



Draft Agenda

Ward 5 NPA

October 19, 2017

7:00 to 9:00 pm

DPW Conference Room, 645 Pine Street

Alec Bauer chairs, Joana Grossman moderates

7:00 – Open Forum (15 min)

7:15 - Howard Center Services and Discussion re Interactions with Homeless People Neil Metzner, Director of Crisis Services, and Tammy Boudah, Team Leader for the Street Outreach Team (30 min)

7:45 – Affordable Housing – Marcy Esbjerg, Assistant Director, CEDO (15 min)

8:00 – Update: The Generator– Chris Thompson, Executive Director (15 min)

8:15 – Update: City Market – Allison Hope, Director of Community Engagement (25 min)

8:40 – Update: City Council re Burlington Telecom – Joan Shannon, South End Councilor (20 min)

9:00 – Meeting Adjourned

The Steering Committee Members for Ward 5 are:

Bill Keogh, bkeoghsr@yahoo.com

Alec Bauer, awbauer@gmail.com

Nate Orshan, natosongs@gmail.com

Elisa Nelson, nelsmith@burlingtontelecom.net

Mike Fife, mikefife37@gmail.com

Ben Traverse, bentraverse@gmail.com

Joanna Grossman, joeyinvermont@gmail.com



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 : 10/19/17 Location: OPW

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

1	Martha Molpus, Ward 7	21
2	GAYLE NEAVE " 5	22
3	CHRIS COSTELLO WARD 5	23
4	R. PAUL SMITH " 5	24
5	EUSAC NELSON " 5	25
6	Chris Thompson Ward 5	26
7	Bryce Healy Ward 5	27
8	Ashley Dembinski Wards	28
9	Gordon Dragon Ward 5	29
10	Emmy Borden HC Street Orleans	30
11	ANDY SIMON 54 Locust St	31
12	JOE DERY 5	32
13	Nate Orshon 70 Linden Ter	33
14	Marcia Brustman	34
15	Ibhar Stratibus 5	35
16	Russell Aminzade 5	36
17	Ben Travers 5	37
18	Paco DeFrancis W 5	38
19	Robert Gavin W 5	39
20		40

BT IS OUR FUTURE. AND IT'S OURS TO KEEP.

IF YOU BELIEVE THAT BURLINGTON TELECOM SHOULD REMAIN LOCALLY OWNED, HERE'S HOW TO HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN.

WRITE, EMAIL, OR CALL YOUR CITY COUNCILOR AND THE MAYOR! **POST** your comments to Front Porch Forum, social media, or write a letter to the editor.

ATTEND an upcoming City Council meeting (Sept. 18th & Sept. 25th) to let the mayor and councilors know you want to **KEEP BT LOCAL!**

MAYOR

Miro Weinberger, Mayor
mayor@burlingtonvt.gov
Democrat, 2018
Room 34, City Hall
Burlington, VT 05401
865-7272

CITY COUNCIL

Ward 1

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Burlington, VT 05401
658-3604

Ward 2

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Ward 3

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Ward 4

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Republican, 2018
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Burlington, VT 05408
658-1410

Ward 5

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373-8545

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863-3817

Ward 7

Ali Dieng
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Democrat/Progressive, 2018
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318-2527

Ward 8

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777-3255

East District

Richard Deane
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Democrat, 2019
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373-7449

Central District

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City Council President
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North District

David Hartnett
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Independent, 2019
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Burlington, VT 05408
864-7895

South District

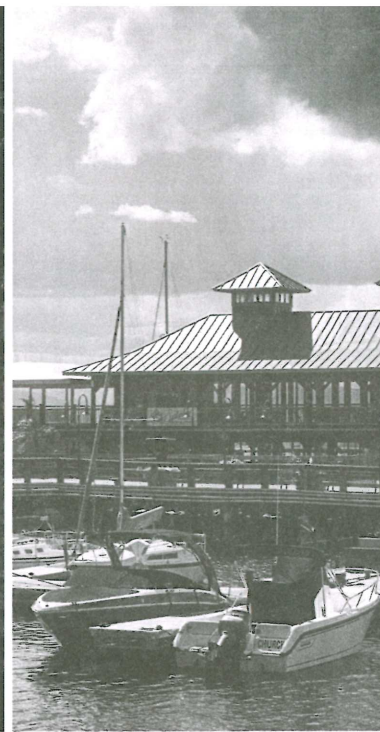
Joan Shannon
jshannon@burlingtonvt.gov
Democrat, 2019
41 Central Avenue
Burlington, VT 05401
860-7489

Paid for by:

Keep BT Local Cooperative
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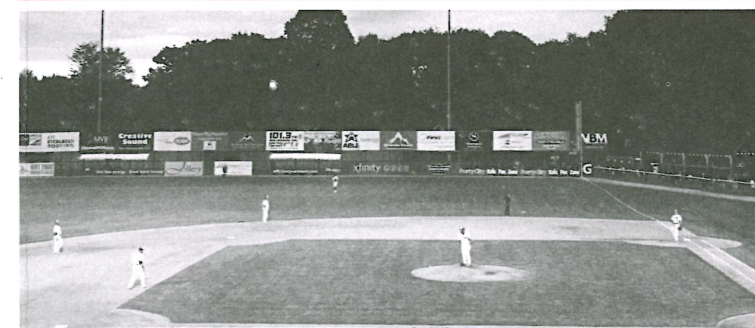


TELL THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL:



WE BUILT IT. WE PAID FOR IT. WE KEEP IT.

BT Burlington
Telecom



A TELECOM OWNED BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE

IN 2011, WE AGREED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR BT TO REMAIN LOCALLY OWNED. AS THE SALE OF BT NEARS A FINAL DECISION, IT'S TIME TO LET OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS KNOW THAT THIS WORLD-CLASS TELECOM SHOULD BE OWNED BY THE COMMUNITY.

KEEPING BT LOCAL AND UNDER THE CONTROL OF ITS MEMBER-OWNERS WILL ENSURE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY. Keep BT Local is, to date, the only bidder to publicly inform the community about its bid and its plans. Why did no other bidder identify themselves? Do they really want to be part of our community, or do they just want to buy off a key asset and make a profit?

OUR VISION FOR BT IS TO INCREASE BUSINESS REVENUE AND GROW by using “fiber-hoods” and smart growth strategies that use system revenues wisely to expand within the City of Burlington and adjacent communities. Our financing partner, Maine Fiber, has expertise that will help us meet our goal of building a reliable, affordable, and highly competitive service for the future. This combination will make our Co-op not only the most responsive and affordable system, but one of the best in the country that is superior to the competition, because BT was built that way.

BURLINGTON TELECOM WAS ENVISIONED, CREATED, FUNDED, AND BUILT BY CITY TAXPAYERS AND SUBSCRIBERS. Transforming it into a local cooperative will provide the city with a minority stake in the company, and will ensure that taxpayers and subscribers reap the long-term benefits of a currently thriving telecom. Our community paid for BT and we should keep the ownership—and the profits.

THE KEEP BT LOCAL BID OFFERS THE MOST STABLE, LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PAYBACK TO THE PEOPLE OF BURLINGTON. The long-term payback of the KBTL bid carries a current value of least \$5 million *more* than its bid price. Only the co-op can keep rates low and provide patronage refunds to subscriber members. There are 260 telecom cooperatives in 31 states that, combined, generate \$3.9B in revenue, \$1.3B in value-added income to their members and communities, employ 23,000 people, and have returned tens of millions of dollars (over decades) to their member-owners in the form of patronage refunds, or shares of the profits.

OUR BID REPAYS THE CITY AND BT'S CURRENT PROFITABILITY WILL ENABLE US TO EXPAND IT AND MAKE IT STRONGER. The city of Burlington will owe \$0 related to BT after this sale, and hold only a minority stake (as a condition of any sale). BT is *currently profitable* and on track to net \$3 million this year, which is more than enough to pay down the long-term debt and to maintain, improve, and expand its operations. All 7000 current subscribers will automatically become co-op member-owners, giving BT an immediate, additional source of equity.

INVEST IN BT'S FUTURE TODAY! Go to our website (www.KeepBTLocal.com) to become a Co-op member. In addition, visit Milk Money Vermont (www.milkmoneyvt.com) and make an investment pledge toward our equity crowdfunding campaign to raise \$1 million from the community. Nearly \$350,000 has been pledged to date (Aug. 28) toward that investment goal.

CIVIC & BUSINESS LEADERS SUPPORT KEEP BT LOCAL

IN A LETTER TO THE MAYOR AND BURLINGTON TELECOM ADVISORY COUNCIL, THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS & CIVIC LEADERS VOICED THEIR SUPPORT FOR MAKING BT A COOPERATIVELY OWNED UTILITY

“Burlington has a long history of launching and supporting businesses who take into account community, as well as commerce, and express a set of distinct values embedded in how they view the world, as well as the customers. There is great potential here to harness the creativity of residents and businesses to create a forward thinking utility, similar to Burlington Electric Department, which will **provide a key cornerstone to the economy of the 21st century** and ensure that everyone has access to this powerful tool.”

BT HAS BEEN A HUGE BOON TO BURLINGTON'S ECONOMY - JUST LOOK AT DEALER.COM - AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE BURLINGTON WITH A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE TO GROW MORE JOBS THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

JERRY GREENFIELD
Co-founder, Ben & Jerry's

WILL RAAP
Founder, Gardeners Supply

BETH SACHS
Founder, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation

DOUG HOFFER
Vermont State Auditor

PHIL FIERMONTE
State Director, Office of US Sen. Bernie Sanders

MICHAEL WOOD-LEWIS
Co-Founder and CEO, Front Porch Forum

MELINDA MOULTON
CEO, Main Street Landing

ROBERTA MACDONALD
Senior Vice President of Marketing, Cabot Creamery Cooperative

DAVID WHITE
President of White + Burke Real Estate Investment Advisors

CHRISTINE HALLQUIST
CEO, Vermont Electric Cooperative

MUFFIE MILENS
Executive Director, First Night Burlington

PETER CLAVELLE
Former Mayor, City of Burlington

BARBARA GRIMES
Former General Manager, Burlington Electric Department

DON JAMISON
Executive Director, Vermont Employee Ownership Center

SCOTT JOHNSTONE
Executive Director, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation

JAN SCHULTZ
CTO, Front Porch Forum

CARINA DRISCOLL
Co-founder, Vermont Woodworking School

BRUCE SEIFER
Former Assistant Director, Community & Economic Development Office

DEAN CORREN
Former Vermont State Representative, Renewable Energy CTO

PETE JEWETT
Founder, Burlington Bytes

JASON DI VECE
Managing partner, Burlington Bytes

JAMES LOCKRIDGE
Founder, Big Heavy World

DAVID DRISCOLL
Co-founder, The Sanders Institute

PATRICK BROWN
Community Organizer

AMIR JUSUFAGIC
Owner, Junior's Downtown

CASEY LYON
Partner, Boswellness Essential Oil Distillery

SYD EREN
Vermont Sky Network

CHRIS PEARSON
Vermont State Senator

ORLY YADIN
Executive Director, Vermont International Film Festival

SEE MORE AT:

www.KeepBTLocal.com/burlington-telecom-co-op-news/civic-business-leaders-support-burlington-telecom-cooperative/



Neighborhood Planning Assembly Minutes

NPA:
(choose one)

Wards	Wards	Wards	Ward	Ward
1 & 8	2 & 3	4 & 7	5	6

Date of Assembly : **10 / 19 / 2017**

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

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

Finish Time: (Adjourn): **9:10 PM**

Notetaker: **Nate Orshan**

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

Joanna Grossman

Elisa Nelson

Nate Orshan

Ben Traverse

Discussion Topics and Action Items:

(1) Open Forum

Andy Simon, representative from the group Keep Burlington Telecom Local (KBTL), offered meeting attendees information re upcoming final decision by City Council on selecting a winning bidder for Burlington Telecom (BT). Joanna Grossman asked attendees for recommendations and suggestions for upcoming NPA meeting speakers.

(2) Howard Center Services and Discussion re Interactions with Homeless People – Neil Matzner, Director of Crisis Services, and Tammy Boudah, Team Leader for the Street Outreach Team

Answered attendees' questions about people who panhandle, who seem to be homeless, or who seem to have mental health issues. Attendees learned about such things as calling First Call (488-7777) to request an assessment for someone who might be in imminent health risk, e.g., during freezing weather; Howard Center resources such as the street outreach team; and issues relating to the police department and homeless encampments.

(3) Affordable Housing – Marcy Esbjerg, Assistant Director, CEDO

Described analysis recently presented to the city council re current fair housing in the city and region (Chittenden, Grand Isle, and Franklin counties). Gave historic background of the legislation that lets cities like Burlington take action to further fair housing. Regarding segregation, apparently there currently isn't a concern per the threshold set by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, but there is an increasing trendline for segregation.

(4) Update: The Generator– Chris Thompson, Executive Director

Shared information about the new Generator space (on Sears Lane to the other side of the Miller Center parking lot), a maker's space which teaches people how to use tools to fabricate and test product ideas and which also serves as a potential incubator for new businesses.

(5) Update: City Market – Allison Hope, Director of Community Engagement, and John Tashiro, General Manager

Shared charts demonstrating positive metrics at the current location on South Winooski Avenue. Stated that the new store on Flynn Avenue is on schedule to open by mid-November. Answered questions re serving lower-income customers, encouraging multi-modal transportation, and setting prices for products.

(6) Update: City Council re Oil Bollards and re Burlington Telecom – Joan Shannon, South End Councilor, and Chip Mason, Ward 5 Councilor

Shared summary of recent report re the oil bollards off of Blanchard Beach, the conclusion of which is that not much is slated to change due to the high cost of removing the remaining bollards (e.g., removing three of the eight cost \$1.4 million) and the fact that it's the top scuba diving site in Lake Champlain. Discussed their recent, 10/16 votes re choosing the last two competing bidders for BT, in which they voted for bidding firm Ting. Shannon described how Citibank says it will sue the city if KBTL wins the bid and how the threat is extremely credible, given a prior suit it filed in 2009. Mason reminded attendees that current BT asset-holder Blue Water Holdings has the right to say whether a bidder is a qualified purchaser

Motion to adjourn adopted at 9:10 PM.



Neighborhood Planning Assembly Minutes – Full Notes

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Finish Time: (Adjourn): 9:10PM

Location: DPW Building, Pine St.

Notetaker: Nate Orshan

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

Joanna Grossman
Elisa Nelson
Nate Orshan
Ben Traverse

(1) Open Forum

Summary:

Andy Simon, representative from the group Keep Burlington Telecom Local (KBTL), offered meeting attendees information re upcoming final decision by City Council on selecting a winning bidder for Burlington Telecom (BT). Joanna Grossman asked attendees for recommendations and suggestions for upcoming NPA meeting speakers.

Andy Simon: The City Council has narrowed bidders for BT: Ting and KBTL. Andy has info re KBTL. 10/30 is the date for the final decision.

Joanna Grossman: Asks for ideas for future NPA meetings. Suggestions include:

- Southern Connector? Schedule?
- Railyard Enterprise project connecting Battery to Pine Street...We haven't heard from
- Blodgett? What's the deal with that?
- Update on Memorial Auditorium from a variety of perspectives?
- Perkins Pier Marina? What's the status of that?
- New Parks and Rec Director?

[] Action item: Reach out to Jim Holway for an update following up on September's special All-Wards meeting re Memorial Auditorium.

**(2) Howard Center Services and Discussion re
Interactions with Homeless People
– Neil Metzner, Director of Crisis Services, and Tammy Boudah,
Team Leader for the Street Outreach Team**

Summary:

Answered attendees' questions about people who panhandle, who seem to be homeless, or who seem to have mental health issues. Attendees learned about such things as calling First Call (488-7777) to request an assessment for someone who might be in imminent health risk, For example, during freezing weather; Howard Center resources such as the street outreach team; and issues relating to the police department and homeless encampments.



Neil Metzner and Tammy Boudah

Richard: Runs four crisis programs: the ASSIST program (six-bed crisis program), ACT I, Bridge, and START (a peer-led program).

Tammy: Team leader for street outreach team ("Matt Young's Team"). There are four outreach workers. There were some issues with budgeting for fiscal year. City gets dedicated outreach workers from our team, but we're now down two positions. Thinner coverage during day and into evening.

Tammy: We work heavily in downtown business district. We've stretched out into the neighborhoods to get people to engage in appropriate services. Concentrating on mental health and homelessness. We get lots of calls from people in the South End.

Richard: We work closely with the Burlington Police Department (BPD).

Tammy: We have one person at the "beck and call" of police, waiting for calls. BPD calls get priority. We often know the people involved and can deescalate.

Re homeless people: What's the goal? How to interact? To find them services?

Tammy: Re a question about whether it's a good idea to try to give a panhandling person an "ad hoc" job:

There are people who are housed who panhandle, and there are people who are homeless who panhandle. Panhandling is a rough job. For example, a woman tried it, and nobody gave her any money, and she also received a lot of abuse. If it's done within confines of law, it's constitutionally-protected free speech. City has ordinances re manner and place of panhandling, i.e., you can't be intimidating, within 15' of a storefront or ATM, intoxicated, etc.

Richard: What shouldn't you do? Don't assume they'll be violent. Most violence doesn't come from them. Some just don't want to go to shelters. They're also not necessarily mentally ill; in fact, that's usually the case.

So, do treat them as human beings. But we can't just get rid of them. All cities have them.

Q: How do police make decision of how to approach camps?

Richard: It's like playing whack-a-mole. Getting them accommodations is the answer (help at a facility, physical accommodations...)

Tammy: Historically, BPD's response has been, "If we don't HAVE to acknowledge it..." Cleanliness and biohazard issues are much less of issues due to campers getting sophisticated, so now the issue's violence. Most violence that occurs with homeless people is between themselves. If there are reports of gunshots, fire, violence, then PD gets involved. It's great that ACLU's getting involved, but not sure what that will accomplish.

Q: If you have concerns about survivability in weather, what do you do?

Tammy: For example, Patty (a homeless woman who is often sitting on a bench in front of the DPW building on Pine St.) in most moods doesn't like people. There are a few women like Patty who have this way of being passive and of not pushing the system. A lot of people who live in woods can't tolerate interaction and feel safer in woods. If you feel that someone's in imminent health to themselves, DO call First Call at 488.7777, and they'll come and do an assessment. However, unless the person's exhibiting frostbite or disorientation, probably won't result in hospitalization. Richard: There are criteria...

Tammy: Below-20 degree's a "white flag" night, with all rules suspended and state putting people in housing in motels. 211's the gatekeeper. You get 28 days/running year. A lot of people try to hold out and be strategic about how they budget that resource. It's a tough system that used to be abused (for example, with people getting a hotel to party in over the weekend).

There's only one place to camp in the state is North Beach.

Richard: Re shelters, some people don't like them because of having been accosted (vulnerable get picked on).

Q: What's the source of homelessness?

Richard: A number of people come hearing about us and think it'll be great and they end up finding limited resources and expensive cost-of-living.

Tammy: It's societal. For some it's a generational thing. Substance abuse is an issue, For example, opiate epidemic, alcoholism, and mental illness...though not *major* mental illness, as it's too hard to survive; more like agitated depression, severe anxiety, trauma disorders. We also don't have blue-collar industry that might

otherwise employ people... But there are homeless who work in restaurants but don't present well for apartment interviews. And it's *expensive* to be homeless

Q: What's your position on low-barrier shelters?

Richard: No position.

Tammy: Some argue that a dry shelter is better to incentivize people to become sober. I've definitely seen that work for some people. Also, some people need the "feet to the fire" approach. On the other hand, there are some people who "just aren't there yet", so how about just...sober through the night? Capacity-wise, they're both full, so neither's hurting the other.

Q: What could the state do to be better but not so permissive so has to attract people to area?

Tammy: There are some rules that could be death sentences depending on when they're enacted.

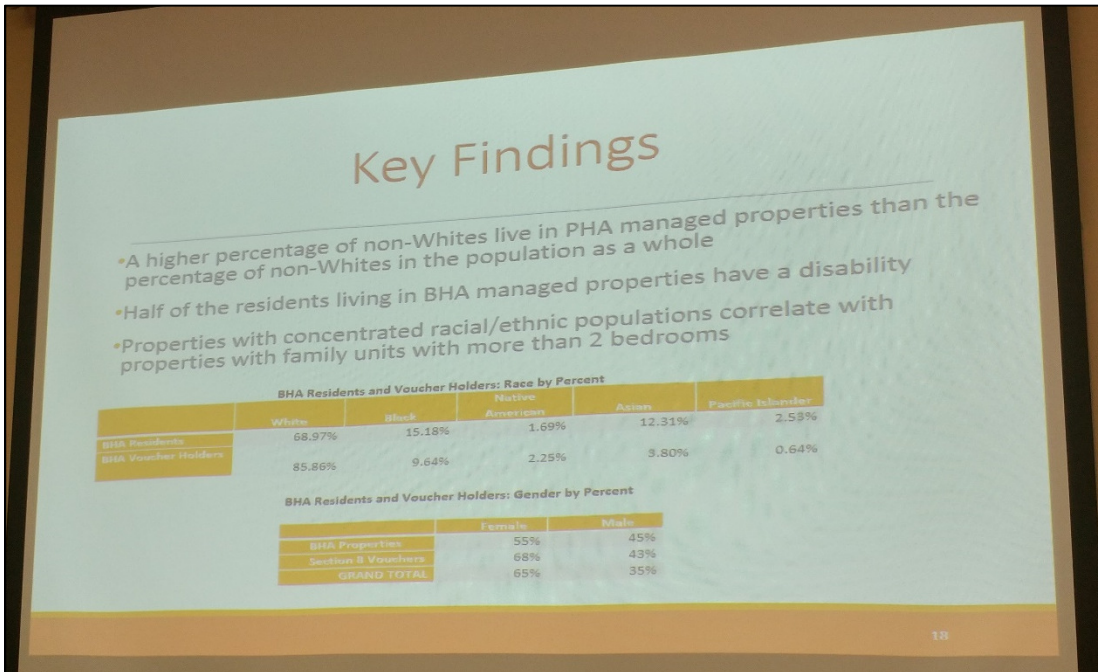
(3) Affordable Housing – Marcy Esbjerg, Assistant Director, CEDO

Summary:

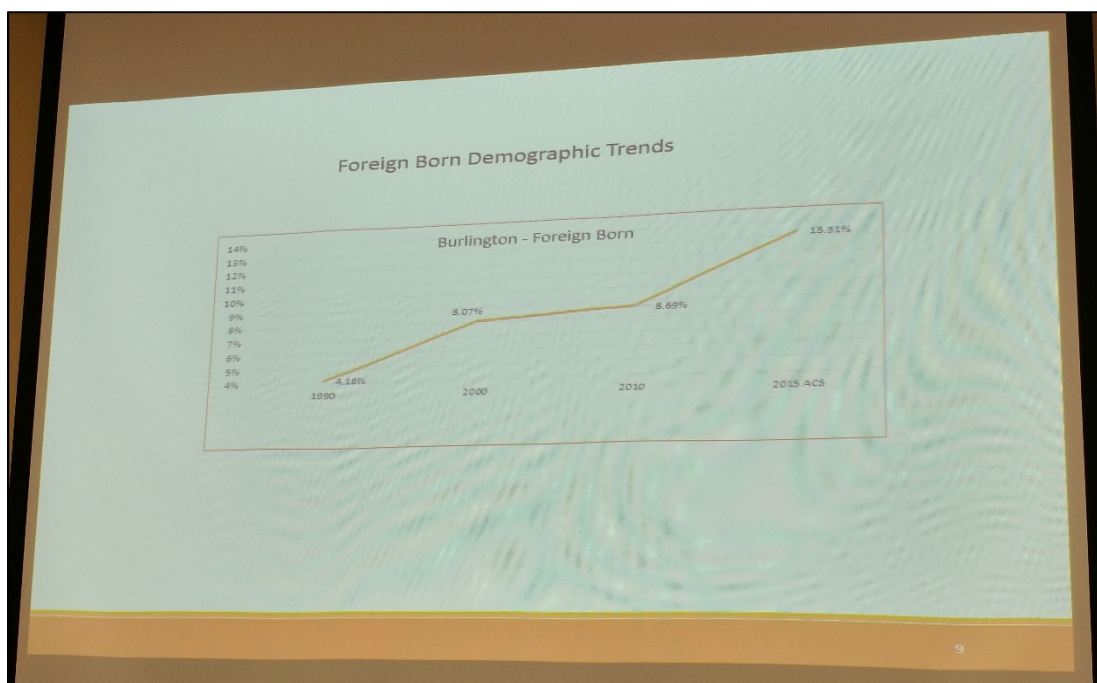
Described analysis recently presented to the city council re current fair housing in the city and region (Chittenden, Grand Isle, and Franklin counties). Gave historic background of the legislation that lets cities like Burlington take action to further fair housing. Regarding segregation, apparently there currently isn't a concern per the threshold set by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, but there is an increasing trendline for segregation.



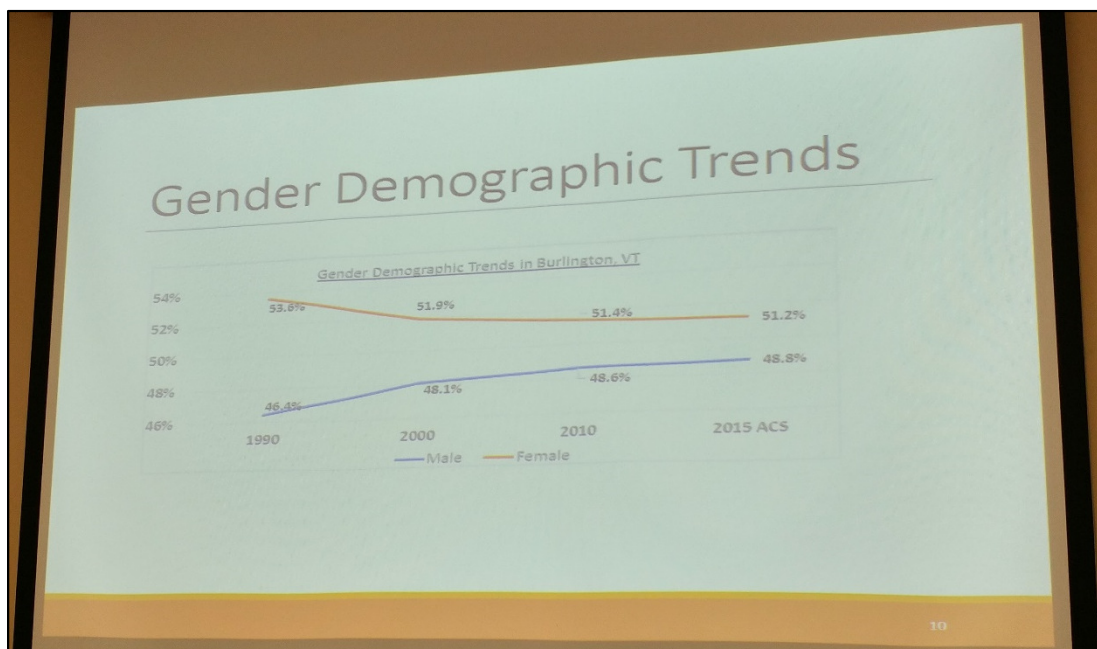
Marcy Esbjerg



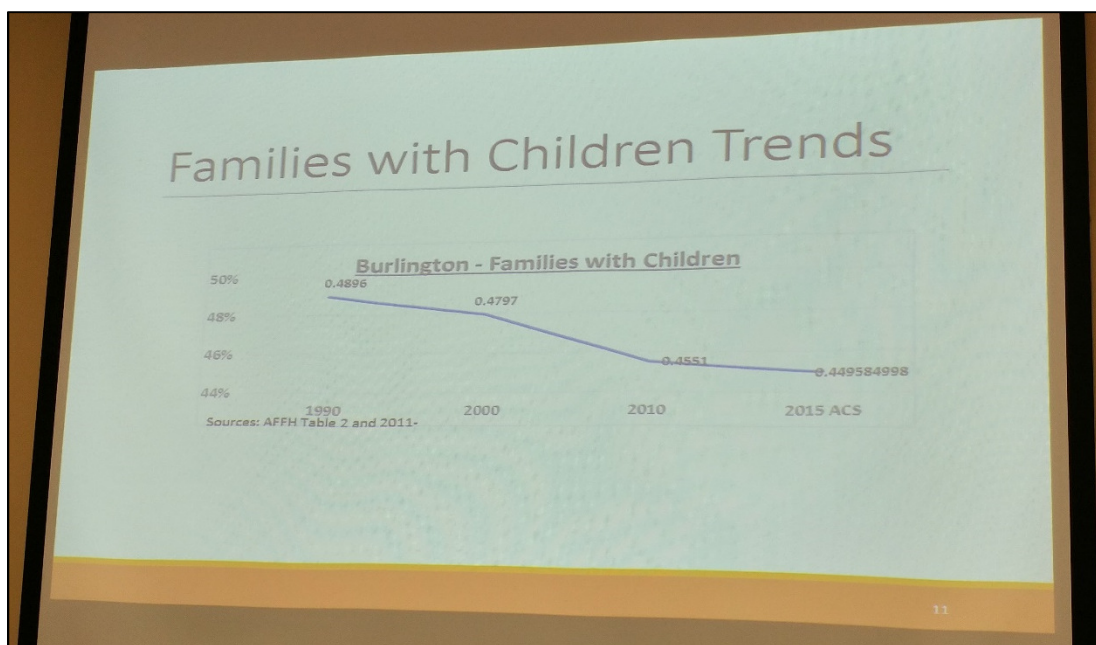
Slide: Key Findings



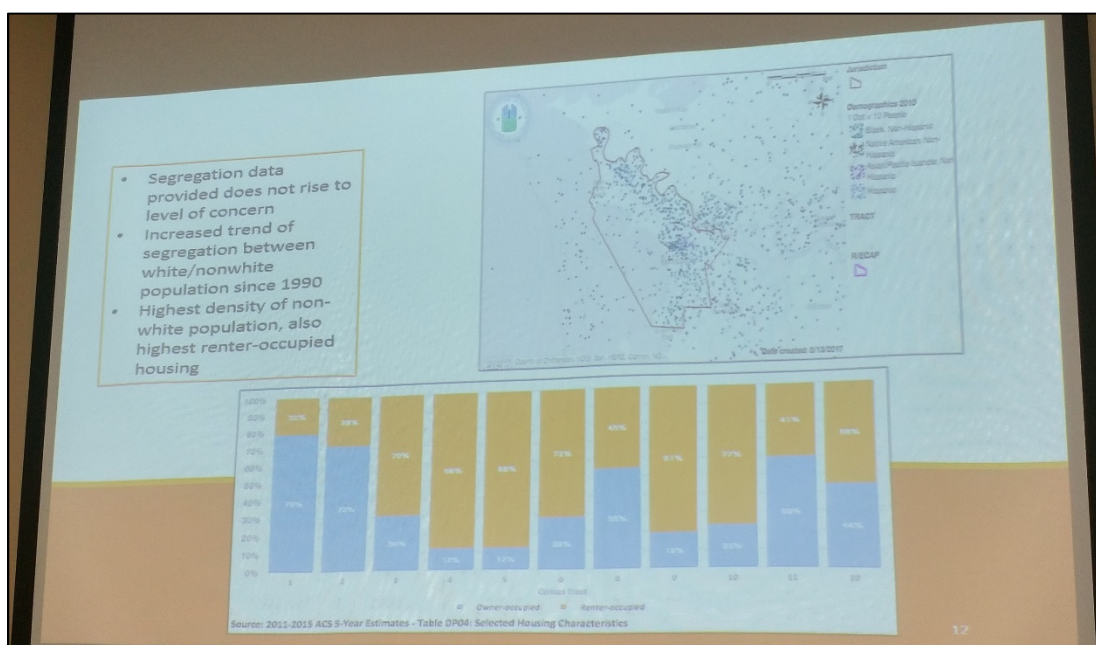
Slide: Foreign Born Demographic Trends



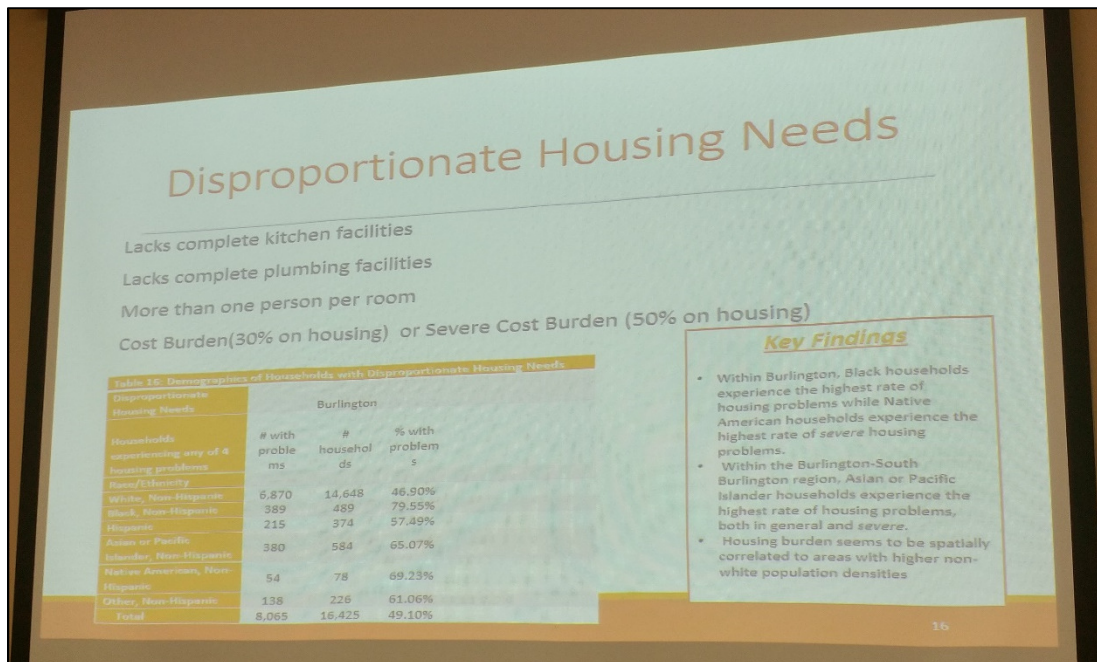
Slide: Gender Demographic Trends



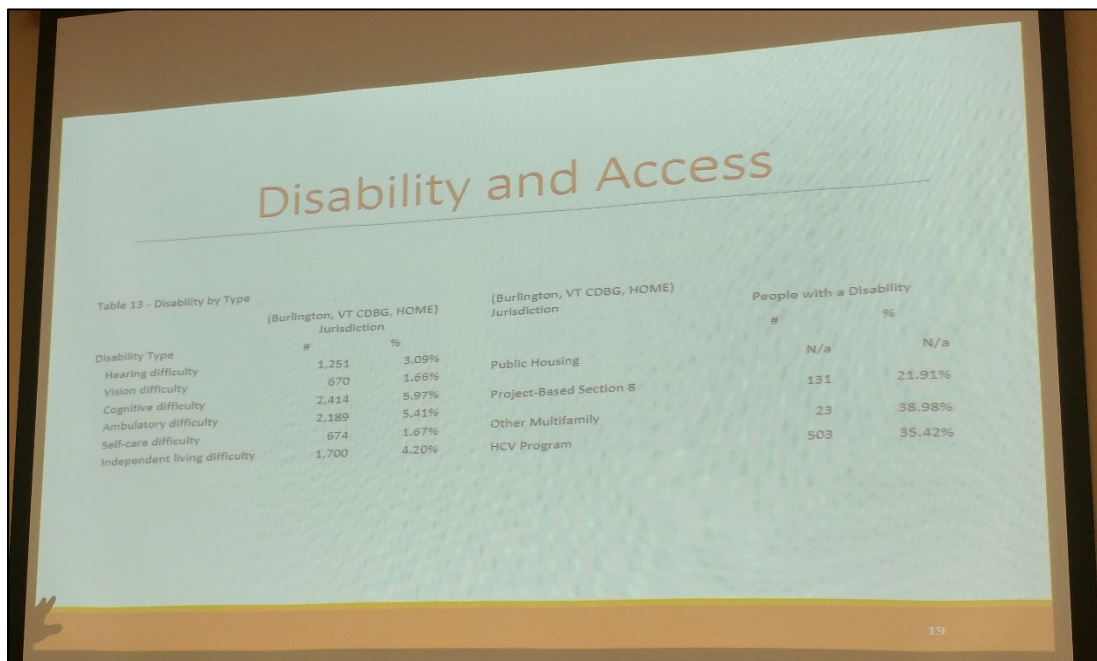
Slide: Families with Children Trends



Slide: Housing Segregation



Slide: Disproportionate Housing Needs



Slide: Disability and Access

(Slides apparently excerpted from draft version of Assessment of Fair Housing report for City of Burlington, Vermont, August 18, 2017:

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/sites/default/files/Burlington%20Assessment%20of%20Fair%20Housing%20Council%20Approval%209.21.17.pdf>)

(Note: Esbjerg is pronounced "ESS-berg".)

Marcy Esbjerg: We did a count a few years ago, and we counted about 200 people, 40% of whom were from Vermont.

I'm speaking about fair housing. This slide deck has been presented to the City Council. Constraints that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) asked us to accomplish. This was a collaborative effort with a lot of other organizations, for example, UVM's Master of Public Administration program.

Why do this? Fair housing starts with the US Housing Act of 1937 and dovetails with the Civil Rights Act and the Fair Housing Act of 1958.

The HUD's AFH provides framework lets us take action to furthers fair housing. It's the right thing to do, and we also HAVE to do it because we get this money.

BTV receives: Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships Program.

Key issues:

- Local or regional segregation.
- Racial or ethnically concentrated areas of poverty (though we technically don't have that, For example, like in Chicago).
- Disparities in access to opportunity.

...all re Federally Protected Classes, For example, Race, color, national origin...

Whole report is in 2 perspectives:

- City
- Region (Chittenden, Grand Isle, and Franklin counties)

Re HUD map showing people living in the lake: "It's a flaw in the tool".

Re segregation, there isn't a concern re HUD's threshold...but there IS a trendline going up, unfortunately.

There was a correlation between people of color and renters, i.e., they're less likely to be homeowners.

(4) Update: The Generator
– Chris Thompson, Executive Director

Summary:

Shared information about the new Generator space (on Sears Lane to the other side of the Miller Center parking lot), a maker's space which teaches people how to use tools to fabricate and test product ideas and which also serves as a potential incubator for new businesses.



Chris Thompson

See the website: <https://generatorvt.com/>

Generator is now on Sears lane, other side of parking lot of Champlain College's Miller building. It's a maker's space and teaches people how to use tools to fabricate and test product ideas. It has experts to help. There are 22 studios people can rent, and 8,600 sq. ft. of space with lots of tools.

For example, there is a full metal shop, wood shop, electronics studio, laser cutter. We have a bunch of people who've started businesses based on the laser cutting!

We have a community of supportive people who help one another.

We were in Memorial Auditorium. Moved at beginning of the year, and it's been a positive thing. It's hard to find real estate. Our cost for members is actually HALF the cost. Champlain College gave us a warehouse at cost.

Chris' graduate thesis was the design of the Memorial Auditorium Generator space.

We just topped 300 members (up from when we were at Memorial Auditorium). UVM has a bio fab-lab w hands-on research.

Coming up: New tools: Plasma cutter: 8,000-degrees can cut through sheet steel. We're going to have a foundry so that you can 3D print. And we'll have a forge.

It's all about starting businesses. We're going to have an entrepreneur program. We'll have lectures. We'll have private sessions.

Joanna: Anything good for kids?

Chris: On Sunday the 22nd, we'll have costume consultants. Free: Costume concept. People will help. I'd love to do more things for K-12.

We're a pretty small city for having this kind of space. Right now city doesn't do much funding for us (unlike, For example, Philadelphia). But one just opened up in Rutland, The Mint. It's a different business model. We don't want to be a private club.

(5) Update: City Market
– Allison Hope, Director of Community Engagement,
and John Tashiro, General Manager

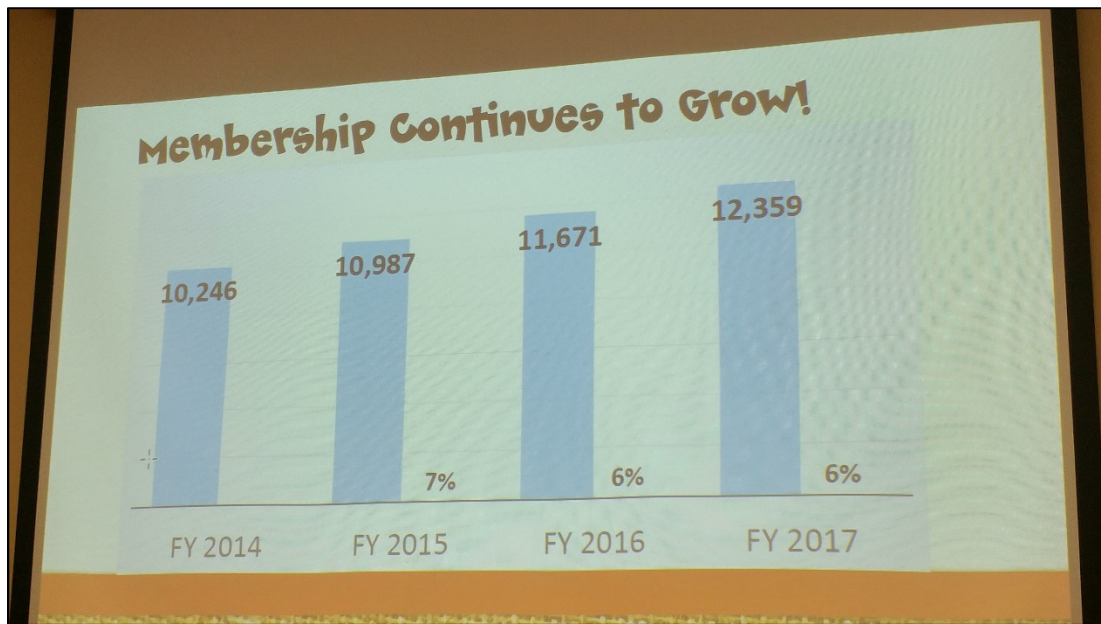
Summary:

Shared charts demonstrating positive metrics at the current location on South Winooski Avenue. Stated that the new store on Flynn Avenue is on schedule to open by mid-November. Answered questions re serving lower-income customers, encouraging multi-modal transportation, and setting prices for products.

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John Tashiro and Allison Hope

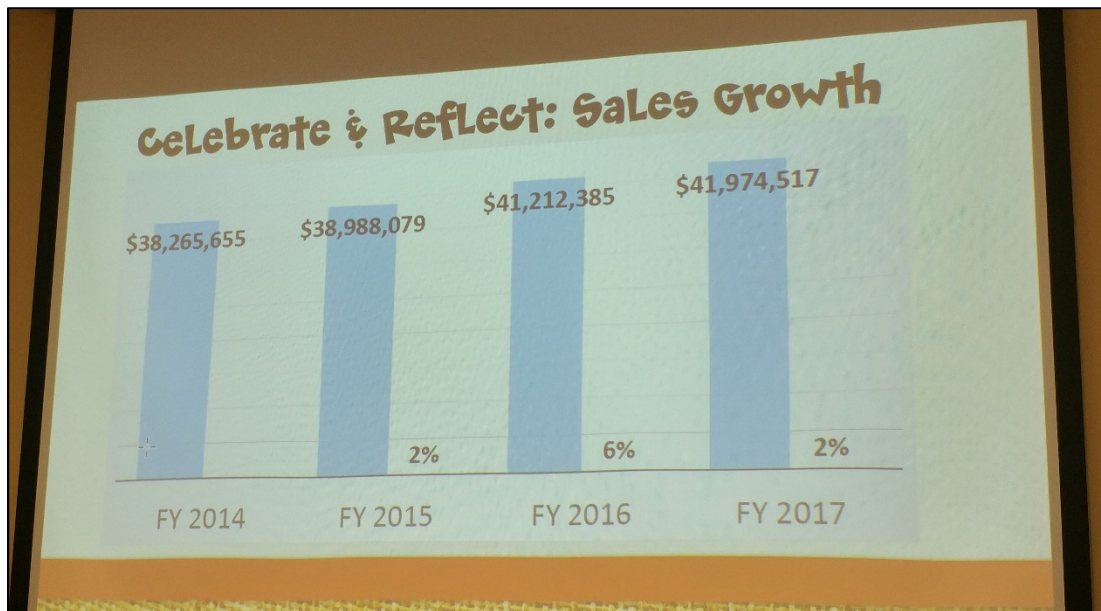


Slide: "Membership Continues to Grow!"

Celebrate: our Great Staff!

- We have approximately 240 employees and rising!
- We offer great wages and generous benefits:
 - Up to 6 weeks of time off
 - Great medical coverage! The Co-op pays 90-100% of the premiums for individuals and 80% of the premiums for dependents
 - 6% match on 401(k) retirement plan
 - 18% Co-op discount
 - Livable wages indexed off of Vermont's Joint Fiscal Office reporting
 - Free bus passes and bicycle benefits for work commuting
 - Quarterly profit sharing plan

Slide: "Celebrate: Our Great Staff!"



Slide: "Celebrate and Reflect: Sales Growth"

Expansion Updates

The South End store is (literally) just around the corner....

- Opening in mid-November!
- 15,000 retail of 25,000 sq feet store
- Community room & teaching kitchen
- 115 parking spaces (+60% vs Downtown)
- Approximately 90-100 positions
- Anticipating \$15m in sales

Slide: "Expansion Updates"

John Tashiro: We're close to opening before Thanksgiving. Membership continues to grow.

Q: What happened to the original intention to serve lower-income people?

John: We had two key requirements: 30% of products had to be conventional, For example, Shurfine brands. Also, opening hours had to be expanded to 11pm. We ended up including (integrating) the 30% products into the store.

Allison: Re price perception: I can tell you a different story, esp. re our shopper demos.

Q: I find City Market too vehicle-dependent.

Allison: We have an engineering study out now. We're working at making the access safer.

Q: Re pricing: Are you setting pricing diff from groceries?

John: We do a lot of constant analysis, especially re "basket items". For example, eggs, milk... There are a lot of these.

Q: When opening?!?

Allison: By mid-Nov. It'll be larger than downtown store. Everything's on-schedule.

**(6) Update: City Council re Oil Bollards and re Burlington Telecom
– Joan Shannon, South End Councilor, and Chip Mason, Ward 5 Councilor**

Summary:

Shared summary of recent report re the oil bollards off of Blanchard Beach, the conclusion of which is that not much is slated to change due to the high cost of removing the remaining bollards (For example, removing three of the eight cost \$1.4 million) and the fact that it's the top scuba diving site in Lake Champlain. Discussed their recent, 10/16 votes re choosing the last two competing bidders for BT, in which they voted for bidding firm Ting. Shannon described how Citibank says it will sue the city if KBTL wins the bid and how the threat is extremely credible, given a prior suit it filed in 2009. Mason reminded attendees that current BT asset-holder Blue Water Holdings has the right to say whether a bidder is a qualified purchaser.



Joan Shannon and Chip Mason

Re Oil Bollards:

The new report is out. We had pulled together a working group re what could be done differently. School District's considering adding a water safety curriculum. Also, there's an initiative for multi-language warning signage.

One missing piece is the importance of life guards!

Parks and Rec is putting together a brochure.

Also, we learned a lot about why the bollards are there in the first place. Taking out three out of the eight cost \$1.4 million! In addition, we learned that it's the #1 dive site in Lake Champlain, so the conclusion's that they are recreationally valuable.

Somebody suggested removing the ladders. The problem is if people swim out to a bollard, then there's nothing to hold on to. See <http://www.boarddocs.com/vt/burlingtonvt/Board.nsf/Public> for full report.

Chip: Re BT, the Council met. We voted on process. Each Councilors had one vote. There were six votes in favor of KBTL, five votes in favor of Ting.

Next vote: 10/30.

It's been hard to keep up on all the new emails and memos coming in. It's been one of the more complicated issues, re communicating complexity and of the interests of other parties. We may not have done a good enough job communicating that we don't *own* BT. It's an asset we lease from Blue Water Holding. They've allowed us to direct the sale, but they have the right to say yes or no.

Joan: And Citibank says they WILL sue us if we accept the KBTL offer. We did approve the development agreement.

Q: What'd process look like if we were to be sued by Citibank?

Ben Traverse: Ask Shelburne!

Joan: We were sued by them in 2009 when we told them we weren't going to pay. During that time, we didn't even have access to BT's cash flow, For example, we couldn't even afford to hook up new access. If you'd asked in 2009, you'd have been told that they'd settle quickly. They didn't. They wanted to cause the city the most amount of pain possible, like "an affected and emotional party". I view it as different from other parties' suits.

Chip: But we don't know. They've also indicated they'd intervene in Public Utility Commission (PUC) process. My guess is they'd seek \$4.5 million; if they want to allege fraud, it'd be triple that plus attorney's fees. My assumption is that they'd think, "We spent \$33M. We agreed to settle for \$10.5M + 25%."

Joan: They did agree that it'd be an arm's-length transaction. While we weren't obligated to take the highest bidder, it was expected that we'd choose from among competitive bids. And how would a lawsuit help with PUC?

Ben: To Chip: Ting and Schurz Communications seemed similar offers. What was the thought before the vote?

Ben: To Joan: Why did the advisory council forward a bid (i.e., KBTL) that appears to put councilors in a difficult political position?

Joan: KBTL's been working on this for four years. They have a lot of community support. We talked about it, and we thought that if we killed their offer, they wouldn't have had opportunity to make offer public; we would've cut off that process. Our feeling was that the public *wants* that opportunity. It's an important part of process for us to be here explaining to you why we don't support it.

Chip: I agree. There was significant support and there was nothing else public....I observed that Ting was a better presenter, a better company. I think the public company's a plus: transparent financials, etc.

Joan: In the end, it was seeing the effort that Ting was making on the ground. There are some downsides; Schurz Communications is more capitalized. But culturally? Ting's the better match for us.

Q: Re lawsuit...

Chip: We're required to have a contract by 12/31. But Blue Water has the right to say whether someone's a qualified purchaser. One criterion is whether there's a timely issuance of Certificate for Public Good that's likely to occur.

Andy Simon: I appreciate the work you've done. I disagree with the conclusion you come to. I think there's ample justification for KBTL. I realize there are differences, but I appreciate your work.

Q: The opponents to the Burlington Town Center redevelopment received a \$500K community fund (managed by Vermont Community Fund). Was that in the pre-development agreement?

Chip: I'll have to get back to you.

Joan: Re the settlement with the Coalition for a Livable City, there are now more underground parking spaces. If you're seeing a tremendous amount of truck traffic, it's because of the contaminated dirt.

Motion to adjourn adopted at 9:10 PM.

<END>