

Wards 4 & 7 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA):

Draft Minutes

Wednesday, April 3rd 2024

5-6pm



Location: Robert E. Miller Community Center, 130 Gosse Ct

Virtual Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85494151752>

Steering Committee Members in Attendance: Sarah Diaz, Vicki Garrison, Joanne Hunt, Hank Prensky

Watch the Recorded Meeting Here: <https://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/burlington-wards-4-and-7-npa-meeting-bylaws-2>

Bylaws Discussion

1. Read and discussed Point 1 of attorney feedback below:

(1) P.2, opening paragraph of Article II: On the point of accessibility (which I'm glad to see raised), the NPAs might want to consider adding language letting members of the public know how to request an accommodation for a disability. If you look at the end of any City Council agenda, you can see an example. A statement like this doesn't need to find its place in the bylaws, but technically it should appear in agenda. As such, since the NPA wants to find ways to be more inclusive and accessible, it's not a bad idea to have some text in the bylaws as a model.

2. Voted on adding the following statement at the end of the opening paragraph of Article II (or anywhere else the Bylaws Working Group deems appropriate): "This agenda is available in alternative formats upon request. For more information on access, call the Licensing, Voting and Records Coordinator (802-865-7136)(TTY 802-865-7142). Persons with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate are encouraged to contact 802-865-7000 (voice) or 802-865-7142 (TTY) at least 72 hours in advance so that proper arrangements can be made."

- (Vote passed)

3. Read and discussed Point 2 of attorney feedback below:

(2) Page 3, Section III.4 (Agenda), in addition to posting agenda online, they should also be posted three places in the City (one of which is technically supposed to be at or near City Hall). Whether the bylaws state that, it's good to remember.

Our office has noticed that several NPAs post lawn signs to remind neighbors a meeting is coming up. Maybe include a web address or QR code to find the agenda online, and that works!

5. Read and discussed Point 3 of attorney feedback below:

(3) Page 4, Section IV.4 (Removal): The City Attorney's Office is fine with the language as is, but if someone is going to be removed for discriminatory conduct, it might be best to consult this office first. Speech and debate during a public meeting has a special status constitutionally. Censuring someone for their speech and debate is perfectly constitutional, but more severe consequences often are not. I read "conduct" as something different than "speech and debate," but the potential for overlap is there.

6. Voted to add language saying to consult the City Attorney's Office first - passed

7. Read and discussed Point 4 of attorney feedback below:

(4) Page 4, Section IV.7 (Ineligible to Serve): This is perfectly fine as written, but if the NPA wants to use the technical legal term for the concept here, it's the doctrine of "incompatible offices". The offices listed in the section are "incompatible" with serving as steering committee member.

8. Vote on the resolution of Point 4 related to attorney feedback – keep the language "Ineligible to Serve" or change this to "Incompatible with Serving" (or another variation of any or all of the aforementioned) – vote passed to keep the language as is, i.e. "Ineligible to Serve"

V. Open Discussion

- Discussion ensued about which elected offices should be included under the "Ineligible to Serve"

Adjourned at 6:45pm