plan. Encourages him to check out those meetings.

Nic Anderson, Champlain College. Wanted to give a heads up about upcoming construction project starting at the end of this month. Renovating a building in the center of the courtyard. Probably won't be visible from public way, but may be audible. Connecting two buildings via a vestibule. Public Hearing at DRB on April 14.

6:40 | Solar Eclipse (April 8)

- Distributed free eclipse glasses, informational materials, camera filters, and more
- Solar Eclipse Info
 - 31.5 million people live in the path of totality. 3x more than the last solar eclipse in 2017.
 - There is an emergency response center that will be open - the fire and police chiefs are closely collaborating on this. There will be crossing guards downtown to support pedestrian safety.
 - There will be many road closures. Public parking and shuttle busses are available.
 - Ward 6 NPA donated a sunspotter to Champlain College on behalf of ObscuraBTV.
 - Interested in learning more? Check out the [Obscura BTV website](#) and watch a recent [Burlington Solar Eclipse Public Information Session](#) recording.
 - Nic Anderson: Points out that even for roads that are open, expect terrible traffic. I-89 may be a parking lot. Worst time is expected to be from 5-7 pm.
 - Joan Shannon: All of the parks will have collection sites for glasses as will UVM. They will be collecting them for re-use.
 - Charlie Giovanni: CCTV will be videoing people's responses, so if you see them when you're out and about, feel free to speak to them.

6:45 | Updates from City Council, including Neighborhood Code (Becca Brown McKnight, Joan Shannon)

- **Becca Brown McKnight**

- First NPA meeting since being sworn in on city council.
- Serving on the following committees:
 - Ordinance committee - includes work on neighborhood code, as well as other key issues.
 - Chairing Parks, Arts & Culture committee
 - REIB - Racial Equity Inclusion and Belonging Committee
- Neighborhood Code
 - Delays permits for second structures on properties until October 2024.
 - The planning commission will be taking up Neighborhood Code on April 23. If you're interested, please join us. You can also complete a form online to receive updates on neighborhood code.
 - I believe we have a need for a forecast on the number of structures that will be built each year so we can understand the impact these changes will have on solving the housing crisis and the impact on public infrastructure.
- Water Infrastructure
 - DPW encourages community members to install low-flow toilets (there is a rebate available!) and rain barrel water collectors. These two steps can have a significant impact in support of lake water quality and easing the strain on the water system.

- **Joan Shannon**

- Praised Karen Paul for her service as the Ward 6 city councilor for many years, with outstanding constituent service.
- Neighborhood Code started out as necessary due to the Home Act state legislation. Previously, a duplex needed to occupy the same footprint as a single family home. Burlington made a change here to allow a larger footprint for a duplex.
- Increasing the allowable lot coverage in low and medium density.
- There are many neighborhoods that were low density that are now medium density. This is true of South Union. Spruce and Kingsland Terrace are now medium density.
- This is a significant change for everyone - hopefully it will allow for infill development.
- Parking will be a significant issue for us to watch - there are no requirements to add additional parking when adding additional units.
- Single family homes can be converted into duplex, triplex or fourplexes.
- Community Members - Remember that infill housing units represent wonderful people that will be living there.
- We encourage our City Council reps to view these meetings as both an opportunity to share updates with the community and also to solicit input, ideas and concerns from the community.

7:15 | NPA Business

- Review and vote on proposed new NPA bylaws
 - This is a requirement from the city to codify non-discrimination rules across all of the NPAs.

- These updates are based on recommendations from the city.
 - Romeo moves to vote on the bylaws. Council Becca Brown McKnight seconds it.
 - The vote was unanimous with a full quorum.
- Report from Dale Azaria, Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee
 - Burlington receives about \$600k from the federal government
 - CEDO puts out a call for proposals
 - The proposed list of grantees on the City's website
- NPA Budget
 - Proposal: Love BTV6 Day – what could we do to improve our ward and build community connections?
 - \$2,500 NPA Budget. Needs to be used by June 30 (end of the city fiscal year)
 - Ideas
 - Graffiti mitigation + a food truck afterward for volunteers. The graffiti clean up is going to be April 27 from 4:15-8:15pm. It includes graffiti removal demonstration.
 - Ward 6 block party to help people meet their neighbors - consider blocking off south willard for the block party
 - Steering Committee will schedule vote at next NPA meeting.

7:35 | Adjourn