



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
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Councilor Evan Litwin (EL), Chair, Ward 7
Councilor Carter Neubieser (CN), Ward 1
Councilor Allie Schachter (AS), East District

CDNR Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 15th, 2025
6:30 – 8:30 PM
Sharon Bushor Conference Room, 1st Floor – City Hall

Committee members: Evan Litwin (EL), Allie Schachter (AS), Carter Neubieser (CN) (attended via Zoom)

City Staff: Christine Curtis, CEDO

Other Attendees: Robert Perry, Amy Kimmel, Charlotte McCorkel, Brooks Cummings, Susie Dow, Darrell Fields, Jess Hyman, Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Christopher Haessly, Laura Miller, Sarah Russell, Theresa Vezina, Nora Aronds, Christopher-Aaron Felker, Andrew Juhasz

Draft Minutes

Meeting Started at 6:34 PM

1. Approve agenda
MOTION by Councilor Schachter, SECOND by Councilor Neubieser, to approve the agenda
VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.
2. Approve Minutes: 9/17/25
MOTION by Councilor Schachter, SECOND by Councilor Neubieser, to approve the minutes
VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

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contact Christine Curtis at ccurtis@burlingtonvt.gov

3. Public Forum

- Robert Perry, Brooks Cummings, Susie Dow, Darrell Fields, Jess Hyman, Sarah Russell, Theresa Vezina, Christopher-Aaron Felker, Andrew Juhasz spoke during public forum
- Several people expressed concerns about needle distribution, public safety, and the impact of SSP programs on the community
- Others expressed support for needle exchange programs but criticized the current implementation in Burlington
- Others highlighted concerns about syringe litter and the need for better tracking of needles
- Others addressed the NPA resolution and the need for a standardized process and the language in the resolution makes it more difficult to have concrete expectations
- NPA resolution needs stronger and clearer language that talks about the rights and responsibilities of both the City and the NPAs

4. Syringe Litter Recommendations

- The committee discussed syringe litter and disposal in Burlington, with CN expressing concerns about placing too many requirements on service providers without adequate funding. Committee highlighted the need for better data tracking and coordination of volunteer-led cleanup efforts; CN suggested focusing on implementing the Board of Health's previous recommendations, such as increasing collection receptacles and passive collection methods. The group agreed that while more time could be spent discussing the issue, they should move forward with some actionable recommendations, including investing in active collection and expanding data tracking efforts.
- The committee discussed the granular analysis of data related to public health and substance use prevention, emphasizing EL's familiarity with the necessary documents and reports. EL expressed disagreement with the notion that \$200,000 was a small amount for Burlington, highlighting the City's budget constraints and the need for State funding to address health initiatives. Committee also addressed the issue of syringe litter, noting the significant number of syringes unaccounted for in the community and advocating for further exploration of recommendations with input from various stakeholders. AS proposed amending the language in the report to

reflect that the council should evaluate and consider the recommendations, allowing for flexibility in implementation.

- The committee discussed concerns about the clarity of stakeholder engagement in a report on syringe litter recommendations. CN requested more detailed information on which organizations provided feedback, while EL explained that outreach was comprehensive but some organizations, like Howard Center, had technical issues. The committee agreed to amend the report's language to emphasize ongoing evaluation and expert input, and discussed the importance of engaging unhoused individuals in addressing the issue.

MOTION by Councilor Schachter, **SECOND** by Councilor Litwin, to amend language on top of page 6 of the CDNR report: “(keep first sentence).....CDNR recommends the City Council, with opportunity for input from the Mayor’s Office, the Board of Health, other City staff, and community partners including the SSP service providers operating in Burlington, evaluate and consider undertaking the following recommendations:”

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

MOTION by Councilor Litwin, **SECOND** by Councilor Schachter, to adopt the CDNR report as amended and submit to City Council for further review and discussion and inclusion on the consent agenda for October 21st.

VOTING: CN – no; AS – yes; EL – yes; motion carries.

5. NPA Resolution – Councilor Neubieser

- Jonathan Chapple-Sokol led a discussion about the history and development of a resolution regarding the relationship between City officials and neighborhood planning assemblies (NPAs) in Burlington. He explained that the resolution was passed by City Council in May 2024 and outlined the process of creating a working group to formalize the NPA's role. The group, which included Lena Greenberg, Chris Haessly, and others, worked from July 2024 to January 2025 to draft a document that defines what must come to NPAs and what the City's obligations are. He noted that the document passed all eight NPA boards with strong support and was seen as a first round, with plans to review and potentially improve it annually.
- CN discussed the need for more teeth in neighborhood planning assemblies (NPAs) and proposed working with CAO Schad to explore

participatory budgeting. He outlined key changes, including a dedicated NPA position within the city and standardizing public processes across departments. CN emphasized the importance of involving NPAs in the hiring process and creating a system for NPAs to prioritize topic areas for city staff engagement. He also highlighted the need for training materials on legal requirements for NPA meetings.

- The committee discussed and approved a resolution to strengthen the relationship between the city administration, City Council, and Neighborhood Planning Assemblies (NPAs). CN, who sponsored the resolution, agreed to share it with council members for feedback and potential amendments before bringing it to the full council for a vote by November 30th, 2025.

MOTION by Councilor Neubieser, **SECOND** by Councilor Schachter, to adopt the “Strengthening the Relationship between the City Administration, City Council, and Neighborhood Planning Assemblies (NPAs)” Resolution as presented and refer to City Council for review and potential amendments.

VOTING: no vote; motion does not carry

MOTION by Councilor Neubieser, **SECOND** by Councilor Schachter, to adopt the “Strengthening the Relationship between the City Administration, City Council, and Neighborhood Planning Assemblies (NPAs)” Resolution as presented and refer to City Council for approval no later than November 30th, 2025.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

6. Age Strong Burlington

- *Agenda item is tabled until next meeting due to time constraints*

7. Adjournment

- **ADJOURN** at 9:01 p.m. by Councilor Litwin with no objection