



Ward 5 NPA
DPW Conference Room, 645 Pine Street
December 15, 2016 7:00 – 9:00 pm

7:00-7:05 - Welcome Address, Announcements and Introductions

7:05-7:25 - Introduction and Comments, Noelle Mackay, New CEDO Director

7:25-7:40 - Updates and Information, Sandy Yusen, Champlain College

7:40-7:55 - Generator-BTV, Lars Hasselblad Torres

7:55-8:15 - City Council Update, Councilors Joan Shannon and/or Chip Mason

8:15-8:35 - Champlain Parkway Update, Chapin Spencer, Director, DPW

8:35-Closing - Open Forum



Neighborhood Planning Assembly Minutes

NPA:
(choose one)

Wards 1 & 8	Wards 2 & 3	Wards 4 & 7	Ward 5	Ward 6
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Date of Assembly : **12 / 15 / 2016**

Start Time: (Commence): **7:00 PM**

Location: **DPW Building, Pine St.**

Finish Time: (Adjourn): **9:00 PM**

Notetaker: **Nate Orshan**

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

Alec Bauer
Bill Keogh
Hans Manske
Nate Orshan

Discussion Topics and Action Items:

(1) Introduction and Comments - Noelle Mackay, New Director of The Community and Economic Development Office (CEDO)

Introduced herself and shared some details about CEDO's mission and operations, including Community Housing Opportunities Program, Community Justice Center, and development-related projects.

(2) Updates and Information from Champlain College - Sandy Yusen, External Relations and Communications Director

Showed slides and shared updates, including about the Eagle's Landing project, the six-story development on St. Paul St (between King and Maple) that will house 105 students.

(3) Introduction to Generator-BTV – Lars Hasselblad Torres, Executive Director

Announced the move from Memorial Auditorium to the South End opposite the Miller Center on Lakeside Ave. Described opportunities for membership and collaboration. The official re-opening will be January 2, 2017.

(4) City Council Updates – Joan Shannon, Councilor for South District

Updated the NPA on recent resolutions such as the non-binding "Welcome Syrian Refugees" resolution, ongoing efforts to find a buyer for Burlington Telecom, the new PlanBTV Walk Bike plan, and an explanation of work on a "Sanctuary City" resolution.

(5) Champlain Parkway Update – Chapin Spencer, Director of the Department of Public Works (DPW)

Shared the latest timeline (starting construction in September 2018 with a two-year project duration) and explained the City's limited options to make any changes at this point in the project's lifecycle.

(6) NPA Related Open Forum and Closing

- Representatives from Keep the Park Green, a sibling organization to Coalition for a Livable City shared a sheet and expressed that they're worried about losing the park as a park, so it's no longer a destination.
- Ward 5 NPA Steering Committee Facilitator Alec Bauer shared that the NPA will have new elections for steering committee in March.

No action items.

Motion to adjourn adopted at 9:00 PM.



Neighborhood Planning Assembly Minutes – Full Notes

Date of Assembly: 12/15/2015

Start Time: (Commence): 7:00 PM

Finish Time: (Adjourn): 9:00 PM

Location: Department of Public Works Building, Pine St.

Notetaker: Nate Orshan

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

Alec Bauer
Bill Keogh
Hans Manske
Nate Orshan

(1) Introductions and Welcome – Alec Bauer, NPA Moderator

(2) Introduction and Comments - Noelle Mackay, New Director of The Community and Economic Development Office (CEDO)

Summary:

Introduced herself and shared some details about CEDO's mission and operations, including Community Housing Opportunities Program, Community Justice Center, and development-related projects.

Background: Was commissioner of housing & development for state for 6 years.
Before that: Smart Growth Vermont head.

Mackay is getting to know how people view CEDO, doing "CEDO Chats". Reaching out to nonprofits, UVM, other community partners.

Some themes are emerging; details to come in February.

1. People don't know what CEDO does!

E.g.: Division called CHOP - Community Housing Opportunities Program: HUD grant money, community justice issues, lead program

They also do the "What's the 'white sock' test?" which gets the CEDO inspectors checking for lead to also check for, e.g., fleas during the same visit in order to be able to provide (or recommend?) services for that if needed.

CEDO has a Community Justice Center, which is Federal & State grants-funded. Parallel justice, victim restoration. They have mediation skills, so one question Mackay has is, "How can we bring those mediation skills into the rest of CEDO?"

Sustainable Housing and Development (SHed): "How can we support growing businesses?" Helping new biz.

CEDO published an "A-to-Z on Economic Development in Burlington" booklet in 2002 that they're re-doing.

Also do a lot of projects that NPAs are involved with: E.g., sale of Brown's Court to Champlain College; they helped get technical info to the City Council & community members

Also working on waterfront, finalizing an agreement with ECHO for a new feature on the outside; helping with the new marina; helping get info to people re the Moran Plant

Also working on getting info for development agreement for BTC project

Also City Hall park.

CEDO staff is about 25 people in all, plus some AmeriCorps people. They do a lot with diversity, e.g., working with We All Belong (how to make people feel welcome in the workforce). (Phet Keomanyvanh does "My Brother's Keeper", targeted at helping youth, esp. young men of color, re education, workforce readiness.)

We're not the typical AmeriCorps program.

Q: Seems like City hires outside consultants. How do you determine what's an in-house task vs. what you reach out for?

A: Can't speak to what's happened in the past; some tasks need skillsets we don't have. I'm looking on how to spend more effectively.

Q: Where in gov't is anyone focused on public transportation?

A: BBA & Church St Marketplace have worked on it. In Burlington, 56% of traffic is single-occupancy vehicles, surprising for a city of our size. Multi-modal transportation is strong here. Chapin Spencer has a lot of ideas re incentivizing people to use alt-transportation.

Q: Re Moran Plant: Why is it still up if we're not doing what we'd intended?

A: People voted on the New Moran Inc plan. We then decided, after a few years, to end the agreement with them. The City Council wanted another try, so we put out another RFP that's due back 12/22 (they need to have a strong developer, letters of intent signed for the leases to show we don't need to put up operating money, also a capital plan --> It's to do the same thing in the original plan, no changes). We're also putting together a demolition plan.

(3) Updates and Information from Champlain College
- Sandy Yusen, External Relations and Communications Director

Summary:

Showed slides and shared updates, including about the Eagle's Landing project, the six-story development on St. Paul St (between King and Maple) that will house 105 students.

Eagle's Landing: Borders Ward 5 along St. Paul St. (it's between King & Maple). Acquired in 2008 and just closed on transaction Tuesday. First story will be for retail space (tenants TBD), then top 5 floors will be student housing, 105 units.

Benefits: Champlain College's master plan is to house all students either in on-campus or on college-managed housing. This allows them to go a long way toward that goal.

Benefits to city: Pulls students out of other neighborhoods in city.

They started construction this week.

There will be 66 parking spaces beneath the building available NOT to the students but to the community. (Students will have to park in the Miller Center parking lot.)

There's an 18-month construction window; goal to complete for students to move in for the Fall 2018 semester.

Q: What kind of commercial space?

A: TBD. Could be restaurant.

Q: What is the "in lieu of taxes" deal?

A: By developing and managing the building ourselves, we make a payment based on the acquisition price. We pay \$260K to the city, plus an additional amount on top of that. In Year 1, total payment will be \$345K to City. It's also part of the Downtown TIF district plus "Great Streets" project, so the first 20 years' taxes go to paying that down.

Q: How many students own cars?

A: Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association (CATMA) did a survey/study presentation that shows progress over time.

Q: Plan for moving day into these apartments?

A: We have an elaborate logistical plan. This year we did it in 90 minutes. It takes an army of people.

Another exciting project: Helping Generator move from Memorial Auditorium to 40 Sears Lane. They're excited to be facilitating that; ties into 10th Anniversary of Champlain College's Emergent Media Center.

More questions? Contact Yusen at: syusen@champlain.edu.

(4) Introduction to Generator-BTV
– Lars Hasselblad Torres, Executive Director

Summary:

Announced the move from Memorial Auditorium to the South End opposite the Miller Center on Lakeside Ave. Described opportunities for membership and collaboration. The official re-opening will be January 2, 2017.

Completed move to new space under two weeks ago. Generator-BTV is now opposite the Miller Center in a warehouse. About 8,100 sq. ft.

It's a membership-driven organization.

Why join? (\$75/month flat fee)

- Space for open-ended play; learning new tools & taking ideas
- Training: Helping people understand Computer Numeric Tools (CNT)
- Want to foster entrepreneurship

They also do an intercollegiate exchange program: four institutions give students access to the space, e.g., UVM biology students building tools.

Also: Looking to foster new student clubs.

Looking at expanding 30%: Gains in woodshop & metal shop.

Officially open 1/2/2017.

Q: Sounds like Intervale Center?

A: We have some Intervale farmers who are members. We also occupy a particular niche, more on the prototype-development, less on the production runs.

(5) City Council Updates
– Joan Shannon, Councilor for South District

Summary:

Updated the NPA on recent resolutions such as the non-binding "Welcome Syrian Refugees" resolution, ongoing efforts to find a buyer for Burlington Telecom, the new PlanBTV Walk Bike plan, and an explanation of work on a "Sanctuary City" resolution.

The city is still trying to sell Burlington Telecom. More details soon. In Jan, the city will be coming forward with plan for buyers, looking to arrive at a buyer by Aug/Sep. Our settlement agreement requires us to sell.

They've been in conversations with co-op folks. There may be other very good options. The Council established criteria for buyers.

BT is now up to 6,531 subscribers, up from 4K in 2010.

Recently BT was able to get a new conduit into the Red Rocks condos. They're also reassessing cost of a complete build-out. Originally there was a commitment to hook up or at least pass by each house in town.

Memorial Auditorium: There's concern about 242 Main. We're all concerned about it and are looking for a community solution about that.

Great Streets initiative: The Design Review Board will be getting a presentation, and the Department of Public Works will be voting on it on 12/21.

The Walk Bike Master plan is out (<http://www.planbtvwalkbike.org/>). Joan will be sitting down with Local Motion in Jan about it, but right now is the time to weigh in on it.

On Monday, 12/19: Voting on increasing councilor pay. Currently: \$3K/year. Suggestion is to go to \$4.5/year

The Council, with support from Mayor Weinberger, recently passed a non-binding "Welcome Syrian Refugees" resolution. Joan added, "Thanks to Kit O'Connor of Amnesty International. I'm grateful for Kit's work and bringing AI to the City Council."

Re a different resolution designating Burlington a "Sanctuary City": Joan doesn't like the term, saying it's inflammatory to people. "It sounds like more than what it really is: It's about our policing policies. We don't want people to be afraid to call the police."

Shannon, North District Councilor Dave Hartnett, and Central District Councilor Jane Knodell are on an ad-hoc committee about this. It turns out the state has a good framework already, which many communities are already adopting, so that will be helpful to the effort.

Re the Southern Connector: Shannon states that we don't actually have a lot of options. The project is officially permitted, and the opportunities to make the changes were back in 2006. We would need new permits, setting the project back 10-20 years. We'd have to go back and do a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Shannon says there was a good presentation from CATMA in the most recent Ward 6 NPA. This NPA should think about them.

(6) Champlain Parkway Update
– Chapin Spencer, Director of the Department of Public Works (DPW)

Summary:

Shared the latest timeline (starting construction in September 2018 with a two-year project duration) and explained the City's limited options to make any changes at this point in the project's lifecycle.

Re Champlain Parkway: They have received fed & state Act 250 permits and are completing their semi-final plans.

Spencer says that, although a lot of good ideas have coming up recently, the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has spent millions already, so anything that would affect the timeline and costs are already essentially off the table. That said, the City has been able to make a few changes, e.g., allowing bikes on the pkwy up to Home Ave.

We CAN do City projects or even Fed projects to change things, but only once the project's completed first.

Spencer shared a letter from Michele Boomhower, Director of Policy, Planning, & Intermodal Development, which included a description of some changes the City could change in the C2 section.

We're still planning to commence construction in Sept 2018. Duration would be 2 years; diff sections at diff times.

(7) Open Forum

Representatives from Keep the Park Green, a sibling organization to Coalition for a Livable City shared a sheet and expressed that they're worried about losing the park as a park, so it's no longer a destination.

Ward 5 NPA Steering Committee Facilitator Alec Bauer shared that the NPA will have new elections for steering committee in March.

Motion to adjourn adopted at 9:00 PM.

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