



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 Zoraya Hightower, Chair, Ward 1

Councilor Joe Magee, Ward 3

Councilor Hannah King, Ward 8

CDNR Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 19th 2023
6:00 – 8:00 PM
****Virtual meeting only****

Committee members: Zoraya Hightower (ZH), Joe Magee (JM), Hannah King (HK)

City Staff: Christine Curtis

Other Attendees: Charlie Giannoni; Brian Pine, Todd Rawlings, Rebeka Lawrence-Gomez, Sarah Russell - CEDO

Draft Minutes

Meeting Started at 6:01 PM

1. Approve agenda

MOTION by Councilor King, SECOND by Councilor Magee, to approve the agenda – Councilor Hightower not present for vote

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

2. Approve minutes: 6/22/2023

MOTION by Councilor King, SECOND by Councilor Magee, to approve the minutes – Councilor Hightower not present for vote

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

3. Public Forum

- No one spoke at public forum

4. Update on NPA support – Charlie Giannoni

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

- Charlie stated that he wanted to notify the Committee that NPAs are going to hold an all wards meeting of Steering Committee members due to severe lack of staffing at all NPAs – around 2018, there was a shift from having a highly qualified NPA manager to having a part time intern
- Once pandemic hit, this role was only to manage the zoom meetings – role was only spending 16-20 hours per month on NPA duties
- Some NPAs are barely surviving due to lack of City staff support
- Charlie asked how can we hire our own staff to support NPAs?
- Charlie recommends - organize an all wards meeting and discuss staffing needs and then pursue options
- ZH asked if the NPAs are ready to organize a meeting or do they want the City to facilitate it? – Steering Committee members are ready to hold a meeting, were not planning to involve CEDO at this time
- Brian Pine (BP) stated that CEDO is currently offering the NPA staff position to a candidate – funded as a half time position to support NPAs – not just an intern
- BP thinks it is problematic if the Steering Committees take over the management of this position
- Charlie states that the NPAs have been isolated lately – not as many Steering Committee members as there used to be due to lack of support
- ZH asked BP if the part time position is enough? ZH does not remember getting a lot of facilitation from the last staff person – BP responded the last position was 20 hours per week and was not splitting time with other CEDO duties – ZH states the problem might be solved by hiring this new staff person
- Charlie stated that the staff person needs to have experience in community organizing – a lot of turnover of this position lately – hours not an issue – need some experience
- JM stated to BP that it would be more efficient for CEDO and Steering Committee to have a meeting once new staff person is on boarded – more collaborative approach
- HK served on her NPA and stated it was difficult – issues aren't CEDO staff related but rather experience of Steering Committee members – use budgets for training to empower the members to take a bigger role
- Charlie hopes new staff member will work year-round and help with NPA recruitment of Steering Committee members

- ZH agrees with Charlie and HK – asked BP where are we at with the hiring process and can they invite comments on the job description to help manage expectations – what is the support structure for this staff person to onboard them faster?
- BP said the offer is being advanced right now and far along in the process – open to discussing the position in more detail and recommendations from the Steering Committee members to better assist them
- JM asked BP to keep CDNR in the loop regarding this staffing process

5. Public Hearing: 2022 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report – CEDO

- Rebeka Lawrence-Gomez presented on 2022 CAPER – can be found online
- No questions or comments from public
- JM closed the public hearing

6. Homelessness Initiatives update – CEDO

- Sarah Russell updated the Committee on this item
- Hotel program closed on July 1st and in late June a bill was presented and became law that allowed for the prioritization of housing placement for the vulnerable people in hotels and also connected them to coordinated entry
- Outreach teams reached out to every household in hotel program to connect them with coordinated entry system
- AHS hired two panel managers for Chittenden County and a case manager
- Challenge now is the amount of case management services available to all the people that entered the coordinated entry system – organizations are at capacity – 8 weeks wait for people to get connected to housing navigation services
- Lund interested in creating case manager position for housing services
- Case coordination meetings will begin next month
- Unsheltered homelessness – estimated up to 250 individuals in Chittenden County – concentrated in Burlington area
- JM asked about storage options – Sarah stated that a pilot program is underway and working with VCJR

- ZH asked about public safety training and what efforts the community can be doing – Narcan trainings available at Safe Recovery, VCJR recently provided free trainings as well

7. Other Business

- NO OTHER BUSINESS

8. Adjournment

- ADJOURN AT 7:26 p.m. by Councilor Magee with no objection