



Draft Agenda
Ward 6 NPA Meeting
November 2, 2017 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Morgan Room in Aiken Hall at Champlain College

Moderator: Michelle Mraz; **Recorder:** Charles Simpson; **Publicist:** Matt Grady
Refreshments: Brian MacDonald

6:45-7:00 Social Time

7:00-7:10 Public Forum

7:10-7:20 Meagan Tuttle, CEDO, The Neighborhood Project

7:20-7:30 Councilors' Report: Joan Shannon and Karen Paul

7:30-7:40 Fran Brock, Burlington Education Association

7:40-7:50, Brian Cina, A proposal to establish a Vermont State Bank

7:50-8:05 Yaw Obeng, Burlington School Superintendent

8:05-8:20 School Board Member: Jeff Wick

8:20-8:30 Sandy Yusen, Champlain College Up-date

8:30-8:40 Lisa Kingsbury, UVM Up-date

8:40-8:50 KBTL Up-date on the Burlington Telecom decision.

8:50-9:00 Charles Simpson, Future of Memorial Auditorium meeting update.

9:00 Adjourn

Parking is available in several locations: In the lot behind Summit Hall (56 Summit Street) diagonally across from Aiken Hall. In the Miller Information Commons lot (83 Summit Street) located off of Summit South of Maple via Cedar Lane. Along Maple Street and on Summit Street between Main and Maple Street.

Neighborhood Planning Assembly, Ward 6
November 2, 2017, Minutes
Morgan Room, Aiken Hall, Champlain College

Steering Committee:

Michelle Mraz, Matt Grady, Clare Wool, Brian MacDonald, Charles Simpson

Moderator: Michelle Mraz

Recorder: Charles Simpson

Publicity: Matt Grady

Refreshments: Brian MacDonald

Videographer, Mathew McArdle

The meeting began at 7:10 pm. Minutes from Oct. 5, 2017, were approved.

1. Meagan Tuttle of Burlington Planning & Zoning presented information on “The Neighborhood Project”, an effort to stabilize neighborhoods near the Hill campuses. It was derived from the 2013 Housing Action Plan and seeks policies and tools with which to address problems in Wards 1, 2, 6, and 8 affecting quality of life, code enforcement, and housing costs. The public is invited to an Open House at Contois Auditorium, 12/12/17, 4- 7 pm, to discuss these initiatives. Question: Will the City work with the universities to promote student housing co-operatives? Answer: The City has begun preliminary discussion with the universities but not specifically about this. Come to the Open House and make that suggestion.
2. Fran Brock, President of the Burlington Education Association discussed school issues. The master contract is not yet signed and the BEA got it only last week after two months. It was not entirely consistent with what the BEA understood from prior negotiations. Health care remains an issue, as does the District budget and cuts or funding shifts within the budget. Mediations is set for December. It doesn't look good from the teachers' point of view. Q.: Is the money piece agreed to? A. The distribution of money across the salary schedule is still unsettled. Scheduling of teachers' time in the high school remains in contention. This is a working conditions issue and is a matter for contract negotiations. Q.: What's happening at the high school? A.: There is a musical scheduled for the week prior to Thanksgiving, Nov. 16-18. The public is invited. Our students did well in the bi-state Scholars' Bowl. See the District website for more information. Q. Are the teachers collaborating with the district? A.: Yes, on some restorative practices but the teachers need a master contract in order to make progress here. And that depends on conversations with the board.
3. Brian Cina, State Representative, and three others presented information on a movement to establish a state bank to hold the deposits of the state and lend them out for Vermont projects, to students, and to businesses. Presenting a skit, the four explained that No. Dakota has had such a bank since 1919 and it has reduced student loan costs to 2-3 percent in comparison to national figures of 6-8 percent. Vermont now has \$350 million in tax money deposited in banks outside the state, primarily TD. It then has to borrow back or otherwise obtain funds with which to undertake state projects. A state bank would reduce costs to taxpayer substantially.

This would not be a retail bank, such as is a credit union, and every state resident would own it. Germany has public banks in every city which do offer retail accounts. Partnerships with credit unions could do the same here in Vermont. Achieving a state bank is a multi-year project. Q.: Could it facilitate the marijuana industry? A.: That's unknown given federal rules.

4. Yaw Obeng, Burlington School Superintendent, gave an update on the School District. He advised the audience to visit the District's website for specific information. Recently, the district was cited by the Vermont School Board Association for excellence. The revisioning effort for the high school continues seeking to address accessibility, technology spaces, and flexibility issues. The state budget discussions appear difficult with \$50-\$80 million in debt in the Education Fund anticipated. Some there are talking about "level funding" which would mean a reduction in staff and services. The conversation about health insurance also is continuing. There has been an effort to claw back some half a million dollars from the district, with \$370,000 of that returned to the state this last year. The needs in the area of Special Education are great as we seek to close achievement gaps. Our enrollment is trending down but less so than state-wide and is up in the Pre-K area. Unfortunately, the state weighted formula doesn't reward districts as much in this age area as for older students. Our kids are performing well. Q.: What are the English Language Learner (ELL) numbers? A.: We want ELL students who are also low-income to be counted on each measure but that's not the case. Q.: Have you met with the faculty in conversation about school needs? A.: Yes. We have created nine teams to discuss cost saving in meetings with our principals and staff and teachers, each looking at specific areas. I'm asking them for plans, not wishes. We are also looking at private partnerships as a way to generate support. Q. How can we help on the weighted formula issue? A.: Reach out to your legislators as the parent community. [At this point Brian Cina returned to the mic and said: Advocacy tends to be parochial; you need to look at the big picture as you talk with legislators. Teachers are going to be demonized, and then other public employees. Parents need to unite with teachers and the Board as they lobby.] Q.: Would a state bank help financially? A.: [Cina: Yes, it could loan for school infrastructure.] Q.: When will the contracts be signed?. A.: [Back to Obeng]: Some will be signed very soon, but later for the para-professionals. I'm hopeful we can move to multi-year contracts.
5. Jeff Wick, School Board Member. I want to thank Superintendent Obeng for his outreach to the public. On the second Tues of the month there will be a School Board meeting at Hunt Middle School, 6 pm. The Board will have to vote on the budget prior to January 8. The high school musical comedy is "The Drowsy Chaperone" . It will be on Nov. 16-18th.
6. Sandy Yusen of Champlain College said that Eagles Landing is on track but will be re-designated as "194 St. Paul Street" in keeping with the names of other CC dorms. They are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Montreal campus this year. The college goal is to have at least half the student body experience study abroad. CC was recently ranked 12th nationally recently on this measure of study abroad. Champlain's on-line division now involves 3500 students. Our emergency alert system is open to our neighbors as well as to the campus community.

7. Joe Spileto took questions on behalf of UVM. Q. What's the status of the Taft School? A.: it is undergoing renovation to become an arts education facility. Q.: Can the Alumni House be used for community events? A.: Yes, in can be booked. Q.: UVM needs to plant bigger trees around the Alumni House. A.: They are growing. Q.: No, you need to plant larger trees, now. Q. Can the Alumni House parking lot be used on NPA nights? A.: Probably, but that is unclear.
8. Alan Matson, Chair of the Keep BT Local board, gave an update on the sale of BT. Council adjourned on Oct. 30 without taking a vote but scheduled one for Nov. 6. The specifics of KBTL's offer remain the same, as is the case for the competing offer. Each can be found on the BT website and on the City website. Q. Should the public contact their council members to lobby? A.: Yes. I want to say that BT is offering a great service to subscribers during a period of uncertainty.
9. Charles Simpson, speaking for the All NPA group, reported on the city-wide Assembly on the Future of Memorial Auditorium, held Sept. 26, Contois Auditorium. The program included a virtual tour of the facility via a video program, a presentation by Professor Tom Visser, Chair of UVM's Dept. of Historic Preservation, and a talk by former facilities manager Alan Abair. Then the public made statements. Seventy-seven members of an audience that exceeded 100 filled out a questionnaire created by All-NPA. Of 12 types of event at Memorial, the average respondent mentioned attending 4.957 events by type, including theater, dance music, tech events, and 242 Main rock events. Asked if they supported the City seeking outside funding for restoring the facility, 65 said yes; 10 said no; and 2 said maybe. Asked if they supported tearing down the building and rebuilding a similar civic structure, 10 said yes; 64 said no; 3 said maybe. Asked if they supported selling the building, 4 said yes; 73 said no. Two resolutions were offered on the floor, each approved unanimously. The first advised City officials to preserve Memorial as a public facility; the second asked officials to reflect public priorities in that preservation effort as expressed through the NPA structure.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.



Neighborhood Planning Assembly Attendees

NPA (choose one)	Wards 1 & 8	Wards 2 & 3	Wards 4 & 7	Ward 5	Ward 6
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Date of Assembly : 11-2-17 Location: Aiken Hall, Char

Please return to your convenor, Phet Keomanyvanh
or email to cedofd@burlingtonvt.gov

- 1 Charles R Simpson
- 2 Brian Allen Deuel
- 3 Michelle Mraz
- 4 Sandy Jensen
- 5 Alan Matson
- 6 Mary Gade
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‘The Neighborhood Project’

Interactive Community Open House

12/12/17

The goal of The Neighborhood Project is to develop an actionable strategy and toolkit of policies and programs for neighborhood stabilization in near-campus neighborhoods.

The interactive Community Open House will be ongoing throughout the evening, providing an opportunity for the consultants to share findings and to solicit your input on potential tools for neighborhood stabilization.

Please join us any time between the hours of:

3:00 PM and 7:00 PM

@ Contois Auditorium, City Hall

The Neighborhood Project is one of 22 proposals contained in Burlington’s Housing Action Plan (HAP), to create an actionable strategy and toolkit of policies and programs, based on national best practices, for enhancing the quality of life in near-campus neighborhoods. This effort is led by the City of Burlington CEDO, in partnership with Champlain College, UVM, and Preservation Burlington. Ninigret Partners is the lead consultant.