

Meeting Notes

Wards 2 and 3 Neighborhood Planning Assembly



Thursday, May 9, 2024

Join in person: ONE Community Center, 20 Allen St.

Join virtually: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85860854764>

Moderator: Chris Haessly **Notetaker:** Roxanne Meuse

Attendees: See last page for scans of sign-in sheet

Community events and resources mentioned in this meeting		Who shared info
Borrow a trash grabber! A resident got a bunch for neighbors to pick up trash	anytime	Lisa Scofield, Ward 2 resident
Take the survey for our county's "ECOS" Regional Plan! https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YGH2YSN should take 5-10 minutes. Completing this survey will allow you to be entered into a \$50 Visa gift card raffle	Survey closes at the end of May	CCRPC
Burlington Farmers Market	First market of the year is Saturday May 11 10am-2pm	Harold Kaplan, associated with the market
ONE Clean Up and Clean Out Day - Accepting furniture, trash, debris (see full list at link). In need of volunteers!	Saturday May 18, 10am-2:30pm	City Councilor Gene Bergman
Rally for the Planet	May 23 on State House Lawn	Erika Faulkner, adult leader for the Vermont Youth Lobby & Ward 2 resident
Unveiling of the Embrace and Belonging Monument at Dewey Park	June 14, 11am-12:30pm	Phet Keomanyvanh, REIB

Resource: CivicClerk (all city meetings - agendas, notes, related materials)	n/a	City Councilor Melo Grant
The mayor announced that there will be formal community conversations on Israel & Palestine coordinated by the Community Justice Center	TBD	City Councilor Joe Kane

6:45 pm **Introductions & Announcements**

Steering Committee members present: Chris Haessly, Roxanne Meuse, Mollie Flanigan, Erika Faulkner, Lauren Ebersol, Jessy Robbins, Amy Francisco

6:40 pm **Public Forum**

- Lisa: Trash grabber lending library is going great. Has 5 tonight if anyone wants to borrow one
- Erika Faulkner: [adult leader for youth climate org]: Annual rally for climate coming up
- Luzeh(sp?): [new here, from Boston] Can we put together a group of volunteers to beautify the city more often?
 - Melo Grant (city councilor) spoke to this and said there's an event on Saturday the 18th for cleanup. If you're interested, email Gene Bergman
- Chris Haessly: This is teacher appreciation week
- Harold(?): Burlington Farmers Market this Sat 10-2 on Pine St - first of the year.

6:55 pm **Update on Roosevelt Park Comprehensive Plan**

Sophie Sauvé, Burlington Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront

Phet Keomanyvanh, Racial Equity Inclusion and Belonging (REIB) Office

[Website of the Roosevelt Park Comprehensive Plan](#)

- Roosevelt Park:
 - City is doing more outreach, with smaller groups, reaching out to both those that already do and don't use Roosevelt Park.
 - Next public meeting coming up: 5pm on
 - Attendee: Did you reach out to the school and Boys & Girls Club?
 - Sophie: Yes, and biggest idea was to have a more permanent place to play soccer. Also: a school, a park. Kids like the swing at Oakledge.
 - Ben from Decatur St: Why does there need to be a comprehensive plan since it's so well used? And, is an off-leash dog area being considered?
 - We identify parks for comp plans when we have capital project money coming up, and do it to make sure what's there is still serving everyone, to make them more accessible. And Roos Park is well used, but there are

people not using it, and some perceive it as unsafe after an incident. And without this process, we don't get the feedback we need to plan for the future.

- Charlie Giannoni: With City Hall Park, there were 20 meetings and only 5 got recorded. The public said they wanted more grass and trees, but instead we have paved areas and markets. And now the little park at end of Archibald St is mostly concrete. So what about Roos Park?
 - Sophie: City Hall Park is about more than just grass & trees. Arborist found that the trees weren't in good shape. There's also emerald ash borer. City is planting a lot of trees. It's about meeting as many needs as we can. And every park is zoned to only have a certain percentage of paved areas and all our parks are within that. And accessibility requires some paving (which wasn't thought about in the 70s when most of these parks were built).
- Melo Grant: Requests they post on FPF and email info to City Councilors to distribute.
- Clifford (Pearl St): Could we have a basketball court with lights in Burlington
 - Sophie: Have heard that, it's not cheap, we're working on fixing issues with our parks, so it's lower on the priority list.
- Charlie Messing: Hopes we can keep the park parklike, without a whole lot of concrete.
- Masoud: Ideas: Plant evergreens and indigenous trees. Build a research unit - a scientific park where scientists can conduct research.
- Embrace and Belonging monument at Dewey Park:
 - In 2020 after George Floyd's murder, the City made a commitment
 - Unveiling on June 14
 - Nora: Context on the artist not being from Vermont?
 - A call went out to artists across the country. The selection committee (of ONE residents, including Farmers market, students, organizations) selected that artist.
 - Amy: What about enough room for the farmers market?
 - Phet: We're still in talks, having continuous conversations
 - Janet Hicks: There's a gap somewhere, from people like Charlie saying the public was not heard (wanted trees, got pavement), compared to the City saying they are getting and taking public feedback.
 - Phet: Our (at the REIB) view of the "public" is more than who's here today. Asks that folks here think outside their own community, including marginalized communities.

7:25 pm

Give feedback on the 2025 ECOS Regional Plan

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)

- [See slides](#)
- Question about what comes out of the plan (policy? grants?) Answer is that a city/town applies for funding through the CCRPC for projects that further one of the plan's goals. Also, the CCRPC uses the plan to know what to advocate for at the state level.
- Question on how much money we're talking about: Most of the funding comes from Federal Highway Administration, then goes straight to towns/cities (about \$2.5-3 M a year). For example funds from the CCRPC is covering most of the Battery St corridor project.. The rest of their budget is mostly for its staffing.
- Break-out groups!

8:15 pm City Councilors and School Commissioners updates

- Melo:
 - Encourages everyone to learn how to use [CivicClerk](#) where you can find meetings,
 - Marvelous nights of May
- Joe Kane:
 - Will be keeping an eye on the parking revenue aspect of our budget. Might be subsidizing parking too much.
 - Jonathan Chappel-Sokol from the Ward 1 NPA brought a resolution to the City Council last Monday. "Resolution Relating to The Relationship Between City Officials and The Neighborhood Planning Assemblies City of Burlington" - passed by the Ward 1 NPA at their March 2024 meeting. Action out of it: Community Development and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee to review and advise.
 - Joe is on the Community Development and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee. Next meeting: Wed
 - Progressive councilors wrote a letter supporting the students encampment at UVM
 - The mayor announced that there will be formal community conversations on Israel & Palestine coordinated by the Community Justice Center
- Gene:
 - Cleanup date: Saturday June 18 - cleanup day. One from IAA, one from SA. People can bring their unused garbage and furniture. 10-2:30pm.
- Question: There used to be CDBG money for neighbors to request money from.
 - Melo: we're using \$ from our budget allocation.
- Jacob Flanigan: Will there be recycling at the event on the 18th? And how will this be shared with the community and how can we engage and sign up?
 - Melo: We just posted on FPF, will do more of that and social media. Need people to spread the word. And will need volunteers to sign up.

- Melo: Police officer count is still where it was. And foot patrols will be more downtown, not in the ONE. So help each other out, let your councilor know if you need something. Overdoses did start to trend down. Some progress with federal partners, stopping some drug trafficking. Legislature passed overdose prevention centers. We should have an event on those to share information.
- Question: Is there any plan to put officers in front of the library? Answer: They're already there a bit, including the Howard Center outreach team, and one of the park rangers. But the focus for staffing will be City Hall Park and Church St. but that's nearby.
- Charlie G: \$13 million deficit is historic, nothing approaches it in the past 50 years. I'm shocked that no one in City govt realized this any sooner.
 - Melo: There was a significant deficit last year and they used ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) money to plug the hole. Don't have that this year.

Adjourned at 8:45pm

