



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT &
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE
c/o Community & Economic Development Office
City Hall, Room 32 • 149 Church Street • Burlington, VT 05401
802-865-7144 VOX • 802-865-7024 FAX • www.burlingtonvt.gov/cedo

Zoom Only

Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 6:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95786934647?pwd=bIQ4zrcuaNNKyNqIuePFbUmjhDVYbK.1>

Meeting ID: 957 8693 4647

Passcode: 877362

One tap mobile

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Meeting ID: 957 8693 4647

Passcode: 877362

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/abRrcPeJWd>

1. Agenda

Subject	1.1. Motion to amend/adopt agenda
Meeting	June 11, 2024 - CDNR Committee Meeting - Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 6:30 PM, Zoom Only
Category	1. Agenda
Department	
Type	Action Procedural
Recommended Action	Approve/amend the agenda

2. Adopt Minutes

Subject	2.1. Approval of Minutes
Meeting	June 11, 2024 - CDNR Committee Meeting - Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 6:30 PM, Zoom Only
Category	2. Adopt Minutes
Department	
Type	Action Procedural
Recommended Action	Approve the 5/15/2024 minutes

3. Public Forum

Subject	3.1. PUBLIC FORUM - Verbal Comments
Meeting	June 11, 2024 - CDNR Committee Meeting - Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 6:30 PM, Zoom Only
Category	3. Public Forum
Department	
Type	Procedural Discussion

4. Discussion: Resolution - The Relationship Between City Officials and The Neighborhood Planning Assemblies

Subject	4.1. Discuss attached resolution
Meeting	June 11, 2024 - CDNR Committee Meeting - Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 6:30 PM, Zoom Only
Category	4. Discussion: Resolution - The Relationship Between City Officials and The Neighborhood Planning Assemblies
Department	Community & Economic Development Office (CEDO)
Type	
Recommended Action	

5. Discussion: Letter from Jubilee Social Justice Committee

Subject	5.1. Discuss attached letter
Meeting	June 11, 2024 - CDNR Committee Meeting - Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 6:30 PM, Zoom Only
Category	5. Discussion: Letter from Jubilee Social Justice Committee
Department	Community & Economic Development Office (CEDO)
Type	

Recommended Action Next steps: ask the relevant city department to either present or send a written memo on the current status of camping on public lands in Burlington.

6. Other Committee Business/Updates

7. Adjournment

Subject	7.1. Motion to adjourn
Meeting	June 11, 2024 - CDNR Committee Meeting - Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 6:30 PM, Zoom Only
Category	7. Adjournment
Department	Council and Board
Type	
Recommended Action	



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Councilor Carter Neubieser, Chair, Ward 1

Councilor Evan Litwin, Ward 7

Councilor Joe Kane, Ward 3

CDNR Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 15th, 2024
7:00 – 9:00 PM
****Virtual meeting only****

Committee members: Carter Neubieser (CN), Evan Litwin (EL), Joe Kane (JK)

City Staff: Christine Curtis, CEDO

Other Attendees: Carol Livingston; Anita Rapone; Amy Prenowitz; Jess Hyman; Charles Messing

Draft Minutes

Meeting Started at 7:03 PM

1. Approve agenda

MOTION by Councilor Litwin, SECOND by Councilor Neubieser, to amend the agenda to move agenda item #5 up to #3 and return back to Public Forum later in the meeting; and to move agenda item #6 to #4

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

2. Approve minutes: 1/30/24

MOTION by Councilor Neubieser, SECOND by Councilor Litwin, to approve the minutes

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

3. Public Forum

- Carol Livingston stated that NPAs are unique and have been around a long time and serve a valuable purpose. Few of the Councilors spoke

The programs and services of the City of Burlington are accessible to people with disabilities.

For accessibility information, call 865-7144. For questions about the meeting, contact Christine Curtis at ccurtis@burlingtonvt.gov

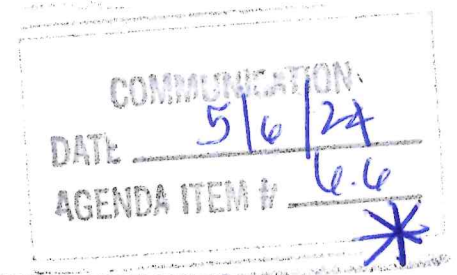
to the NPAs on major issues – what is the communication and relationship between Councilors and NPAs? How can we strengthen it? The other concern is there is no system that includes the NPAs in big decisions without adding extra burden to Councilors

- Jess Hyman echoed everything Carol stated – there is a lot of history and the pandemic changed dynamics at the NPAs – more tension between NPAs and City departments and City Councilors – the proposed resolution addresses communication and relationship issues – will be a good exercise and important to setting a good foundation
 - Roundabout resolution: really great to recognize Tony by naming it after him
- Charles Messing stated he is in full support of naming Roundabout after Tony Redington. Memorial Auditorium: great idea for a place for kids to go. The City let it get rundown and there is a good chance it cannot be fixed – build a replica in its place

4. Resolution: The Relationship Between City Officials and The Neighborhood Planning Assemblies

- CN stated these resolutions need some clarity and it makes sense to get some representatives from the NPAs, the Mayor's office, and one from this Committee to hash this out over the next couple months as a working group as opposed to this Committee taking this on alone
- JK would like more clarity on what the relationship is currently – we need to better define the starting point and what would we like to see come out of this
- EL supports reviewing this resolution and requests CEDO be part of the conversation on the history and current relationship between NPAs and City government. There are real challenges for Councilors – they cannot attend all NPA meetings due to scheduling conflicts. The by-laws are all different, how do we ensure all Councilors are compliant with all the by-laws? Need City Attorney office involvement in this process
- CN stated there needs to be a shift in the process – City Attorney's office and CEDO involvement makes sense for base line
- Jess Hyman encourages Councilors to think about structure and funding for community outreach and engagement – CEDO provides one part-time staff person to support all NPAs – working hard to increase engagement but not always as successful as we would like it to be

- EL stated that a presentation from Director Pine about current challenges would be a good start
 - CN stated we need to give NPA's real authority
 - CDNR Committee to start thinking about what the working group will look like – JK suggested asking Brian Pine about what the potential benefits would be
 - CN to connect with some NPA representatives to discuss a process/plan
5. Communication re Ward 2/3 NPA Resolution to Name the New Shelburne Street Roundabout After Tony Redington and Resolution in Support of Big Heavy World Teen Center Proposal for Memorial Auditorium
- Shelburne Roundabout: CN already has draft resolution to be shared with CDNR Committee for review
 - Committee members reviewed the resolution
 - Review draft resolution, make edits, and finalize at next meeting and make a recommendation to City Council
 - Big Heavy World: follow-up with NPA and CEDO on this item
 1. Reach out to Councilors who were around when this resolution was brought to Council on 2/6/23
 2. EL will do follow-up and will report back to CDNR Committee at next meeting
6. CDNR meeting schedule
- Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 11th at 6:30 p.m. - Zoom only
 - CDNR Committee meetings will be held the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. starting in July in SB conference room with a virtual option to join the meeting
7. Other Committee Business
- CDNR Committee Priorities: All NPA resolution; blighted properties and impact on public safety; annual rent increase cap; vacancy ordinance; public safety issues that occur around schools – youth safety buffer zones; Elmwood pods and impacts on community
8. Adjournment
- ADJOURN at 9:00 p.m. by Councilor Neubieser with no objection



Resolution Relating to

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CITY OFFICIALS AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING ASSEMBLIES

CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Twenty Four.....

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, the 1982 Resolution "Relating to the Creation of Neighborhood Planning Assemblies" (NPAs) established the NPAs in part to provide a forum for Burlington residents to advise elected and appointed officials on municipal issues, as evidenced by language in that resolution:

"Whereas this council and various city commissions could be much assisted if the views of the general public with respect to the needs of the city could be communicated to it in a regular and orderly fashion..."

"Whereas many positive benefits would result from the creation of neighborhood assemblies at which citizens would consider the issues facing government and make recommendations for the consideration of appointed and elected officials charged with the responsibility of implementing city policies..."

"Whereas in the judgement of this city council an appropriate and effective means of realizing such goals would be through creation of NPAs in each ward of the city which would meet on a regular basis and provide advice to appointed and elected officials with respect to the issues facing the neighborhoods and the city

"Resolved...the NPAs shall...help provide citizens with an opportunity to participate in making recommendations with respect to government decisions including allocation of revenues. The NPAs shall also be encouraged to provide advice to the appropriate commission or this council with respect to Community Development, housing programs, the city's Comprehensive Development Plan and its waterfront activities, and the city's budget among other things."; and

WHEREAS there currently exists no process to ensure that elected and appointed officials consult with the NPAs on any issues; and

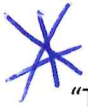
WHEREAS it is not infrequent that City Council resolutions are made public and voted on before discussion at NPA meetings is possible or solicited.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council, in consultation with the NPAs, will establish processes and criteria for determining the municipal issues on which NPAs must be consulted for advice and input prior to City Council votes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said advice and input be considered in City Council deliberations and decision-making on those issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that those processes and criteria be created by commissions and city departments for the same purpose; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these processes and criteria be established by September 1, 2024.



"To refer the resolution from the Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly Concerning the Relationship Between City Officials & the NPAs to the Community Development and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee for further review and recommended action."

June 3, 2024

Mayor Emma Mulvaney-Stanak
Councilor Melo Grant
Councilor Mark Barlow
Councilor Carter Neubieser

Dear Mayor Mulvaney-Stanak, Melo Grant, Mark Barlow, Carter Neubieser:

In January 2024, under the previous administration, City officials took it upon themselves, once again, to confiscate belongings of homeless persons when forcing them to move their encampments from City land on Battery Street to unknown locations.

One person's backpack with medications was removed without her consent, leaving that person even more vulnerable.¹ Did she ever get her belongings back?

Confiscating homeless people's belongings without proper warning, due process or alternative locations for shelter penalizes the poor and violates their basic human rights and dignity.

The Cathedral staff member whose work includes working with homeless persons on and near Cathedral property made two requests of a City employee involved in the removal: 1) provide contact information for response with concerns; 2) a request to see hotel vouchers for those evicted from public lands along Battery Street. Neither request was granted.

In 2019, American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont recommended a policy to the City of Burlington titled "Sheltering on Public Lands: Outreach and Removal Policy and Procedures" to govern interactions with homeless people in Burlington. Found on ACLU's website, this policy arises from several suits against the City for mistreatment of homeless persons and confiscation of belongings, including those essential for living.² It states that "The City also has an affirmative commitment to support the dignity of all

¹ <https://vtdigger.org/2024/01/19/despite-limited-shelter-options-burlington-clears-battery-street-encampment/>

² <https://vtdigger.org/2019/12/04/burlington-settles-with-aclu-over-destruction-of-homeless-mans-property/>

people, including those without hard-wall shelters.”³ This policy was accepted by the City, but has not been endorsed yet by City Council.

Opportunities to update and clarify Burlington’s policy about sheltering on public lands were offered by Councilor Hightower in 2023 in a resolution titled: “Process for updating Sheltering on Public Lands Policy,” and by Councilor Magee’s amendment that was sent to the Community Development and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee.

We ask the Committee on Public Safety to 1) explain the current status of the Policy on Sheltering on Public Lands; 2) to see that it is displayed on the City website until such time as it is approved or amended by City Council; 3) to remind those interacting with our homeless neighbors of its procedures and expectations; and 4) to provide contact information for the Community Affairs Liaison or others directly involved in relocating homeless persons.

We ask the Community Development and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee to notify us of any work done on the Resolutions offered by Councilors Magee and Hightower re Process for updating the Sheltering Ono Public Lands Policy.

Please provide your response to our letter to the Rev. Susan McMillan at smcmillan@diovermont.org

With gratitude,

Members of the Committee:

The Very Rev. Greta Getlein, Rector and Dean, ex officio

The Venerable J. Stannard Baker, Deacon

The Venerable Catherine Cooke, Deacon

Susan Simmons

The Rev. Mary Schreiber

Miriam Burns

Sylvia Knight

Robert K. Wright

The Rev. Ann Boyd

³ https://www.acluvt.org/sites/default/files/2019-11-26_proposed_policy.pdf