

Meeting Notes

Ward 2 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)

January 9th, 2025 | 6:30-8:30pm | All are welcome



Join in person:

ONE Community Center, 20 Allen Street

Join remotely:

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

O.N.E. Community Dinner

5:30-6:30pm | Free | Donations welcome

Welcome 2025: Year of the Snake - Celebrating wisdom, intuition and adaptability!

Guest Chef: Robin Burnett of *HANDS in the Kitchen*

Menu: Dan Dan Noodles, Miso Braised Bok Choy, Silent Mapo Tofu, Quick Pickled Carrot and Daikon & Mochi Cake

Music: Sustainability Academy 4th & 5th Grade Chorus

Facilitator: Erika Faulkner **Notetaker:** Kason Hudman

6:30 pm Introduction

5 min

6:35 pm Public Forum (2 minutes max per person)

10 min Please state your full name, pronouns, street, and ward, and follow the NPA ground rules.

- Andrea, mentions that the transportation committee meeting is coming soon, maybe within the next two months. Plans to ask Gene Bergman.
- Megan Humphrey, mentions that there is a display for HANDS near the entrance, and that the food was prepared by HANDS. Also wanted to mention the ONE Mutual Aid organization that always needs donations/funds to assist folks. You can email them at onemutualaid@gmail.com
- Melo Grant, is seeking re-election this town meeting day. She is looking for signatures to get on the ballot. She is warning that she might be sending campaign texts and communications.
- Noah Cass, works for Youth Build, they do a service project every MLK Day, they are looking for a service project since their partner dropped out. Please go talk to Noah if you have a service project for his organization.

6:45 pm Update on Parks projects in ONE

30 min *Sophie Sauve, Parks Comprehensive Planner - Burlington Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront*

- Sophie is joined by John Adams from the Parks Department
- There are usually three steps to any of these projects. There is the Envision, Refine, and Update steps. This is an Update step after the last Envision and Refining steps, although it is not linear - you go up and down the process.
- At this meeting, we are talking about Roosevelt Park and Pomeroy park. In terms of the Roosevelt Comprehensive Plan, here are the few key changes to the park. The park will not be closed, it will be integrated over time. At no time will the whole park be closed. They are going to add sidewalks and a multi-use path around the perimeter of the park. They are going to rotate the baseball diamond and integrate soccer more fully into the design of the park. In addition, they will add a roller skating area next to the basketball court. On the south side of the building, they will also add an enclosed artificial turf flex field, which can

be used for other sports. The playground will remain on the other side of the street. They will add some water features to the playground area, as well as some exercise facilities. These things will not happen all at once, but will be built over time, ensuring continued use of the park.

- Pomeroy Park Playground replacement, not only are they going to replace the playground, they are going to make it more accessible by connecting the path from the rest of Pomeroy Park. That includes adding an ADA accessible curb cut and connecting that all the way to the playground.
- In terms of engagement, they had a hot chocolate day in December, they did a survey, they met with parents and children at Sustainability Academy and Burlington Children's spaces to help design the new playground. According to the survey, more than 80% of people use the park at least once a week. The people also enjoyed the separation in the park between the playground and the rest of the park. Some people wanted dogs to be allowed in the playground area, although that is not allowed according to state health regulations. Some people wanted more seating in the playground area due to the shade. Next steps, they are working with DPW to move the curb cut, they are looking at circulations to improve the accessibility within the park, and the goal is to get the playground under construction by summer 2025.
- Question from NPA attendee, asking about ice skating at Roosevelt Park, could the tennis courts be used for ice skating, or bringing ice skating back to Roosevelt Park? Sophie answers, the flex field would probably be better for that, although ice has been difficult to maintain during the warmer winters recently. If an independent group maintained the ice at the flex field, it might be feasible.
- Brian Pine question, has a request regarding Burlington Little League, mentions all the work that went into the current baseball facilities in Roosevelt Park, and wants to ensure that the quality is maintained as it is moved. Sophie answers that the Parks Department intends to do so.
- Question from Andrea, first mentions that the flex field is certainly intended to be used as an ice skating rink according to the Roosevelt Park consultants, then asks why the Little Rosie playground section isn't just combined into the rest of Roosevelt Park. Sophie answers that the city fire department said such an option isn't really feasible. NPA attendee then asks about input for the Pomeroy Park new playground, and wants it to come back to the NPA, and Sophie mentions that she intends to bring it back to the NPA.
- Question from NPA Attendee, asks if the roller skating rink could also be used for skateboarding, Sophie answers that with the portable skateboarding features, it could be used. Sophie also mentions that it is important for roller skating to be available to the community as it has been popular in some communities that have been overlooked. John Adams brings up ice skating, mentions that due to climate change, it has just become a bit of a losing proposition. The parks department might be looking into synthetic ice.
- Remark from Andrea, mentions that there are two skate clubs in Burlington, and John Adams mentions that they are working with both of them, and also the Green Mountain Roller Derby.

7:15 pm Use of NPA Funds

15 min

- Remark from Kate, lives on Booth Street, thinks that we need more money for crafts.
- Remark from Andrea, asks if we take donations, Erika answers that we would love donations for craft supplies
- Remark from Jess, coordinator of the Community Dinner, thanking the NPA for putting a Community Dinner line item on the budget, also mentions that the Community Dinner takes donations every day that typically cover the ingredients. That is why they are requesting money from the NPA.
- Remark from Brian Pine, says that the Kemp Center fee is extremely high, could look for an alternative space for the budget
- **Budget passes** with the caveat that we should try and find a cheaper space to host the February meeting

Updates: School Commission

Polly Vanderputten (Ward 2) and Jean Waltz (Central)

- Polly mentions that the school budget is still preliminary, as they are still getting information from the State of Vermont. However, they have enough information to make an educated guess, and there are no large swings in either direction. There may in fact be a small relief.
- Jean mentions that school boards are under a lot of pressure to pass frugal budgets. Jean says that there will be no loss of service, with the idea that level service is important. Jean mentions that we get money from the state based on how many students are matriculating. Due to advocacy of Jean and other members, the money that Burlington is receiving from the state is going up, which should ultimately result in a 1-2% reduction in the taxes Burlington residents are expected to pay. Jean clarifies that this is still a preliminary figure, but does point to a small relief. Due to the completion of the IAA, they are also expecting to save money from ending the leases with St. Marks and the Sara Holbrook Center. \$18M from the budget is going toward paying off the bond. If anybody has any questions, feel free to ask Polly, Jean, or anybody on the School Commission.
- Remark from NPA attendee, thanks Polly & Jean and mentions that the current budget looks great. Question about overarching the guidance policy regarding equity - wants to ensure that equity is included in the language. Also mentions that reducing the cost per pupil isn't necessarily the correct approach, since some pupils may need more help. Jean answers with a proposed amendment adding equity into the language. NPA attendee asks if the school district is considering becoming a sanctuary district, Jean answers that the proposal is on the agenda certainly. Jean says they are looking to Winooski as a model.

8:00 pm Updates: City Councilors

20 min *Gene Bergman (Ward 2) and Melo Grant (Central)*

- Melo mentions that there has been an executive order from Mayor Mulvaney-Stanak to ensure that all police press releases have to be approved by the Mayor. Melo says that this has been an issue with the BPD for a long time, and this order may in fact allow for the BPD to release more press releases that are actually beneficial to the public. Melo says

that people should not assume this came out of the blue, but in fact has been a long time coming. Melo continues to look at the BPOA internal survey and mentions that much of the findings have been downplayed, including incidences of favoritism and problems among the police leadership. This will be important as they search for a new police chief. Melo also mentions that there is a concurrent town safety meeting going on that is being recorded, and recommends that people watch it at their convenience.

- Gene mentions that this coming Monday city council meeting will be important for a number of things. There will be the charter changes, and there will also be a work session on our impact fees for new developments. There will be some significant changes, including improved bike and safety materials in the city, hopefully. There will also be a first cut at the upcoming budget, and folks concerned about any tax increases should definitely come to see different ways that budget deficits can be filled. They will also be talking about the Water Resource Bond, and Gene supports this due to its necessity while also encouraging them to keep affordability top of mind.
- Question from Andrea Todd, wants to know about the public transportation planning meeting that is coming up, wants to know if Gene knows about it. Gene mentions that he has not heard about it. Gene asks Andrea to send him the information. Andrea also mentioned a system called Nixle that used to be utilized by the BPD, and Melo says that she will look into it for the BPD.
- Melo mentions that the BPD should look into alternative recruitment efforts, looking at models of other police departments around the country and in other countries.

8:20 pm Adjourn!

5 min Our next meeting is Thursday, Feb 13th **and will not be the ONE Community Center. Replacement Location will be Announced!**

Scan the QR code ([or click here](#)) to: [Email us](#) • Go to [our website](#) • Watch meeting recordings on [CCTV's website](#) • Connect with us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) • Request a time slot with [CEDO's request form](#) • Get to all links related to this meeting



COMMUNITY DINNER & NPA

Date: 1/9/25

First Name	Last Name	Email (if not already on list)	WARD 2 or WARD 3	Community Dinner	NPA	Add to email list?
Ellie	Ruehsen	ellaruehsen@gmail.com	2	☒	☐	☒
Jacob	Flanagan		2	☒	☐	☐
APRIL	KEECH	+4	2	☒	☐	☐
Malcolm	Sanders	✓	3	☒	☐	☐
Josh	Sky		1	☒	☐	☐
Alex	Kunkel	kunkelap@gmail.com	7	☒	☐	☐
Neil	Herrick	out of town		☐	☐	☐
Topher	Burgess	topherburgess7@gmail.com	3	☐	☐	☐
Maria	Manna	mnava@smcvt.edu	3	☒	☐	☐
Ellie + Brian	McHale	✓	2	☒	☐	☐
Jaden	Wise	jaden.wise@gmail.com	2	☒	☐	☐
Melise	Hunt		8	☐	☐	☐
Olivia	Tippotts	✓	3	☒	☐	☐
THEO	Jewell	✓	2	☐	☐	☐
Kaitlee	Clark		2	☐	☐	☐
Dave	Cavanagh		2	☒	☐	☐
Mason	Hudman		2	☒	☒	☐
ANNA	KREMER	anna.kremer@smcvt.edu	3	☒	☐	☒
SARA	KYSEY	saraya@kysey.org	2	☒	☐	☒
Charlie	Clark	✓	2	☒	☐	☐
Roger	L		1	☒	☐	☐
Tommy	Moran	tmoran27@gmail.com	3	☒	☐	☒
AMER	MONTGOMERY	amer.montgomery@gmail.com	3	☒	☐	☐
Sharon	Webster			☒	☐	☐
Sophie	Saur		11a	☒	☐	☐
Lisa	Scafield		2	☒	☒	☐
Gillen	Hasen		2	☒	☐	☐
Mazhar	Qureshi		2	☒	☐	☐
Bucky Rabin	Rabin		2	☐	☐	☐
Fletcher Rabin			2	☐	☐	☐

COMMUNITY DINNER & NPA

Date: 1/9/25

First Name	Last Name	Email (if not already on list)	WARD 2 or WARD 3	Community Dinner	NPA	Add email list
Alicia	Taylor	aliciataylorvt@gmail.com	3	☒	☐	☐
B	Poulton	Paula Poulton	4	☐	☐	☐
David	Amato	david.petty.amato@gmail.com	2	☒	☐	☐
Harley	Martin	harleymartin	2	☒	☒	☐
Harriet	Sunive		2	☒	☐	☐
Zoe	Dumont		2	☒	☐	☐
DAVID	PAARLBERG	KLAM	2	☒	☐	☐
Sarah	Coleman			☒	☐	☐
Sally	King		3	☒	☐	☐
John	Howe			☒	☐	☐
Helen	Moskalev		2	☒	☐	☐
Rich	Burt		7	☒	☐	☐
Meghan	Pidgeon			☐	☐	☐
Meghan	Brooks		2	☐	☐	☐
Karen				☐	☐	☐
Emel	Deines			☐	☐	☐
Shirley				☐	☐	☐
Viola			4	☒	☐	☐
Kate	Paarlberg	on list	3	☒	☐	☐
Kate	Hussein	Fatma Hussein	1	☒	☐	☐
STEVE	Griffin	n.dwood2@gmail.com	2	☒	☐	☐
Mildred	Bernstein		Ward 2	☒	☐	☐
Lisa	Sullivan	lisch13@gmail.com	N/A	☒	☐	☐
SOE	Sullivan	1	2	☒	☐	☐
Viki	Esposito		1	☒	☐	☐
Lee	Town		2	☒	☐	☐
Arthur	Wynn		2	☒	☐	☐
Will	Durkin		2	☒	☐	☐
Francisco	Mayanado	chamara2@yahoo.com	2	☒	☐	☐
Jessica	McCarthy		2	☒	☐	☐
Betsy	McGavisk	mcgavisk@gmail.com		☒	☒	☒

COMM...

COMMUNITY DINNER & NPA

Date: 1/9/25

First Name	Last Name	Email (if not already on list)	WARD 2 or WARD 3	Community Dinner	NPA	Add to email list?
Mal	Stokes		2	☒	☒	☐
Rachel	Hunters		2	☒	☒	☐
Amela	McGee		3	☒	☐	☐
Sadie	Danforth		2	☒	☐	☐
Alyssa	Breda	breda.alyssa@gmail.com	2	☒	☐	☒
Emily	Garrett		1	☒	☐	☐
Paul	Chen		1	☒	☐	☐
Karl	Lukhaup		2	☒	☐	☐
Ben			2	☒	☐	☐
Seeger			2	☒	☐	☐
Jensen			2	☒	☐	☐
Lindsey	Kimura		2	☒	☐	☐
Steve	Turner		1	☐	☐	☐
Jon	Kimura		5	☒	☐	☐
IVAN	Welpsten		2	☒	☐	☐
Triston	Song		2	☒	☐	☐
Samie	Seitter	interactingforGshad@gmail.com	2	☒	☒	☒
Andrew	Todd		2	☒	☒	☐
Nate	DeIPrete		2	☒	☒	☐
Kestrel	Plumley			☐	☐	☐
Danielle	Flaherty		2	☒	☒	☐
Debra	Johnson		2	☒	☐	☐
Kid	Francis		2	☒	☐	☐
Z	Motowale		2	☒	☐	☐
Meg	Ortiz		2	☐	☐	☐
Yishai	Ribon		2	☒	☒	☐
Jessica	Churchill		2	☒	☒	☐
Shawny	Carry		2	☒	☒	☐
Masa	Kaydi		2	☒	☐	☐
Deborah	Gellerstein		4	☒	☐	☐
			3	☒	☐	☐

Date: 1/9/2025

Ward 2 NPA - January 9th, 2025 - Agenda - Page 8