

## Ward 6 NPA Meeting Agenda

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Location: Department of Public Works, 645 Pine Street

Or on zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/81027856568> Zoom Webinar ID: 8102785 6568

6:00 Community Dinner – join us for great (free!) food and a chance to connect with your neighbors

6:30 Call to Order, Announcements, Public Forum

6:45 Front Porch Forum – how we connect to each other and build community  
Susannah Kerest

7:00 City Council Updates – including the City’s response on immigration enforcement issues  
Becca Brown McKnight and Buddy Singh, invited

7:30 NPA Business:

- Role of NPAs: City Council Members Jonathan Chappell Sokol and Carter Neubieser proposed resolution (see attached)
- Report from All Wards NPA on NPA Budgets, discussion about possibility for city-run open primaries (instead of party-run caucuses)
- Ward 6 NPA Budget: Motion to share excess funds from this year’s budget with Ward 5

8:15 Adjourn

### **What is the NPA?**

Neighborhood Planning Assemblies (NPAs) are grassroots, neighborhood organizations that were established in each of Burlington's wards to encourage resident participation in City government. Working as neighborhood advocacy groups, Neighborhood Planning Assemblies help improve communication between the residents of Burlington and City government through regular meetings scheduled in each Ward. For more information, click [here](#).

Resolution Relating to: Strengthening the Relationship between the City Administration, City Council, and Neighborhood Planning Assemblies (NPAs) (Presented to the Ward 6 NPA on May 1, 2025)

In the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

WHEREAS the City Council has adopted a resolution that encouraged and supported the establishment of Neighborhood Planning Assemblies in each of the city's wards; and

WHEREAS the Neighborhood Planning Assemblies were intended to be open and accessible to all voters of the city residing in a particular ward; and

WHEREAS the responsibility for organizing the Neighborhood Planning Assemblies was delegated to the Community and Economic Development Office; and

WHEREAS all residents of a particular ward are considered voting members of the Neighborhood Planning Assembly for that ward; and

WHEREAS each Neighborhood Planning Assembly has developed its own bylaws and meeting operating procedures; and

WHEREAS the Neighborhood Planning Assemblies were established to help provide city residents with information concerning city programs and activities; and

WHEREAS the Neighborhood Planning Assemblies were established to provide advice to the City Council, the various city commissions, and city administration with respect to governmental decisions, the allocation of revenues, and issues facing individual neighborhoods and the city as a whole; and

WHEREAS the priorities, needs, and interests of city residents has evolved over time as the city has grown and developed; and

WHEREAS the City Council frequently considers matters of importance that intersect with the interests and priorities of the Neighborhood Planning Assemblies; and

WHEREAS the City Council and Neighborhood Planning Assemblies have a mutual interest to work together for the benefit of city residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Burlington and the Neighborhood Planning Assemblies affirm the following principles:

- The NPAs are essential to the civic health of our community.
- The NPAs shall be open and accessible to all city residents and shall abide by Open Meeting Law.
- The NPAs shall adhere to federal, state, and local laws regarding anti-discrimination, free speech, and accessibility.

- The NPAs shall adhere to the provisions of their bylaws and decisions shall be made in a transparent manner.
- The NPAs shall expend funds allocated to them by the City Council in a manner consistent with the City's terms, conditions, and restrictions.
- The NPAs shall set the terms and conditions for their gatherings and shall determine their agendas and priorities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Community and Economic Development Office (CEDO) shall:

- Develop a standardized process in collaboration with the NPAs by which each NPA can communicate a list of annual priorities to the City Council and City Administration
- Consult with other relevant city staff to develop easily understood materials that outline the legal requirements of the NPAs.
- Consult with other relevant city staff to review and update these materials as needed but no less than every three calendar years.
- Collaborate with NPAs and other relevant city staff to ensure NPAs understand the legal requirements of the NPAs.
- Include a representative, chosen by the NPAs to serve on hiring committees for staff roles predominantly focused on supporting and liaising with the NPAs

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council acknowledges and agrees that:

- The NPAs play an important role in the city's deliberative process.
- The advice and counsel received from residents at NPA meetings is valuable and important to the City's decision-making process.
- Individual City Councilors shall be encouraged to regularly attend NPA meetings in their respective Ward or District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council shall endeavor in good faith to consult with each NPA on:

- Issues that impact NPA governance and structure before proceeding with resolutions and ordinances.
- Issues that disproportionately impact a particular area of the city.
- Matters identified by the NPAs as priorities for the current fiscal year.
- All development projects that require Major Impact Review.
- Redistricting and changes to ward boundaries and polling places.
- Proposed charter changes and ballot questions that appear on the Annual Town Meeting Day ballot.