

Draft Agenda
Ward 6 NPA Meeting
September 6, 2018 from 6:45 to 9:00 PM
Greek Orthodox Church, 600 South Willard Street

The agenda is as follows:

6:45-7:00 Social Time, Refreshments

Agenda:

1. 7:00-7:10 pm, Approval of July Minutes

2. 7:10-7:20, Public forum

7:20-7:30, Update from Champlain College

7:30-7:40, Update from University of Vermont

7:40-8:10, Panel on the Future renovation of Burlington High School and the associated bond issue. Participants: Clare Wool; Jeff Wick; representative from Burlington Education Assoc.

6. 8:10-8:40: Dr. Catherine Antley, new approaches to addressing drug addiction: The Icelandic Model.

7. 8:40-8:55, City Council Update: Joan Shannon and Karen Paul

8. 9:00 Adjourn

The Steering Committee Members for Ward 6 are:

- Charles Simpson, simpsocr@plattsburg.edu
- Michelle Mraz, michelle.mraz@gmail.com
- Matt Grady, matt7631@gmail.com
- Gail Rafferty, gailraff8890@gmail.com
- Mary Riley, rileyburl@burlingtontelecom.net

For more information about Ward 6 NPA
Register for the Ward 6 NPA e-newsletter <http://eepurl.com/c9pQIL>

*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 Meeting

September 6, 2018

Minutes taken by Gail Rafferty

Steering Committee members present: Matt Grady, Charles Simpson, Michelle Mraz Mary Riley, and Gail Rafferty

There were 31 people present.

Agenda

7:00-7:05 Approval of June, 2018 Minutes

Gail Rafferty made a motion that the June minutes be approved. Charles Simpson seconded the motion and the June minutes were approved.

7:05 -7:20 Public Forum

Emily Roland, Hunter Grosvenor, and Katelyn Ellerman, who are volunteers with the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 Campaign addressed the group. They are visiting each of the NPA's – the campaign is looking at how to further the goal of 100% renewables in all sectors. Matt Grady asked if present city capacity could handle more residents having heat pumps? They indicated they did not know about those details yet, but that engagement with the Sustainability Coordinator at BED has started. The group indicated they are in an information gathering phase currently, and hope to strengthen communication with the City Council as well. Hunter also noted that insulation (or lack of) in some of the older housing stock impacts the conversation about heating.

Zachary York from Ward 4 announced that he is running for Assistant County Judge – indicated he is available for questions and comments. Zachary was nominated by the Progressive Party. The job serves as an apolitical independent fact finder in family and civil court.

Helene (Lainey) Rappaport announced that she is running for Justice of the Peace and is also on the Cemetery Commission. Lainey also indicated that she is available to help with voter registration.

Charles Simpson announced that the Pine St. Coalition has organized a walking tour that will walk the route of the proposed Champlain Parkway. The walk will start at the southern end of Pine St. at 10 am on Saturday, September 15th

7:20-7:30 PM Update from Champlain College- Sandy Yusen

Sandy reported that Champlain College has welcome 2100 undergrads to campus this fall, and that 3500 students are enrolled in the college's online programs. Student housing at 194 St. Paul St. is currently occupied at full capacity with 314 students living in 105 apartments. The building is occupied by juniors and seniors only, by application. Solar panels will be installed on the roof. Two retail establishments have been confirmed for the first floor at street level: Perky Planet is a coffee shop which includes in its mission providing meaningful employment for adults with disabilities. Café St. Paul with Meyer's Bagels as a partner will be a breakfast and lunch location. One or two more retail partners will be announced soon. These businesses will be opening mid-October. Sandy also reported that

student housing at Spinner Place in Winooski and on College St in Burlington are no longer active Champlain College student residences. The college has a goal of having 90% of its students in college housing – with the addition of 194 St. Paul St., 72% of students are now in college-managed housing. 194 St. Paul St. has 53 public parking spaces. Students living in the building are not allowed to park near the building, and are using the Lakeside lot, with shuttle buses transporting them in to town. They hope to have a Bike Share hub in the building, and there is a lot of bike parking for students.

Champlain College has a first year student parking ban – this has reduced car ownership on campus by 25%. Regarding pedestrian safety, BED has installed 42 new fixtures on Maple and So. Willard to improve pedestrian safety, and there is also now additional signage for safety and speed control.

A question was asked whether or not the college has had any input in into the Winooski Ave. Transportation Study. Sandy noted that they have recently become aware of this project, and they will be participating in those conversations. Sandy can be reached at syusen@champlain.edu.

7:30-8:00 PM Dr. Catherine Antley

Dr. Antley presented “A new approach to addressing drug addiction: The Icelandic Model.” Iceland’s model of prevention has produced good results, and Dr. Antley presented on the idea that addiction is a public health problem, and that prevention is the key. Exposure at younger ages results in higher rates of addiction. Iceland realized the “just say no” approach was not working. Focus of their approach was on mobilizing parent groups and communities to get to know one another more thoroughly – help parents strengthen family bonds, community bonds, invest in youth activities both on a municipal level and also for each family. Focus of this model is on changing lifestyle and environment, especially for youth.

8:00 to 8:40 PM Panel on the Future renovation of Burlington High School and the associated bond issue. Clare Wool; Jeff Wick; Chair and Vice Chair School Board Commissioners, respectively; Fran Brock, BHS teacher.

Claire, Jeff and Fran all noted that Burlington High School’s physical building, built in 1963, is very outdated. There are ADA violations, electrical and heating problems among other issues, and BHS repeatedly has only provisional NEASC accreditation due to its inadequate facility. Fran noted that teachers at BHS are very eager for a renovation. Claire reported that in April, 2018 superintendent Obeng charged the School Board with moving forward with a bond for high school improvements to be on the ballot in November, 2018. The School Board has asked the City Council for a 70 million dollar BHS renovation bond. The City council has not yet approved that to be on the ballot in November.

Since 2000, possible plans have been looked at to either renovate or replace BHS. It is Claire and Jeff’s opinion that the city and the board have done their work to look at what the needs are, and they are in support of the current proposal which is a 70 million dollar renovation. The proposal is to wrap a new building around A building and demolish most of the outlying buildings, with the exception of Building F, the Tech Center, which would also be renovated. The renderings are online at the

bsdvt.org. for those who are interested. From a budget perspective, currently there is an 85 million annual operating budget, with 3.5 million now going to debt service. With this proposal, the peak on the combined debt payments will go up to almost 10 million, and then recede over the lifetime of the debt.

There was a question about what the timing will be, and what will happen to the existing students during construction if this project goes forward? The answer is that classes will keep going in the other buildings while the new structure gets built. The timing will be 2020 to 2022, a three year project. It was also noted by someone attending that the City Council has competing interests in terms of what bonds will go on the ballot in November, including water treatment issues, which he sees as taking priority over a school renovation bond. The question was posed to the commissioners if this could be put off until March, 2019? Jeff Wick responded that it could be, but his preference is that it gets on the November ballot, and not wait until March.

Frank Guillot noted that he thinks there is a better alternative which he has looked at and proposed: to build a new high school and sell the current property for development of high density housing. He would propose that the new high school be built north of the new sailing center on the "North 40." Frank indicated that possibly rules surrounding TIF financing could be worked around to generate TIF funds for this alternative idea. Frank indicated he would urge the vote to be moved to March, 2019 so that this alternative could be explored. Others in the group expressed interest in the exploration of this alternative idea. Claire and Jeff indicated that the estimate to build a new high school on its current site would be 100 million, so at this time the lesser cost of 70 million has been the direction chosen. The current school board has not looked closely at Frank's proposal.

A question was asked if historically the option of selling the high school property to help finance a new school has been seriously looked at? Jeff Wick indicated he did not know. Claire indicated that there were possible traffic issues to the North 40, which is one reason she did not think that idea has gained traction. The commissioners were also asked what their confidence level is that the mayor and council will approve the bond to go forward. Both Claire and Jeff are feeling more confident the bond will be approved to go on the November ballot.

8:40-8:55 PM City Council Update: Joan Shannon

Joan indicated there will a special council meeting next Tuesday, September 11th regarding bond issues. A vote may take place then about which bond questions will go forward. Joan has reached out to Frank Guillot about his proposal for a new school on the North 40. Joan indicated that people have contacted her about a possible downtown high school option at Memorial Auditorium as well. She expressed a desire for a plan that will last for generations, and indicated that she has an interest in making sure that multiple ideas have been looked at. Joan stated that there needs to be a long-term look. Joan also stated that there are debt policy issues, and that issues related to our bond-rating also need to be taken in to consideration. Joan stated there are a number of capital improvements already going on with the city, and that prioritizing the most pressing needs seems important to her.

A question was asked about whether TIF financing might be able to be adjusted to finance the building of a new school – Joan does not think there would be a change to the TIF guidelines at the state level to finance a school. Joan also stated that she wonders about possible private investment and other “out of the box” thinking about financing a school. The state of Vermont no longer provides 30% aid for construction projects, which used to be the case. Claire indicated a consultant was hired to research the possibility of a capital campaign with private donations – the results of that indicated there may be some possibilities – but nothing reliable surfaced.

Joan indicated there may be a petition going around to limit the city’s investment in City Hall Park. There has been planning regarding upgrades to the park for the past eight years. One million dollars has been donated for a water feature by the Pomerleau family. Joan does not agree with limiting the spending for the renovation of the park, as there is a comprehensive plan to improve many aspects of the park, and she thinks it should go forward.

Joan reported that the city will be starting a reassessment process. Most likely it will be in 2020. The last reassessment was in 2005.

Mural Task Force has made its recommendation regarding the Everyone Loves a Parade mural. The recommendation is that the mural stay up until 2022, at which time it will be removed to a different location, with another mural to take its place. The council will be looking at the recommendation and other steps.

9:00 PM

Matt Grady made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mary Riley seconded the motion, which was approved, and the meeting was adjourned.

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 : 9/5/18 Location: Greek Orthodox Church

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

- 1 Zachary York
- 2 Charles Simpson
- 3 Gail Rafferty
- 4 Michelle Mraz
- 5 Sandy Yusem
- 6 Laine Rappaport
- 7 Pauline Sherwood
- 8 Emily Roland
- 9 Mary Ellen Manock
- 10 Nick Floersch
- 11 Hunter Grosvenor
- 12 Katelyn Eilermann
- 13 Amy Hauke
- 14 Frank Gillet
- 15 Seth Brownstein
- 16 Anna Brady
- 17 Dan Porter
- 18 Mike Conroy
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