



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
Burlington Aging Council
c/o Community & Economic Development Office
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Meeting of the Burlington Aging Council
Tuesday October 15th, 2024 3:00pm – 4:30pm
Hybrid Meeting

Sharon Bushor Room, City Hall First Floor, 149 Church Street, Burlington.

This is a zoom link:

Remote link: <https://zoom.us/j/96065288679?pwd=aSenCY04ju5vvkEqbPUU2Ys5iKVIP7.1>

Please contact mgange@burlingtonvt.gov if you have questions or concerns.

Draft Agenda

1. Motion to approve agenda 10 15 24
2. Public Comment
3. Review Conversation Clr Carpenter (notes attached)
5. Burlington Parks Recs and Waterfront Senior Programming – Superintendent Rogers
4. Suggested Action Items review (Action summary attached)

Final BAC DRAFTS:

[Draft Full Action Plan](#)

[Draft Action Plan Summary](#)

5. Presentation of plan to Administration/CDNR/City Council
6. Any other business and motion to adjourn

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For accessibility information, call 865-7144. For questions about the meeting
Contact Marcella Gange at mgange@burlingtonvt.gov or 802 865 7178

Meeting summary for Partial BAC and Councilor Carpenter (10/09/2024)

Quick recap

The council members were advised to attend relevant committee meetings to introduce Age Strong Burlington concepts and discuss overlaps with the missions of the departments, with a focus on keeping the older adult audience in mind. The importance of engaging with city commissions and departments to achieve tangible results was emphasized, with a need for communication and collaboration with city departments to address aging challenges. The challenges of staffing and funding within the city were discussed, with a proposal for a strategic approach to resource allocation. While there might be a need for a designated staff to lead work addressing the needs of older adults within the city, the BAC should keep in mind the serious resource constraints faced by the City and seek alternate solutions by working with current department staffing and identifying where actions could be achieved in collaboration with current City department work.

Next steps

- Brian Pine to schedule a meeting with Mayor to discuss the Aging Council's plan before presenting to City Council. Other BAC members indicated interest in attending – AV, SS, RN and KSP
- Aging Council to reach out to the various City committees and commissions over the next 3-4 months to present their plan and discuss how it relates to each department's work and identify common goals/actions areas.
- Brian Pine to work on crafting resolution clauses for City Council presentation, including follow-up expectations.
- BP to connect with Superintendent Rogers to invite to BAC meeting and to review plan and understand crossover with BPRW CORE Adult programming.

Summary

Council Committee Attendance and Collaboration Strategies

Clr Carpenter recommended that the council members attend relevant council committee meetings to introduce the concepts of Age Strong Burlington and discuss overlaps with the departments and send the message to Depts that they need to think of older adults when decision making and planning. She suggested inviting the BAC members to provide updates on their work to her, keeping the city council informed about their progress. Clr Carpenter also suggested that the council members should approach almost every committee, with a similar aim of raising the Age Strong Plan and highlighting needs and planning for older adults.

Improving Engagement With City Commissions and Departments

Clr Carpenter emphasized the importance of engaging with city commissions and departments to achieve tangible results. She suggested that the Council should seek input via survey on how they program for and reach out to older adults – for example BPRW and CORE adult programming. Brian Pine will connect with BPRW to join their Council meeting to provide more information on the core program.

Discussing Older Adults in City Initiatives

Members discussed the importance of considering older adults in city initiatives and the need for community input sessions. They agreed on the necessity of creating a core of people willing to advocate for older adults and the importance of maintaining an information loop with the city council. The need for a follow-up plan to ensure older adults are not forgotten was emphasized – this could be integrated with the Priority Actions sheet suggested by Glenn.

Addressing City Staffing, Funding, and Resource Allocation

Clr Carpenter discussed the challenges of staffing and funding within the city, emphasizing the need for a strategic approach to resource allocation. She suggested that the council could bring back milestones and activities to keep the council informed, and proposed a meeting with the mayor to discuss these issues. Kelly expressed concerns about the lack of a designated leader for addressing the needs of older adults within the city, which she believed would hinder the attraction of outside funding and coordination. Others acknowledged these concerns, but also highlighted the fiscal realities of the city and the need for departments to prioritize their own work. Suggestion to coordinate with Grant in CTO – for information on grants to support the work

Attendance: Clr Carpenter, Chair Brian Pine, Staff Marcella Gange, Members: SS – BSD – KSP – RN – MD - AV

Burlington Aging Council Priority Actions for Consideration:				
	Action / Implementation	City Departments / Organizations to Engage	Timeline	Outcome
An asset based approach...				
1. The Age-Strong Burlington Plan requires a coordinated effort, with central facilitation and tracking.	Accept Report from BAC & initiate action review in committees	City Council	Oct-24	Continue to elevate the contributions of older adults in Burlington; raise issues facing older adults in Burlington and the organizations that serve them; support current and address new policy recommendations to the Mayor and City Council to address gaps, needs, and opportunities that impact older adults in Burlington; ensure that the voices of older adults in Burlington are at the forefront of City policy; and maintain and monitor the "Burlington Plan on Aging: Age Strong Burlington," acting as a facilitator for City policy and initiatives, and to advance advocacy at the state level for adequate program resources, and targeted investments at the local level.
Provide full support for a reinvigorated Burlington Aging Council	Formalize BAC as a City commission. Re-establish BAC membership with an "implementation and tracking" oriented membership to replace the policy focused initial membership.	City Council	Fall 24	Develop and initiate a full implementation effort to advance the BAC action plan. Build capacity to identify and seek out funding from non-city sources. Identify opportunities to coordinate existing city resources to advance the BAC plan. Establish key indicators and track progress.
Dedicated City Staff Support:	Designate responsibility for support and facilitation of the BAC among key existing City Staff. Consider encompassing the BAC agenda (an equity and diversity agenda) with the reorganization and expanded mission of the REIB office.	Mayor's Office & City Council	Winter 24-25	REIB, under a possible reorganization scenario, may be the best formal city department to house the BAC plan and activities for coordination. One population whose needs are still rarely discussed as being a social justice imperative are those of older adults. This is surprising given the growing number of challenges many older people face including ageism, elder abuse, and intersectional discrimination for being both older and a member of another marginalized population. This gap becomes even more conspicuous in light of statistics which show that people 65 and older are already the fastest growing population in the United States and in many countries around the world; older adults are also expected to see their numbers grow exponentially over the next several decades. Outcomes possible with a strong show of city support and dedicated staff time: Connect to and Coordinate with the State of Vermont Age Strong lead. -Support functions to advance social connection and engagement, and optimal health and wellbeing across city departments and the coalition of local service organizations in Age Strong Burlington. Review implementation steps that can be best integrated into existing city functions, and build partnerships with organizations serving the city to expand and advance implementation agenda.
2. Coordinate the efforts of the Aging Council and City Departments	Designate a key contact in key City Departments to coordinate and connect with the BAC.	Mayor's Office	Winter 24-25	Ensure efficient use of city resources to advance the BAC action agenda with City Departments (Planning (data); Library; DPW (Plan BTW); Parks and Recreation; Public Safety; Advisory Council on Accessibility).
* Key Proclamations and Host Special Events	Schedule and implement a series of resolutions aligned with BAC priority action areas in line with state and national events and awareness campaigns.	Mayor's Office & City Council	Ongoing	Educate the community, elevating the contributions of and raising issues facing older adults in Burlington, ensuring that the voices of older adults in Burlington are at the forefront of City policy. E.g., Family Caregiver Awareness Campaign – Beginning in November 2024 (Family Caregiver Month); National Employ Older Workers Week – September; & Provide a clear public resolution declaring Ageism and Ableism as public health threats, and committing Burlington to actively fighting agism and ablist through policy and programs, providing resources and attention needed to enable all community members to enjoy a full and fruitful life, contributing to the greater good, and receiving support as it is needed.

<p>*Baseline data on key indicators of successful social connection and engagement & Tracking Progress</p>	<p>Working with Planning Department City Data resources, and local partners, create baseline data on key indicators of successful social connection and engagement with all city departments around their programming and work and add it to the City Dashboard.</p>	<p>Mayor's Office</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Advance a more wholisted understanding of successful social connection and engagement within the 65+, health and wellness outcomes, and programming and initiatives of city departments, displayed regularly on publicly accessible dashboard.</p>
<p>*Create an Official Online City Resource Site</p>	<p>City Staff working with the BAC will set up a web-based City Resource site that will include:</p>	<p>Mayor's Office</p>	<p>2025</p>	<p>Citizens have access to a one stop shop specific to the City of Burlington that includes a list of family caregiver resources; resources to support older workers and employers seeking to hire and retain older workers; a single point of information access to City Programming that enhances social engagement and connection and advances healthy aging; resources for older adult housing and transportation information, a Dashboard indicating progress on the Age Strong Burlington Plan with connections to the State's Age Strong Plan progress reports.</p>
<p>3. Advance an age-friendly city policy agenda</p>	<p>Conduct a comprehensive policy review and identify key policy development to best advance the Age Stron Burlington Action Plan.</p>	<p>Mayor's Office & City Council</p>	<p>2025</p>	<p>** Review of City Human Resource policies that affect accommodation for employees of the city who are family caregivers and report to the Burlington Aging Council with recommendations and a timeline for what modifications and enhancements can be made to flexibly meet the needs of the city and the employee. ** Increase opportunities for Home Share programming in Burlington. ** Direct DPW and BPRW to coordinate planning efforts put in place supportive physical amenities to make Burlington a year-round accessible active city providing opportunity for activity in support of health in line with the WHO's Active Aging Policy Framework. ** Require all new construction to adhere to Universal Design Standards. ** Update PlanBTV: Burlington's Comprehensive Plan (2019) with a focus explicitly including the growing older population. ** Require PlanBTV to incorporate a comprehensive strategy to prioritize the needs of older adults in elements of community design. ** Build a Policy/Program/Resource Framework to address the specific needs of older adults in the event of another emergency (e.g., pandemic) and to meet the challenge of the ongoing climate emergency as it specifically impacts older adults. ** Assess the status and future need for staffing and funding of efforts needed to expand age-friendly infrastructure and design efforts across all city departments.</p>
<p>4. Direct City Departments to Advance or Expand Programming for Older Adults</p>		<p>Mayor's Office & City Council</p>	<p>2025</p>	<p>E.g., Evaluate and provide additional funding to continue and expand the CEDO/Age Well pilot to train/develop PCAs to increase the workforce for in-home supports/Personal and Home Health Aides to increase this critical and skilled workforce in providing services in home and institutional settings; ** Recommend that City departments that make use of national service programs (e.g., AmeriCorps) will also make use of national service programs for older adults (e.g., AmeriCorps Senior). Determine if these programs can also fulfill some of the functions required to support the future work of the Aging Council. ** Provide incentives to fill the gaps with volunteer and assisted ride programs. ** Expand the 50+ Programming of Burlington Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department to ensure that all older adults can access a variety of affordable opportunities for exercise within an inclusive environment. Align planning with the state's comprehensive physical activity plan and provide evidence-based physical activity and strength training programs to promote positive health outcomes. ** Identify funding and resources to build on the success of the CORE Adult Center (run by Burlington Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department) and engage partners to support the development of a part-time care facility in Burlington to assist older adults with higher-intensity care needs (Adult daycare) and provide respite to family caregivers. ** Expand funding for and promotion of the Housing Access Modifications program at CEDO.</p>
<p>5. Community Outreach and Engagement</p>	<p>Support a Robust Outreach and Engagement Process</p>	<p>Mayor's Office & City Council Charge and support to BAC</p>	<p>2025</p>	<p>Conduct a comprehensive Needs Assessment, with a targeted emphasis on understanding the needs of older adults, including BIPOC and New American communities, addressing technology access, affordability, and supports focused on infrastructure, capabilities, training/education, path to 6G.</p>
	<p>Focus on Specific Initiatives & Identify Funding to advance Action Plan and Outcomes</p>	<p>Mayor's Office & City Council Charge and support to BAC</p>	<p>2025</p>	<p>*** Identify funding to support the education of the BIPOC and New American advocates and associations on family caregiving practices and supports. *** Develop multilingual resources for Burlington residents, and support training and education for service providers to better understand and support the variety of cultures of caregiving in our community. *** Work with Burlington's Employers to support a Marketing Campaign to highlight older worker experiences and employer success stories and narratives. *** Work with Green Mountain Transit (GMT) to increase usage of public transportation, with special attention to the needs of older adults.</p>

<p>6. Support New and Existing Partnerships</p>	<p>Build out new and enhanced partnerships as the strategy to advance AgeStrong Burlington.</p>	<p>Mayor's Office & City Council Charge and support to BAC</p>	<p>2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Work with GMT, DPW, and other relevant agencies on processes and funding needed to support a standardized bus stop amenity plan that addresses winter maintenance. Apply a similar process to handicapped parking spaces.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Work with GMT to ensure that the fare structure is transparent and understandable to riders, and that it considers the needs of older riders in terms of access, comfort, and <i>affordability</i>.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Direct City Departments, such as the Police Department to pursue partnerships with community organizations (e.g., UVMMC Emergency Department, Chittenden Housing Alliance, CVOEO) to identify older individuals at risk of experiencing homelessness (or experiencing homelessness) so that they can more effectively connected with resources.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Collaborate with and include diverse social and cultural groups to ensure inclusion of all older residents in a concerted effort to increase usage of public transportation, with special attention to the needs of older adults, and support GMT staffing and resource needs to accomplish this.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Build a Technology for Connection Initiative for older adults, based on a community needs assessment. Identify and secure funding for technology infrastructure and access. Collaborate with partner groups (e.g., Technology for Tomorrow) to expand and standardize the use of in-home technology to help older adults age in place.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increase collaboration between city departments (e.g., Fletcher Free Library and Parks and Recreation) to collaborate with community partners to expand the accessibility to and participation in volunteer programs, especially those that offer additional support and assistance to help older adults stay in their homes. Provide focus on outreach to local BIPOC, New American, LGBTQ+, and other groups to promote volunteer information and opportunities within these groups.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Support the expansion of existing Burlington programs that work to connect housing, health care, and social supports for aging residents, with an emphasis on broadening the provision of diverse types of housing options/situations depending on level of independence.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Expand the supply of affordable age-specific housing options. Work with housing organizations to increase affordable and accessible assisted living opportunities. Collaborate with developers and partners to create opportunities to provide affordable dementia-focused housing.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Promote the newly adopted BTV Neighborhood Code to increase opportunities for middle housing with an emphasis on accessibility and affordability for older adults.