

Ward 6 NPA Draft Agenda
December 5, 2019 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM
Greek Orthodox Church, 600 South Willard Street

6:00 - 6:30

Community dinner with Jazz accompaniment by Charlie MacFadyen

6:30 - 6:40

Public comment

6:40 - 7:10

City Council Updates

Councilors Joan Shannon and Karen Paul

7:10 - 7:50

**State Representatives: Legislative Priorities
for the Upcoming Session**

Representatives Mary Sullivan, Barbara Rachelson and Johanna Donovan

7:50 - 8:30

**State Senators: Legislative Priorities
for the Upcoming Session**

Senators Philip Baruth and Chris Pearson

All residents are encouraged to come for a community dinner at 6:00 PM!
All presentations on the agenda will include time for questions/discussion with
community members attending.

The Steering Committee Members for Ward 6 are:

- Michelle Mraz, michelle.mraz@gmail.com
- Matt Grady, matt7631@gmail.com
- Gail Rafferty, gailraff8890@gmail.com
- Mary Riley, rileyburl@burlingtontelecom.net
- Joel Fitzgerald, joel.fitzgerald@mausd.org

For more information about Ward 6 NPA [Register for the Ward 6 NPA e-newsletter](http://eepurl.com/c9pQL)
<http://eepurl.com/c9pQL>

*Parking entrance off of Ledge Road on the east side of the Rotary. Overflow parking at
foot of Willard St, or even Christ the King School, and walk up paved walkway from
Willard directly to church.

Ward 6 NPA 6 Meeting

December 5, 2019

Greek Orthodox Church, 600 So. Willard St., Burlington, VT

Steering Committee Members present: Matt Grady, Gail Rafferty, Mary Riley, Michelle Mraz, Joel Fitzgerald

Public Comment:

- Thanks to Ward 6 Steering Committee members for creating a warm community.
- DPW is planning stormwater assessment and has placed signs around the neighborhood. It would be helpful if they could speak about this issue. (They will be speaking at the next NPA meeting).
- Champlain College is at the end of the semester. Students will be moving out on a staggered schedule. Thanks to the city for the new beacon lights on S. Willard St.
- Happy about the new lights and bump out in that area too.

City Councilors Karen Paul and Joan Shannon:

Karen Paul: New design for City Play: size, scale and scope are reduced. Construction should begin 8/2020 and end 2/2023. There is some wiggle room in the schedule. Memorial Auditorium Project plan will be to accommodate amenities and modernize the building. Need a ballot vote for TIF amend request. The City Hall park project is on schedule and will be completed late summer. The roundabout project is on schedule for 2020 start and 2021 completion. Councilors are working with the Mayor on the budget. Joan Shannon: She has posted links on Front Porch Forum regarding preserving ability to get funds for City Place: please let her know if anyone has comments. Joan is on the newly formed Committee on Policing, which looks at the use of force and citizen oversight. Police work active outreach with people. So far, she has heard praise for how the police have handled matters. The non-citizen promosal has been brought back again. Contact Joan if there are any comments. Approved the purchase of new vehicles-the city will lead the way to get the fleet as close to net zero as possible. Ballot item will be an extra penny for the Housing Trust Fund.

The library project is actively being worked on, but not many details are known at this time. Amtrak coming to Burlington: will need a site to store the train overnight, and a second rail.

State Representatives Johanna Donovan and Mary Sullivan:

Mary Sullivan: As Co-Chair of the Climate Solutions Caucus, she travelled around the state in the fall and summer presenting climate agenda. Realizing we are in a climate emergency, they want to get moving on climate initiatives. They need the budget to accommodate these goals, which they currently don't have.

Joey Donovan: Bill passed: codified access to abortion. The minimum wage and Paid family leave act were both vetoed by the governor and will be on the agenda next term. Marijuana bill passed in the senate, now need to tax and regulate. The pension system needs help: considering a bill for tax surcharge for income over \$500 thousand.

Discussions regarding a four year term for governor, improved relations for the house and senate (expected to be improved going forward), systemic inequity. Also discussions on the Minimum wage increase: There are plenty of working poor who need a livable minimum wage. Lots of people in the state don't have opportunities for trades. Hard to find care for elders. The minimum wage from the 60's translates to @\$22/hr.

State Senators: Philip Baruth and Chris Pearson:

Philip Baruth: There is broad agreement to move the minimum wage and family leave act to the governor as soon as they return. Prison reform: looking into more humane facilities, similar to the way Maine is. Gun safety: Governor vetoed the waiting period bill. He wants to strengthen the domestic violence gun removal bill, and make sure to define where assault-style weapons can be.

Chris Pearson: He is Co-Chair of the Climate Solutions Caucus: There are lots of different climate interests: we need cohesion to bring these interests together. An example is the Farm to School initiative, pairing school lunches with the local food curriculum. Dairy farmers are aging out and there is consolidation of farms. We need to break this cycle and provide incentives to create choices for next generation of farmers and diversified agriculture. One climate change solutions eco system service payments: an example is to pay for ilk and adds oil to improve the soil due to soil runoff from climate change. Vermont is the state most dependent on a single economy. Redistricting was discussed: the 6 memoir district will most likely be broken into two 3 member districts, but not certain of specifics yet. Regarding using a closed college for prisoners, the colleges were not designed for that, more favor for creation of a new facility that is less punitive, more behavioral in design. Gun specifics were discussed: Philips bill doesn't target hunting or targets, just places one can't bring in open spaces, like Walmart or church. There is not a huge desire by farmers to abandon food farming for marijuana farming. Burlington affordability was discussed: the tax bill is increasing, and the median real estate value is currently \$411,000, There are not really votes for income sensitive relief. There are no easy answers: this is a vexing problem.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.
Notes submitted by Mary Riley

