



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
802-865-7144 VOX • 802-865-7024 FAX • www.burlingtonvt.gov/cedo

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

CDNR Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 18, 2026
6:00 – 8:00 PM
Sharon Bushor Conference Room, 1st Floor – City Hall

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

City Staff: Christine Curtis, CEDO

Other Attendees: Brett Rodgers, Agnes Barsalow, PaintCare; Andrea Viets, Director Heineberg Senior Center; Katherine Schad, CAO; Kara Alnasrawi, Maggie Callaghan, CEDO; Anne Gatch, Megan Z, Eagle Bay Academy; Gordon Dragoon, Jason Stuffle, Burlington Walk Bike Council

Draft Minutes

Meeting Started at 6:01 PM

1. Approve agenda

MOTION by Councilor Schachter, SECOND by Councilor Litwin, to approve the agenda

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

2. Approve Minutes: 2/3/2026

MOTION by Councilor Schachter, SECOND by Councilor Litwin, to approve the minutes

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

3. Public Forum

The programs and services of the City of Burlington are accessible to people with disabilities.

For accessibility information, call 865-7144. For questions about the meeting, contact Christine Curtis at ccurtis@burlingtonvt.gov

- Ann Gatch and Eagle Bay Academy staff requested permission to convert a graffiti-covered wall into a student-designed mural.
- Approximately \$1,000 for paint and supplies.
- A target start date of May 2026.
- The project is tied to a “Math Through Art” curriculum where students apply geometry, scale, measurement, and design concepts through mural creation. Speakers emphasized educational benefits, youth engagement, community pride, and graffiti prevention through stewardship of public spaces.
- Andrea Viets updated Committee on Heineberg Senior Center to include preparation of roughly 200 tax returns through AARP Tax-Aide services, increased participation in free meal programs and wellness activities, growth in Bone Builders exercise classes, receipt of a Creative Aging Grant, expanded food security efforts serving approximately 40–50 people weekly, and new programming connecting seniors and English language learners.

4. Housing Trust Fund – Informational/Discussion

- CEDO staff presented plans to modernize Burlington’s Housing Trust Fund, which currently holds about \$1.5 million.
- Key priorities discussed included:
 - Creating clearer policies, procedures, and evaluation criteria.
 - Developing a formal scoring rubric for funding decisions.
 - Making the process more transparent and accessible.
 - Expanding participation beyond large housing developers.
 - Exploring support for homeowners and small-scale projects such as ADUs.
- Improving outreach so more residents understand funding opportunities.
- Committee members discussed:
 - Increasing Housing Trust Fund revenues through tools such as short-term rental taxes and inclusionary zoning reforms.
 - Maintaining long-term affordability requirements for funded housing.
 - Supporting more multi-bedroom affordable housing for larger and immigrant families.

- Balancing investments in large affordable housing developments with smaller community-based housing projects.

5. Regional Programs follow-up discussion

- The committee continued work on restructuring the city's regional programs funding process.
- Three funding categories were identified:
- Non-discretionary regional services that belong in departmental budgets.
- Critical service partners such as Howard Center Street Outreach, VNA Home Health & Hospice, Heineberg Community Senior Center, and Turning Point.
- Smaller discretionary community grants.
- Proposed changes include:
- Creating a formal grant application and review process.
- Requiring clearer impact reporting from recipients.
- Improving accountability and transparency.
- Potentially having CEDO administer discretionary grants through a structured annual program.

6. Community Based Solutions for Graffiti Abatement

- Representatives from PaintCare presented a proposal to support Burlington's graffiti abatement and mural efforts. PaintCare operates a paint stewardship and recycling program and has collected more than 1.2 million gallons of paint in Vermont since 2014.
- The proposed partnership would:
- Provide reusable paint for murals and beautification projects.
- Support graffiti cleanup efforts.
- Potentially sponsor selected mural projects.
- Assist with outreach and public awareness efforts.

Committee Motion: Recommend City Council form a graffiti abatement committee and recognize partnership between City of Burlington and PaintCare and refer back to CDNR to finalize all details of the graffiti abatement committee

MOTION by Councilor Litwin, SECOND by Councilor Schachter

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

7. Community Block Party Efforts – Burlington Walk Bike Council

- Representatives from the Burlington Walk Bike Council proposed simplifying the process for organizing neighborhood block parties.
- Current concerns include:
- A requirement to collect signatures from 75% of affected residents.
- Long permit timelines.
- Administrative barriers that discourage participation.
- Ideas discussed included:
- Shorter application timelines.
- Reduced signature requirements.
- Designated block-party weekends.
- Better coordination with city departments.
- Possible future support through neighborhood organizations.
- Committee members generally supported the concept but requested additional consultation with permitting staff and other city departments before advancing a formal proposal.

8. Adjournment

- ADJOURN at 8:16 p.m. by Councilor Litwin with no objection