



Neighborhood Planning Assembly Minutes

NPA:

Ward
5

Date of Assembly : 5/21/26 Start Time: (*Commence*): 7:06

Location: 645 Pine Street Finish Time: (*Adjourn*): 8:29pm

Note taker: Laura O'Malley Forward official minutes to: Barbara Turnbull

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

FaRied Munarsyah, Laura O'Malley, Gary Myers

Discussion Topics

- Intro, Public Forum, and nomination/voting for steering committee members
- Natalie Braun, Pike Porter - 350VT on McNeil
- Rob Goulding - DPW construction update
- Sarah George - Chittenden County State's Attorney

Actions Taken / Decisions Made

- Ward 5 Steering Committee Secondary Election

Agenda Items and Actions:

- Commence: 7:06pm
 - Steering committee introduces themselves
- Steering Committee Election
 - Nate nominates himself for election
 - Majority voted in favor
- Public forum
 - Kevin Bloom speaks on eviction reform, running for sheriff, & collecting signatures for Amy Payne(?) campaigning for high bailiff
 - Dave Foss: NPA should be a voice within the coming local elections
 - Nate:
 - leading cleanups at the urban reserve (north of community sailing center)
 - Monday 10-3 next cleanup
 - Dave asks what they're doing with that section of property
 - Sensitive coastal area for development, no defined vision
 - He is affiliated w parks commission as well
 - Bella talks about her BTV cleanup crew @ church streets Thursday mornings @ 7:30
- 350VT presenting on McNeil's environmental impacts
 - Natalie Braun, Pike Porter speaking on biomass power plants and challenges associated
 - Talks about closing McNeil-powerpoint presentation, see recording
 - Emissions data from EPA didn't match research through 350VT

- Nate asks for alternatives, presenter offers cost-benefit analysis, a plan for retirement of the plant, and also adds that with a month-long shutdown Burlington lived off of grid power. Grid is 6x cleaner than McNeil. Proposes more solar with battery storage.
- Rob Goulding - DPW construction update
 - More digging projects, 2 main projects: main street and Champlain Parkway
 - On time and on budget.. Dates? Budget?
 - See presentation in recording for more details
 - Q: Dave asks about Decker Tower traffic, Rob Goulding emphasizes that this is an evaluation period as they're evaluating traffic
 - Improvement to sewage system made up for the most delays—but is now complete
 - Sidewalk improvements—should last 40 years according to Rob, maintain 3mi/year for 130 mi of sidewalk in the city. 4mi/year avg for street maintenance
 - Public art parade upcoming
 - Encourages the public to use various forms to submit feedback for maintenance requests
 - Q's
 - From Dave, Decker Towers maintenance req about drainage issues
- Sarah George - Chittenden County State's Attorney
 - Elected in 2018, up for reelection in August 11 Primary
 - Criminal justice reform
 - Some of her policies went into legislation
 - Harm reduction, overdose deaths reduced after further efforts for reduction services
 - Cash bail reform, also found that VTers of color were 14x more likely to be pulled over and no more likely to have contraband
 - No cases were tried during 2 years post COVID, courts were closed until Sept of 2022—focused on getting cases involving violence to trial
 - Have been backlogged by 15k+ at one point and down to ~1500
 - Connects people w Howard Center in the courtroom directly
 - Get curious w Sarah George videos—breaks down complicated laws
 - Q's
 - Dave: complains of repeat offenders in Decker Towers
 - Sarah: On and off meetings w police, better report w chief Burke
 - Nate: what does continued progress look like?
 - Sarah: currently funding a Howard center worker in the court house. Expanded access to treatment court. Gave up hiring a prosecutor position for a DV specialist previously working for Burlington police dept., helped rebuild relationships w victims
 - Bella offers volunteer opportunities for campaign
- Adjourn: 8:29pm