

Wards 2 & 3 NPA Meeting Notes
20 Allen Street, Burlington
December 13th, 2018
Start time: 6:30pm
End time: 8:30pm

NPA Announcements

- NPAs are now streamed live on YouTube
- Several city councilors are trying to increase funding for NPAs, introduced a resolution at City Council. Extra funding could provide translators, child care. Resolution did not pass, but in January there will be continued conversation at the all-wards meeting

Public Forum

- There will be an information meeting about the sale of Burlington Telecom in Fletcher Free library, 12/19. 6 PM. The sale has not been approved by the PUC yet (Public Utilities Commission), so there is still time to make a difference. The group could use financial assistance and help posting comments to the PUC site.
- Charlie Messing: The government wants to hear your input! Make sure you utilize opportunities to speak up.
- Jess Hime: Opportunities for citizens age 55 years and up. Free luncheons at the Elks Club in ONE from noon to 3, or a hot meal delivered by calling Age-Well.
- Lucy Gluck: Working hard to cancel F35s from coming to Burlington/South Burlington. If you want to help, saveourskiesvt is a good website. Less than a year to make it happen!
- Finn Jay: Junktiques is looking to expand in the old Salvation Army building next door. Making a fundraising video.

New Year's Eve Highlight Event- Doreen Craft, Zach Williamson, BCA

- New NYE celebration for Burlington, formerly "First Night"
- Used to be celebrated with first night gathering in 19 locations throughout Burlington, rotated through locations during the night
- Trying to reinvent format and participation while also honoring old traditions
- Driven by artists selected through RFP process
- Event will be noon to 1 AM
- Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. There will tickets from those who can't afford them as well.
- Bonfire in Waterfront Park, and 8 PM fireworks.
- Art from Generator and Champlain College artists, interactive lighting displays with music near ECHO
- Events in Contois all day long, "Community Show and Tell", family-style story-telling, music, Abenaki history
- Volunteering a 3 hour shift gets you a free wristband!

City Council Update-

Max Tracy, Ward 2

- Discussing charter changes on the ballot in March

-Business Personal Property Tax- for businesses that have equipment (typically manufacturing) valued at above \$40k. This equipment is taxed. The tax was brought up by a brewery in the New North End, who said it prevents business owners from wanting to invest in Burlington. Question on the ballot will be whether we should do a phased repeal of the tax over the next few years. There will be public hearings before final vote.

-Permit reform- can be cumbersome and challenging. Resolution by Knodell with Wright and Hartnett (“Soup to Nuts” resolution) would consolidate planning office and code enforcement/inspection services into a “one stop shop”.

Jane Knodell, Central District

-Business prop tax Will mean a loss of 125k in tax revenue. Confident it can be absorbed in budget.

Downtown Improvement District- Adam Roof, Ward 8

-“Improvement district” is a designated area where property owners and business owners pay an additional tax to fund “enhanced services” supplemental to those already being provided by city

-This process has intensified over the past few weeks. Charter change has reviewed recommendations made by consultants

-This legislation is moving through city process, if it passes it will be on March ballot

-The charter change

-Fee payers of DID are non-residential properties. Non profits are fee payers unless they provide social services. Non profits can file hardship claims if they cannot pay

-Fee rates submitted by governing board to council for approval.

-Boundaries will be slightly expanded from current district.

-Governance- 13 voting directors and 4 non-voting. 7 appointed by city council- 1 resident who lives in boundaries of district, one in city limits, one from non profit located within district, 2 owners of businesses within district, and 2 owners of real property within district. 6 directors appointed by DID itself. 4 ex-officio members- DPW, Parks and Rec, Police Department, City Council.

-DID cannot allocate use of space on Church St. Space will still be managed 100% by city.

-Language of charter change/specific details will come after its been approved

FY20 Burlington School Budget Proposal- Liz Curry, Ward 3 School Board Commissioner

-Act 46, which was passed 3 or 4 years ago, is starting to pay off in Burlington after making things difficult for past few years. Due to Act 46 consolidation, every student gets \$10,666 from state. If a school wants to spend more than \$10,666 per student, the city can raise taxes locally. Burlington spends about \$14,000 per student.

-Next Tuesday, School Board will meet with principals about priorities for the upcoming year.

-Priorities: social services, support for behavior intervention, support for New Americans, special education, life skills programs. This year, schools are able to fund more of these.

planBTV- Meagan Tuttle

<https://planbtv-burlingtonvt.opendata.arcgis.com/pages/our-vision>

- Comprehensive plan that outlines next 10-20 years of land use policy in the city
- Takes into account previous plans across city
- Plan offers a digital map (linked above) of what areas will be conserved, what areas will be sustained, what areas will be developed
- New plan covers all the aspects that make Burlington unique
 - Burlington as a “distinctive” city- features that give the city its character (natural setting, resources, special open spaces, historic built environment, etc)
 - Burlington as a “dynamic city”- what will change in face of climate change, how city will have to prepare for future
 - Burlington as an “inclusive” city- more equitable, accessible opportunities for all of its residents. Employment, housing, etc
 - Burlington as a “connected” city- understanding the city’s physical, social, economic networks
- Plan is different from a zoning ordinance- does not have any regulatory effects, but guides conversations when city might be considering a request or zoning amendment. The plan is a tool to consult over time as decisions are made.
- Upcoming meetings will be an opportunity for any stakeholders/groups to share their perspectives and feedback on the plan
- Timeline for planBTV:
 - Council and Public review continues January-March 2019
 - Council Public Hearing #1 – Feb 2019
 - Council Public Hearing #2- March 2019
 - Readopt updated plan by March 31st, 2019

CDBG Advisory Board- Phet Keomanyvanh, CEDO

- Here on behalf of Valerie Russell
- CDBGs- half a million dollar grant the city gets from HUD every year
- Opportunity for the community to decide what the city will do with that grant
- The city works with NPAs to get reps from each NPA, who will review the applications from different non-profits and programs.
- Burlington has been recognized nationally for this model. Usually, the mayor and city departments will decide on CDBGs, with no opportunity for citizens to provide input.
- Wards 2 + 3 have two reps who have served for two years, now looking for more members to join.
- Reach out to committee members, Valerie Russell if you are interested
- The commitment is around 20 hours total, from January to April

Minutes taken by Hannah Carpino, CEDO intern

