

AGENDA

Institutions and Human Resources Policy Committee

September 29, 2015

Conference Room 12, City Hall

4:00 to 5:00pm

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of July 9, 2015 meeting
3. Discussion of MOU/MOA with UVM
4. Next Steps
5. Other Business including next meeting date
6. Adjournment

Committee Members:

Chip Mason, City Councilor, Ward 5

Adam Roof, City Councilor, Ward 8

Karen Paul, City Councilor, Ward 6

Potential Quality of Life Issues to Raise with UVM

These quality of life (QoL) issues are drawn from a review of City and Council documents, including the 2009 Zoning Agreement. A separate section follows specific to the 2012 City Council Resolution vetoed by then-Mayor Bob Kiss. The Administration is interested in further conversations with the Human Resources Committee about these issues:

- The City should seek clarity on UVM's discipline process – both the procedures and aggregate numbers – in order to help neighbors understand the consequences UVM students face for inappropriate off-campus behavior. Providing detail on trends and aggregate numbers, rather than specific infractions, may meet the City's needs and address UVM privacy concerns.
 - Consider discussing with UVM the creation of a system by which members of athletic teams or Greek life have their coaches or sorority / fraternity presidents notified in the event of a noise complaint (or other police-involved infraction within the City of Burlington), with an expectation from the City that those University leaders will take some kind of disciplinary action in response that is communicated to the City.
 - Consider discussion with UVM clarifying the system of parental notifications for noise complaints or other police-involved infraction within the City of Burlington.
- The City needs better data about where students are living within Burlington to assess the impact on historic neighborhoods, per the 2009 Agreement.
 - The City would like the inventory to expand to include the disposition of UVM students in other towns, whether South Burlington, Winooski, Colchester, Essex, or otherwise
- Currently, UVM provides the BPD with \$100,000 annually to support additional noise patrols in the City's historic neighborhoods. The BPD has not expended the full amount, spending roughly \$87,000 of the total provided in FY15. While this program has demonstrated some results, UVM could consider repurposing or expanding funding to support related Code Enforcement and Parking enforcement activity.
- *Reduction in total bus trips along South Prospect Street (UVM has agreed to review this issue and may have already taken steps to address this).*

The following are items from the 2012 Resolution vetoed by then-Mayor Bob Kiss. Other items on that Resolution have been accomplished or are being addressed through different means, and the Administration would like to solicit Councilor feedback on the following items:

- Given the nature of the limited vehicular use and the extensive pedestrian and bicycle traffic, as well as the lack of resources to enforce the current configuration, a closure of Davis Road to all vehicles except emergency vehicles.
- Given the increased enrollment at UVM and the increased traffic in the City, and the availability of Car Share, a 5-year plan to reduce the number of UVM-related vehicles coming to Burlington.

- Protecting and preserving the existing acreage of Centennial Woods, including creating and maintaining adequate boundaries for animals and vegetation and not permitting any new roads or pathways through the woods.

For Committee reference, here are a number of additional measures the City has already taken since 2012 with respect to Quality of Life issues:

- Prioritizing the City's Code Enforcement effort so that we now for the first time are inspecting every rental unit once every three years as the minimum housing ordinance requires.
- Amending the ordinance to allow Code Enforcement to focus its efforts on problematic properties by giving Code the discretion to inspect well-maintained properties less frequently and poorly maintained rental units more often.
- Adding a new citizen reporting and tracking option, SeeClickFix, to make it easier to report quality of life issues to City Departments, to focus Code, DPW, Police, and other Department efforts on public concerns, and to give the public a way of monitoring our work in attempting to address concerns.
- Creating a tiered fine system so that problematic properties and renters will face escalating charges.
- Focusing Code Enforcement's engagement on the landlords of the top 12 households with the highest number of incidents.
- Making direct calls to landlords of those properties with a noise complaint on the weekend students returned to school by the Police Chief, City Council President, Ward Councilor, or myself.
- Engaging in the "Knock and Talk" program, along with City Councilors, the Code Director, and Police Officers, which works across the City but focuses on parts of the City with ongoing quality of life issues.
- Requiring some apartment buildings to use covered recycling totes to reduce windblown trash.
- Notifications of landlords when their properties receive noise citations.
- With the help of UVM, Code, and the Police, implementing a system whereby calls for service are analyzed by unit, neighborhood, and student affiliation on a real time basis:
 - Residents of units requiring three calls for service are visited by a representative of UVM and the City – either BPD or Code Enforcement.
 - Landlords are engaged by Code Enforcement and contacted by Burlington Parallel Justice when tickets are issued.

Institutions and Human Resources Policy Committee Minutes

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Called to order at 4:15 by KP, AR

Present, Karen Paul (KP), Adam Roof (AR), Sharon Bushor (SB) Brain Lowe (BL), Joe Speidel (JS), from UVM, Peter Owens (PO), Chip Mason (CM) joined at 5:29

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of July 9, 2015 meeting – Motion to approve minutes by AR, KP seconded
3. Discussion of MOU/MOA with UVM

BL shared a document about quality of life issues to raise with UVM City beginning negotiations with UVM in earnest in the near future in hopes of completion by November with drop-dead date of overall completion by June of 2016. He shared a document regarding quality of life issues for discussion (attached). KP clarified that BL was seeking guidance on prioritization of seven bulleted items contained in the document.

KP: Issue regarding closing of Davis Road. Issue is gate either doesn't work or isn't closed most of the time. Residents were promised that would be a one-way street going in, but on weekends it is open or malfunctioning. It is an expensive electronic gate that hasn't always worked at intended. No specific rhyme, reason or pattern as to when and why it is not working.

Foot patrols seem to be working and going well. Residents would like more, but no issue.

Reduction of bus trips along South Prospect Street. JS, Lisa Kingsbury Campus Planning Services and KP have spoken about this multiple times and will continue to pursue.

AR asked BL to clarify scope of meeting. BL explained looking for background and guidance on prioritization.

CM wants to know disciplinary process, what data is being collected and if that information is being shared with the City. He asked if there is a similar mechanism in place for on-campus noise complaints as for off-campus.

JS: Indicated that all violation information can be found on UVM website and is public information. Explained that they work with BPD on violations of law for individuals under the age of 25 and are reported to UVM, who then cross-references with their database to determine if they are UVM students. UVM follows up appropriately depending on the level of infraction and if it is a repeat offense. Forty eight students were either dismissed, suspended or participated in deferred suspension programs last year.

AR: Would like to understand better mechanism for understanding how many students are living in the downtown area. AR would like to see a better interface between UVM and City related to quality of life issues. AR understands the hesitation of UVM to provide it and also the need of the City to know it. JS indicated that they are already tracking the information even if it is not necessarily UVM students. JS suggested that the committee involve the landlords and perhaps disorderly house or nuisance property designated and a fine issued to the landlord. KP indicated that there may be legal issues according to Gene Bergman, Sr. Assistant City Attorney. SB indicated that this is something that is in discussion mode and potentially become a City Ordinance issue. SB stated that the landlord is often the missing link in this equation. CM explained that often the landlord is not on site and is often difficult for them to know or control the issue. SB stated that they should still be held responsible, if multiple infractions. JS commented that there should be an easier way to identify landlords. KP indicated that she has followed up with every issue brought to her attention in the last seven years. She indicated that she has found landlords, even for those properties that are registered to law firms.

BL summarized that discipline data could provide information with a good story to tell, but that there is an opportunity to do more and potential need to review UVM discipline and cross-referencing with BPD, greater responsibility/consequences for landlords and perhaps parental notification. AR would like the City to determine where the high-value interfaces verses low value interfaces and understand where FERPA rights/limitations impact/limit ability to share information.

BL asked for committee feedback on expanding UVM commitment to support increased Cod enforcement, for example on four unrelated and lawn parking.

SB has been compiling info from Ward 1 since 2013. Appreciative that UVM has contributed significant funding \$100,000, but would like to see \$150,000 contributed. Also aware that UVM police force has been reduced, should UVM have another Gale Shampnois position (Neighborhood Stabilization Planning) to help..... (get from SB)

AR asked BL if indication that City would like its inventory to expand to include identifying location of students in other towns was this administration's or past. BL indicated it was this administration.

SB indicated that there is constant pressure from Zoning to reduce existing acreage of Centennial Woods. Would like to see an MOU to protect and preserve existing acreage and maintain adequate boundaries for animals and vegetation and not permitting any new roads or pathways through the woods.

SB wanted to introduce the concept of reduced surface parking to help reduce number of cars coming to town. JS stated that there is a strong transportation demand program and although some 300+ additional beds are being added, parking has stayed the same. KP indicated that the parking was less germane than the other issues discussed today.

JS shared that omnibus payment and fire services are two areas that are of interest of the UVM board of trustees and the president will be resistant to paying the omnibus payment without full understanding of what that payment is going toward. Any agreement should be direct and easy to understand. CM asked if we have looked at other jurisdictions such as Ithaca, to see how their fees for services MOUs are structured. To the extent BL has copies of other MOUs available, CM would like to see them. KP would also like to see them, as well.

KP clarified that primary goals related to clarity and improvements in the discipline process, identifying student location and distribution in Burlington and in surrounding towns, and enhancing the UVM support for foot patrol and potentially code enforcement initiatives were of high priority, with other issues important but lower priorities.

SB hoping to find places where we can collaborate on providing housing close to where folks work downtown (Grove) and provide a shuttle system to reduce cars downtown.

JS indicated that housing is the other topic of MOU, could be one MOU or two. UVM agreed that if number of students goes over a certain threshold they will address housing and that is something to include.

KP left at 5:24

4. Adjournment AR motioned to adjourn at 5:25, CM seconded.

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