

Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)
AGENDA
Wednesday, May 10, 2023 7:00 - 9:00 PM
In-person at the Friends Meeting House, 173 North Prospect Street
And Zoom online

<https://zoom.us/j/96245939050>

Webinar ID: 962 4593 9050

Or by phone: +1 929 205 6099 ID= 962 4593 9050

Facilitators: Tom Derenthal / Carter Neubieser

Minutes: Jonathan Chapple-Sokol

6:30 Welcome and Food: Samantha Ayotte's lasagna provided

7:00 - Formal start - Introductions: name, street

Announcements: share events, meetings, activities of interest to Ward 1 community.

7:10 - Speakout - this is an opportunity to raise concerns and appreciations about Ward 1

7:30 - City Council updates - Zoraya Hightower and Tim Doherty

Graffiti and other issues

7:50 - School Commission update - Gary Golden and Aquilas Lokossou

8:00 - Completing discussion about potential neighborhood projects - Carter, facilitator

The goal is for the NPA to decide on 1 - 2 short-term projects we will work on as a community over the summer and get the planning underway.

9:00 - Adjourn

Ward 1 NPA Steering Committee

Tom Derenthal tomd.npa@gmail.com,

Carol Livingston carol.livingston1951@gmail.com,

Jonathan Chapple-Sokol chapplesokol.npasc@gmail.com,

JF Carter Neubieser carterneubieser@gmail.com

so I uh I'd like to welcome you to the this is May right yeah the May edition

13:19

of the word one neighborhood planning assembly meeting and um what we usually do as most of you

13:27

know but I do see new faces today so not everyone knows uh just first of welcome and then we go

13:34

around and introduce ourselves and what street we live on so we're going to start over here

13:50

I usually forget to introduce myself I live on Nash place and with that I'm

13:55

gonna hand it back to you fine one more time oh hi I'm Gary golden I live on

14:00

colaco court uh down by the cemetery

14:06

my name is Sarah Hernandez Tim I'm actually the new uh public information and Community engagement officer with

14:12

the Burlington Police Department on North Ave thank you Nancy Kirby and Colchester

14:19

Avenue I am Cindy Cook and I live on East Avenue

14:27

back street Amazon

14:39

I'm Dave Cauley I live on Nash place and uh part of the old East End

14:48

Prospect Street in price I also lived on North Prospect

14:53

Street

15:00

Samantha ayotte live on Chase Street and part of the old East End

15:06

Joel colada also Chase Street and old East End Ward one

15:12

oh yeah uh Jesse Warren I'm actually visiting from the south end

15:17

um on Haywood Street yeah yeah my name is Tevin Goldberg also visiting

15:25

from the south end on Hayward street we're roommates

15:36

I'm Lydia Rooney I am also visiting but from Ward 8 on South Union City and I'm

15:41

a member of the UVM undergraduate student government

15:47

um I'm Amy malinowski I use she her pronouns I live on South Williams Street

15:54

I'm Carter newbieser I live on Colchester Ave um and I'm on the mpa

16:01

I'm Emily Pickler I live on Prospect Hill I'm Carol Livingston I'm on the steering

16:07

committee of the ward one NPA so Fletcher do you want to do you mind introduce yourself

16:14

oh yes

16:21

um Fletcher I live on Riverside Avenue in Ward one

16:30

um as I said my name is Marion price and on the 30th of April it was 10 years since the day I moved here from

16:36

California and it occurred to me today that it's time I played a role in the Grassroots democracy if I've been here

16:43

10 years I'm a little slow but but I'm I'm engaging

16:52

and we also have some people online uh Sarah you want to start

16:58

um sterile flash um off of East Avenue I'm assuming you can hear me yes

17:07

and um Gene

17:15

hello hi hi I'm on estab in co-housing

17:20

where Cyril lives also and next door to Cindy Cook

17:30

uh Sophie oh yeah Sophie Quest Chase Street old Easton

17:37

and uh Earhart

17:47

hey folks uh Earhart Monica here from

17:54

getting a big Echo

18:00

yeah I'm not sure what's happening with the audio um getting some kind of echo anyway

18:06

that sounds better all right Monica UH 60 Grove Street Live opposite uh schmantzka Park and uh also member of

18:15

the old East End uh coalition okay and Sam

18:22

thank you

18:27

sir Supply support for npas um through CW

18:34

so he's one of the reasons why we have a zoom fall and and that we're recording

18:40

the meeting and things like that and I miss somebody yep I'm Catherine verman from North Street

18:48

okay did I miss anyone

18:54

all right uh next is um announcements anyone have announcements today we'll

19:01

start online anybody uh put your hand up Sarah

19:08

you're on YouTube yep there you go it took me a second to mute so yeah

19:13

um an announcement for a free film showing this coming Sunday happens to be

19:19

Mother's Day excuse me uh 3 30 p.m down at the Main Street Landing film house

19:26

um so the film is a Vermont film um and or a Vermont filmmaker and it

19:35

happens to be based on a rabbi from Brattleboro who takes a trip with um a

19:42

tour group of American Jews in Palestine to Palestine Israel and excuse me their

19:49

reaction to um to what they saw so um again free film about an hour long 3 30

19:56

p.m this coming Sunday um Main Street Landing oh to see a lot

20:01

of people there if possible in the room

20:08

um just real quickly um Barbara Shaw dorso um spoke to us at the last meeting she

20:13

left a bunch of um brochures for us she works at the Burlington Community Justice Center and

20:19

the program that she was part of is conflict assistance program um neighbor to neighbor

20:25

um you know any any interactions that you would like support and would like some um help sort of thinking about

20:31

processes for resolving conflicts um so those brochures are out by the

20:37

sign-in sheet if you also be sure to sign your name on the um clipboard that would be great thank you

20:44

okay other Dave

20:51

I want to make an announcement I found out this past week that the uh some

20:57

committee for the city council Transportation energy utilities committee met on May 3rd and one of the

21:04

items that they had on their agenda is the uh the intersection of Riverside

21:11

Colbert uh it's called coberry Riverside uh Colchester Ave and and Barrett

21:17

um that was a intersection that was looked at about four years ago I think in terms of a study and there was a

21:25

recommendation that's gone forward about how to improve that intersection and it appears that uh DPW is moving

21:33

forward to try to get that project underway will be in conjunction with the

21:39

replacement of the Winooski uh Bridge so um yeah finally

21:47

so um I just want to let people know that that what's going to happen is that they need to re-affirm the design that

21:55

was a Council you know four or five years ago and they're going to take up the matter

22:00

again on May 23rd so the the subcommittee hasn't made any

22:05

recommendations yet uh but I think they're they're looking to get a recommendation to move forward with the

22:11

design that was put forward so if you're interested in that um check out the the committee that you

22:17

can get to their uh uh you know through the city council website you can get to their committee and get agendas and

22:22

meeting notes and things like that

22:28

sure so uh the police department approved my

22:35

block party um permit request for May 21st so we're going to open up Chase Street to be

22:42

pedestrians and rolling and bicycling only and it will be blocked to all cars

22:47

that are passing through um residents can still drive through all get access

22:52

if anyone's listening you can all get access to Chase Street driveways like normal you'll just have to we'll just

22:58

have to move some stuff out of the way um it'll be a community dinner and it's not open to the entire world but

23:04

everyone in this room is welcome to stop by uh Sunday May 21st uh 3 P.M to 7 P.M

23:12

uh there'll be plenty of food and some light music and

23:17

DPW will also be there to present some traffic calming options uh to residents

23:23

of the area

23:29

yes

23:35

hi everyone my name is Tevin Goldberg and uh this is my roommate colleague

23:40

Jesse Warren as we mentioned we're Interlopers from the south end but uh

23:46

um we are going around to every NPA this month to announce uh exciting event we're going to be hosting in contos

23:52

Auditorium on the very last day of the month Wednesday May 31st at 6 pm and

23:58

it's going to be an information session on citizens assemblies so

24:03

um citizens assemblies are uh kind of an exciting new form of democracy that's

24:09

been happening all around the world uh particularly in Europe not so much in the United States yet that uses a

24:16

democratic Lottery to select cross-section of a community it can be all the way up to an entire country or

24:23

just a neighborhood or something but um happens at all different scales uh of

24:28

people that kind of represent the demographics of an area and asks them to

24:33

learn deliberate and then come to some consensus about a particular public

24:39

problem so they're used for things like France just had one on trying to figure

24:45

out their rules about assisted dying for the entire country they've done some on climate change

24:52

adaptation uh there was one in the United States in Petaluma California last summer that was about trying to

24:59

figure out what to do with their Municipal Fairgrounds so it's a really exciting uh Democratic tool that um

25:05

Jesse and I are become very interested in through our work with an organization called democracy creative which is also

25:11

in the South End uh but um we decided that uh we we'd love to

25:17

kind of get the ball rolling on this in uh Vermont and Burlington and so this

25:22

information session is just meant to uh explain this because a lot of people haven't heard it before and we're going

25:28

to hear from two speakers uh one of them is Terry barricius who is was partially

25:35

responsible for the npas uh back in the day and then has since become an expert on citizens

25:43

assemblies and on this whole uh lottery selection process for these assemblies

25:49

called sortition and then the other speaker is a person named Alex Ranieri who is the

25:57

co-director of an organization on the west coast called healthy democracy that helped put on the citizens assembly in

26:03

California they've done some stuff in Oregon as well and so that actually makes her one of the leading American

26:09

experts on this uh because it's kind of a fledgling subject but we're very excited about it we're going to have

26:16

free apple pie and music to kick it off at 6 PM because what's more American than Apple Pie and uh should be a nice

26:23

uh interesting event so I would love all of you uh to consider we have some flyers here that we'll hand out and if

26:30

you have any more questions about it you can talk to me or Jesse afterwards and also you can go to democracy

26:35

creative.com we have a video on our home page there that explains citizens assemblies in two minutes which I think

26:42

I went over two minutes but that's it thanks a lot

26:48

any other announcements

26:54

you're on thanks can y'all hear me

27:01

thanks I I just wanted to take a moment and just for folks uh who may not have

27:07

heard a long time award one resident Dean corn uh passed away unexpectedly

27:12

um last week for folks who did not know Dean um he was just absolutely

27:18

inspirational uh person uh brilliant inventor he was our state representative

27:24

for much of the 1990s serving as a progressive representative for

27:31

um uh for uh most of most of Ward one and also uh ran for lieutenant governor

27:38

at one point uh Dean was also the chair of the electric commission

27:43

um at a time when Burlington instituted and bed instituted uh some really path

27:49

breaking work uh to create the first um Energy Efficiency Bond uh to wenis off

27:57

of uh stop us from using Yankee power as well as at the time Hydro Quebec power

28:06

that was you know causing Havoc for Native for indigenous communities up in

28:11

Northern Quebec so I I just wanted to take a moment to acknowledge you know um

28:16

that uh you know Dean's contributions you know to our uh our area uh and

28:22

really to the state um where um you know we're we're really path breaking uh it was a long time for for

28:28

one of the first supporters for um you know uh for uh single-payer Health Care

28:34

um he introduced a uh a gay uh gay marriage bill um way before its time uh actually at

28:41

the time of civil unions and and was just a leader and past breaker in so many different ways so

28:47

um I don't know I I guess I just asked for a moment of silence just in in

28:53

memory of Dean um you know for folks who knew him and his obituary uh is in seven days for folks who didn't know him you

28:59

could read a little bit more about him but he was you know someone that was very dear to me and and to many folks in

29:05

uh in Ward one and um just yeah I guess I'd ask for a moment of silence just in memory

29:12

foreign

29:32

thanks everyone thank you very much

29:38

um any other guys yes I'm sorry to break the silence for

29:44

this but um Carol and I uh we are on a board of the

29:50

friends of the Fletcher Free Library and this is less of an announcement uh more

29:55

of a I'm begging for something we're looking for for people who will volunteer for

30:01

the pleasure friends with pleasure library and there's a few places that we need some help and

30:08

um one would be to serve on a finance committee which might need all of once a month and maybe it'll be an hour for a

30:15

meeting and an hour um outside the meeting to prep and so I mean two hours a month to be on a

30:21

finance committee just somebody who's basically is illiterate about finances I am so it doesn't take a huge amount but

30:27

it just takes being able to Think Through issues will be some policy work we'll look at the books every every

30:33

month pretty pretty straightforward easy stuff um we're looking for somebody who might be able to spend more like a few hours a

30:40

week to manage our eBay store um and you wouldn't do this by yourself there's two or three other people who

30:46

are engaged in it but it would be somebody would take the lead role in doing doing eBay so if you do eBay if

30:52

you've done eBay before this is pretty straightforward but it would be putting books up on sale

30:58

um you know basically manipulating the eBay algorithms so our you know our

31:03

stuff gets on top and stuff like that but again there will be other people who would be uh looking at the books and

31:09

posting things and it's it's a collect it's kind of a collaborative effort um we're looking for people who might

31:15

want to spend some time doing some Communications work there's a group of people who do Communications for the

31:20

friends of the Fletcher Free Library but we we definitely need some targeted help that might be an hour a week something

31:26

like that this would be like like if we're having a book sale and the person running the book sale wants to share

31:31

that information on front porch Forum somebody somebody needs to Gussy up the language and then send it out to the

31:38

folks who we have who do front porch Forum posts so they can distribute it basically it's a Distributing kind of

31:44

thing um so those are all volunteer activities that's just kind of joining the friends being part of the friends we're also

31:50

looking for a bookkeeper which would be we would um we would uh pay somebody to

31:57

do the work they wouldn't be as they wouldn't be on the payroll it would be contract work um exactly

32:12

um but no I mean you know you get a 10.99 you know but it's just not we don't hire people we don't pay people

32:18

we're all it's an all-voluntary organization but we would like somebody who might be able to spend and it really may just be an hour or two a week

32:25

um we haven't you know we haven't thought about what what we think anything like that but if it's something

32:31

somebody has done in their lives and wants to just do a little bit on the side somebody who used to do it somebody

32:38

who's learning how to do it um again it's not this isn't the or subtle we had an accountant who does our

32:46

990s every year this would be just somebody to help us on a regular basis to to do some bookkeeping

32:53

um and we love anybody who wants to do anything with the friends we'd love to talk to them and tell them more about

32:59

the friends and more about the library because the library is in some of our opinions the single most important

33:05

institution in the state of Burlington um it's the one that everybody touches it's the most important place in the

33:12

city so thank you first Mondays

33:18

um thanks

33:25

just uh if you're interested in joining the Chase Street dinner just email Chase

33:31

Street dinner at Chase Street friends okay Street friends gmail.com

33:42

a couple of things myself one is um

33:49

I'd really like to thank Samantha for making lasagna tonight

33:59

the um

34:05

the other the other thing is is that I want to thank Dave Cauley for organizing the old East Town and greet up day

34:17

green bags of garbage and things look better and last but not least I want to thank

34:23

the city for doing a pretty good job at Clinic streets I live on Nash Street

34:28

um we sometimes have challenges with people participating maybe getting their

34:34

vehicles off the road when the street cleaner is going to come through and uh we did have pretty good success and it

34:41

actually looks a lot cleaner um it won't last all right we know that but it looks really nice now

34:47

so um the uh

34:55

oh and I forgot I want to thank Angie for the uh sugary treats out of the

35:01

table

35:06

so that brings us to speak out which is not was it like a cousin of

35:12

announcements so if you have an issue that you want to bring up um that we should discuss as a group

35:19

this is this is the find one so you have a issue and yes

35:31

always hesitant to speak out but um so two things first I just had some

35:38

dealings with Green Mountain solar I cannot recommend them more beautiful great company that I just need to speak

35:45

out about and then there has been a man that has been coming around our neighborhood

35:52

um asking for some work I've actually hired him twice his name

35:57

is Paul um he seemed really kind and harmless and in the end he stole some checks and

36:06

cashd them uh so I don't know I just want to alert people to Paul and

36:13

you know I actually called the um Community social justice they never

36:19

called me back um and I I I feel really badly about this

36:26

not that I'm he was you know he seemed like he was a good

36:31

guy and I don't want to just throw him

36:37

I don't know Into the Fire and saying no he's a terrible person but

36:44

that was hard to hear that he had done that he he asked to help someone they

36:49

had their groceries uh out and there was a checkbook on the groceries he took the

36:55

checkbook went to the bank put his name on it and tried to cash it

37:00

so Paul his name is Paul

37:22

um well yeah Earhart thanks for making the announcement about Dean I was just wondering if you knew I think Kathy you

37:27

said there was something in seven days but about services or anything like that or it's not a services

37:41

that just came out oh seven days that just came out today

37:49

Carter uh yeah seven days came out today uh the obit

37:55

says that there will be a memorial service in the fall to be announced later

38:02

okay

38:10

is is it out of line to ask uh identifying descriptor of Paul I don't want to overstep the boundaries of

38:16

what's okay to share but any any uh any kind of identifying

38:22

descriptor would help you

38:29

like dirty sneaking um white

38:36

he was very friendly and he actually really helped me shovel snow when I was

38:41

kind of desperate one day and got off the bus and came to help me

38:46

I don't know tall or short tall

38:51

okay

38:57

Queen shaven

39:05

all right last call for speak out and we're going to move forward to

39:13

full commissioner reward

39:19

s think

39:25

uh good evening I'm Gary golden I'm the um East District school commissioner as

39:32

a month and about five days um so uh you may have noticed but it's

39:40

fairly I did a posting today

39:48

some links to uh superintendent Flanagan's latest

39:55

of a letter a lot of information that you might want to see about construction

40:00

and other issues that in more regurgitate I just gave you the link to is uh from which one better last week

40:10

um the main things that have happened recently we've hired a new principal for

40:15

VHS um that boat creates she's an associate

40:20

principal uh Hanover High School New Hampshire that's a dual state school so

40:27

I'm a couple along the river so that's uh Norwich and Hanover about 650

40:35

students mostly uh Anglo so this piece of

40:42

um transracial so she's like excited about

40:48

being here excited about doing High School in an old Macy's which we're going between yeah

40:55

we'll take it so uh she'll be showing up in July uh and you know on Camp who's

41:02

back as in our own principal will be working with her this summer and

41:07

um Tom sign again the superintendent is looking forward mentors

41:13

for her and for a new assistant

41:19

principal who's coming from being principal at uh Edmonds Middle School

41:25

so there's also new director of guidance Council now director of counseling

41:31

um Cassandra dorky coming up from Memphis Tennessee

41:36

um and be another couple of hires in that department as well um so those are the main things that

41:43

have happened um also in my letter talk about some conferences that attended

41:48

um I'm a really weird uh School Board member commissioner I was actually an

41:54

employee here for eight years so I vacillate between kind of lost but also

42:01

knowing where some of the bodies are buried kind of an interesting little spot to be

42:06

in I went with the our chair Claire wool yesterday to uh hand out

42:13

um hats for future appreciation week uh at Edmonds elementary school or my uh

42:19

where our daughter attended and saw several her former teachers but also a

42:25

couple of my former co-workers who were in different schools at that point so it

42:30

was a very kind of off-culture morning for me so uh you'll hear a little bits

42:36

of that as we go along together commission and settled

42:42

um don't want to go too far and there's lots of information I think available in the postings that I did and if I didn't

42:50

get if you don't see me in your front porch horn um tonight today

42:58

um just contact one of the uh NPA members State committee members and

43:03

they'll get that news to me and I'll figure out what district I miss by being

43:09

a government official I'm able to pick multiple areas that I can post to NFL

43:15

Messengers uh but go there first and then if you have other questions that you don't get

43:21

answered tonight please please feel free to email me if you leave a phone message I'll get back to you because you know

43:27

just testing on the option uh sending a messaging um and then the websites under

43:33

constructions the project of my daughters and um asking her to do Tech is always a

43:40

Nifty proposition seven um but she insisted on insisted on setting up the web page that's around

43:46

that ball so I want to open it up for any questions you might have about our

43:52

workings about the progress or construction I can answer some basic questions that has really only basically

43:58

started but go for it with any questions either here or online please I'll give

44:06

him my best shot and David yeah I'm interested in any updates and new people excuse me I'm interested

44:13

in any updates that you have about the high school construction sure so we suffered from dueling uh lawsuits at the

44:20

very start uh our lawsuit as a district to Monsanto about the decaying material

44:28

used um Monsanto is a giant and has been

44:33

successfully uh sued I think once by an institution for the for that so we have

44:40

some hope but we also are fighting you know multinational big bucks Corporation

44:46

that's not going to want to set more president by letting us win or probably even settle

44:53

um so and then there's the one from the set of teachers there who sued so we had

45:00

to wait for Monsanto to be able to come in and Survey the property do their own research they did it much more quickly

45:06

than I think anyone expected Kathy always on my ancestor and was on the

45:12

board at that point and I think that's an accurate um comment to make that they really

45:18

moved along and so now we're only behind a couple of months looking at

45:24

um probably the Christmas break 20 25 to 26 we're moving we're hoping to

45:32

do that summer with these couple of months not bad probably out of the Alabama uh it's got too much time to

45:39

make up uh where within the accepted margin on budgeting support

45:46

um a couple of days are coming a little higher maybe I want it but it's still within the contingency so that part's

45:52

going pretty well we have another round of bids to go out this summer we've had to postpone uh repairing the football

45:59

field which is 15 20 years old and we're getting to be pretty bad shape injuries

46:05

are starting to be a concern but that's going to be next summer we're just going to bid it out to share no one was there

46:12

to to do it or our specifications and our uh price range so the joys of

46:20

estrogen that's wonderful but it's kind of hard on people and sort of be replacing

46:29

is that I think that's about it I mean you know it's your ground's broken but it's still you know they're still

46:35

mitigating the ground that really and you know the contamination they're

46:41

monitoring those seepage it's going to go toward the lake because no gravity it's just grabbing

46:47

um it's on the hill above the lake it's gonna seat but they're they're making they're they know and so they're going

46:55

to be building you know scooping out more to read a process and

47:01

um they're thinking it will dissipate before it can reach groundwater and

47:07

later on it's not on this bearing about it yeah

47:13

um you said that some teachers are doing are they suing the school Monsanto or both Santa and are they current or

47:20

former teachers um okay all right

47:27

uh just some health concerns that they've had um from long term their claim is

47:33

long-term exposure uh I think some of the conditions are pretty consistent with what the science tells us about uh

47:41

Expo extended exposure so they again you know there's using a firm that's going

47:47

to be up against a giant so you wish them luck but you know so I think it's a

47:52

good case um and it hasn't really we're trying I think there's some level

47:59

of cooperation without being directly Cooperative it's two different suits but their timing worked out as well for our

48:06

suit so it only you know both of them held up the process on construction

48:11

but you know wish them luck as well uh the other question I have is about parking apparently the hospital parking

48:19

lot has been used to be advantage of people going to North Beach which until which may or may not be so close

48:28

that's I think that's been an issue for like years so you know there are those

48:33

cities involved in in that process I'm not sure it's as huge a concern for us

48:38

now because students aren't there but it's off limits for burden it should be it is it is but there is parking along

48:44

the street that's still available there by another football field um

48:50

yeah it's you know they're aware and it's just it's not something the city the school district's really going to

48:57

get involved in and still bump it off of the city okay to for their uh

49:03

vultures is there um public uh documents to see

49:12

like the blueprints for the school or general layout plans um

49:17

they're online yeah so if you go to the this Brooks website yeah okay you go to

49:23

the opening site there's a sidebar that's going to have a lot of those if you have trouble with it because I've

49:28

had trouble Gathering when I was trying to grab gathered documents for uh Jonathan Angie's friend I finally just

49:35

call the uh main office and got everything down so uh let me know if you have trouble

49:41

you've got Carol's email or you can get it to me my email it's just G golden at

49:48

the sbbt brings the school district vermont.org

49:54

thanks all right I'm on there

50:02

marks doesn't have a question you know they're lying any other questions

50:10

it's a great group of people Tom is wonderful as superintendent we are so he's a great guy and I think

50:18

um what he says is what he's going to try to do you know he's got good plans uh we're moving really well into

50:25

strategic planning which is new was bored um we're doing policy governments which

50:31

is not my favorite uh but it works in this case because he's Trudeau's word transparent and he's got

50:39

a fairly good stat behind him if you don't have those things policy governance is sort of The Nightmare

50:44

Before you as a board member um and we're always had that whole

50:52

budget issue you know we are aware we're an expensive part of your lives

50:59

um and I think all efforts are made to cut costs when we can but not of effect

51:06

you know schooling and you know teachers are expensive um

51:11

you know that's that's a big cost but if you want skill you're paying for that so

51:18

that's sort of what we're trying to balance that we're not a district that limits many districts will say Bachelors

51:24

three years of experience that's sort of a sweet spot financially but there's no

51:30

there's minimal skills there um Burlington's not like that or my

51:35

experience uh please feel free to reach out to me either Following over

51:41

um email and I'll let you know when the websites have been running thank you all thank you

51:49

uh next we have city council updates I'm here

51:56

and I have notes just let me bring them up okay

52:02

um and I know uh Zariah was uh had work

52:07

um but I know she's intending on coming so hopefully she will be here soon but um

52:15

I'm happy to get us I'm happy to get us started so for those of you who don't know me my name is seniority

52:22

um I am the city council person for the East District which is the sword and uh

52:27

Ward 8 combined um uh I've also only been on sea Council

52:32

for about about a month um and let me give you a little overview of what I've been doing

52:38

um but then uh Carol and Carter and others asked me to specifically address

52:43

um a question regarding a group meeting so I want to spend uh most of my time

52:49

um tackling that because I haven't seen some news and some information on that but I think I think will be useful

52:56

um since being on the city council I've attended uh my first two City Council

53:01

meetings uh one of which I did remotely from Portugal we were on a family vacation so that was fun and exciting uh

53:08

to do it remotely and time change um I am on the charter change committee

53:14

and I've attended uh one meeting of the joint Charter change and ordinance uh

53:20

committee meetings which is important for those of you who have been following it

53:25

um the police oversight issue is being addressed in the first instance through that joint committee because any police

53:33

oversight changes that are going to occur um are going to occur probably going to

53:40

impact certainly an ordinance but potentially trying to change the swelling so we have had one meeting on

53:47

that I'm also on the Public Safety Committee meeting which uh committee which met

53:53

yesterday um which we also talked a little bit about police oversight but you've got

53:58

updates from both uh at the chief Murad and the Fire Department chief which I'm

54:03

happy to answer questions about um I've attended the first of well this

54:10

is the official title for Budget planning meeting in which the mayor gave

54:15

us a little overview of what his administration expects we're going to

54:21

have in upcoming uh the upcoming budget season there are a series of those

54:27

um one of them actually is also tonight um but I'd be happy to give you as much

54:33

information as I can about that last week Soraya and I and the chief and

54:39

some others were invited to attend a meeting with the folks over at uh the

54:45

Riverwatch uh uh complex um they had a meeting to address their

54:52

incredibly passing and um inserting issues regarding uh Public

54:57

Safety a couple of you emailed me questions about that and I'll be happy to talk a little bit about that two of

55:03

us of interest um but principally um the folks at the NPA uh have asked me to

55:11

talk about our last MBA meeting we were we were

55:16

working on uh on ideas in which this group could uh get together and sort of

55:23

work together as an MBA as a neighborhood group to address some of the issues that the city

55:29

um is facing um and it was asked to see if it perhaps there was some space to tackle with any

55:36

issue which is uh been bothering a lot of people that bothers me

55:41

um so why don't I pause with respect to all those meetings

55:46

um I happen to take questions or jump right into graffiti

55:53

yes um I understand it's a steering committee member

55:58

um there was an all Awards meeting which represented um steering committees from the city and five six Representatives

56:05

mentioned that their city councilors had asked them to use some of this of the

56:10

NPA time to sort of gather people's input around um the issue around oversight

56:18

um and we've talked about Public Safety in in different ways and and it's a lot

56:23

to try to tackle um I think one of the questions that we have for for you and Zariah is

56:29

um you know is there a consistent sort of effort on a part of City councilors

56:34

maybe particularly that uh committee to to solicit information from the

56:41

community through npas as an example is that being done in a consistent way is

56:46

it being done in a you know is everyone being asked that and and on top of all of it is what can

56:53

we do to support you and Zariah in terms of getting you information that would be

56:58

helpful to be making the decisions that you're making yeah yeah it's a great question I I think

57:04

um I have thought and I I honestly don't know exactly what happened in the word five six NBA although I was invited to

57:11

that I couldn't because I didn't know about these meetings but uh I had thought that that I thought that that

57:17

NPA itself has had scheduled an NPA

57:22

specifically to address Public Safety that was my understanding of do you know yeah it seems a little like

57:29

um I think the last time I was here was actually during the like debate on ballot item seven so I've been tracking

57:35

closely um so basically uh on February 6th the city council passed a resolution that

57:42

said we urge you to vote no on this and also put forward a timeline where they said during the months of April and May

57:50

there would be robust public input and then by June 1st they would put forward

57:55

uh like any proposed changes to city council for them to look at uh but we

58:02

got through a lot of April and there was no meetings uh basically it was I guess

58:07

hard to schedule uh Ben Travers and Gene um are the sort of main chairs of the

58:14

committees that are doing this joint meeting and so Ben pulled together the first meeting and unfortunately it was

58:20

at the same time as that NPA needed I mean that's right and so it was kind of a conflicting thing and it was really

58:26

bummer because I think me and one other like neighbor citizen were like really the only people there but I would say if

58:33

you're interested in like being involved in it right now where there are three other meetings that are on the books uh

58:39

I can pull up what the dates are or if you have them but folks are welcome to come and like listen in

58:46

um but also I think a big thing that I was pushing for in that meeting when I had moment to give comment was like how

58:51

are you engaging the public like is this it uh because uh look at around and this

58:57

wasn't even on front porch for him uh and the other the mpa meeting was so I gave a bit of pushback on that and I

59:04

think the responses that they're going to try to push out the timeline because June 1st is like impossible which we all

59:09

knew when they passed the resolution anyway but uh so it's now probably going to be closer to like September and then

59:15

it seems like there's going to be a bit more effort around public engagement but that's probably if we keep the pressure

59:20

on so anyways that's my two cents and do you know do you know any was the Genesis

59:27

of the award five six my impression was that came from the NPA itself like the

59:32

NPA itself decided we want to have this meeting the city council has been president

59:38

that I think was my understanding as well but I think there was a bit of confusion because for a little bit I was like oh are these the same meaning like

59:45

it was there was confusion I think but I think it was from the MPS sure what

59:51

form of Citizen input is city council we're expecting like a list of concerns

59:59

or um a weighted list of concerns or a

1:00:06

potential how these things could be addressed I

1:00:13

don't know that there is a specific set of expectations that I don't that specific I do think

1:00:22

though that and I don't want to overset my boundaries but I would encourage our

1:00:27

NBA steering committee to strongly consider following engines award five

1:00:33

six footsteps and scheduling and devoting an NPA

1:00:39

directly addressing this I think it's a big enough it's certainly a big enough issue on all of our lines but I think I

1:00:45

would find that very very valuable um okay I guess eyes are right we're

1:00:54

getting here so we're sort of launching into the issue that we've talked about that you um mentioned to us as well that Public

1:01:01

Safety and just how do we tackle that how can we basically I think the major question we have is how can we support

1:01:06

you and Tim in the work that you're doing representing us and trying to Grapple with a very complicated issue so

1:01:13

even if we say steering committee run uh a June meeting on Public Safety it's

1:01:19

like I don't even know how to start having that conversation you know I mean graffiti was our way to sort of get at

1:01:26

it a little bit um in a wild sort of way um so I think we're really looking

1:01:31

for direction from you and maybe five six can give us some sort of model for it but I think we really want to be sure

1:01:37

we're doing what's useful to you

1:01:43

um yeah so I don't I didn't go to the five six I think we had a different meeting the same day

1:01:49

um but um I do I think that there's like some so

1:01:55

one we're tackling oversight right now which I think is what brought up this conversation on the community council of like there was so much input that was

1:02:00

given on that and we had a vote but like how do we get broader input beyond that I do like I

1:02:07

think that it's like there's like I think three or four big topics that I feel like we want input input on

1:02:15

I'm always having it's like I'm always happy to be a facilitator at any of those meetings and I think I'm as a

1:02:22

professional facilitator could get like keeping the things out I think for me the big thing is getting more voices

1:02:29

because as much as I love you all um I see your faces a lot most of you not all of the other bikini faces

1:02:36

um and so I think getting Community input that's like not just the same 20

1:02:42

people that have already given so much of their input not that it's like that's not valued but I think how do we get

1:02:48

more voices to come to that meeting and I do think Public Safety is one of those issues where like you know we just had

1:02:54

an MPA like uh sorry HOA meeting at Riverwatch like two weeks ago and like 80 people came so I do think it's

1:03:00

something that if we work together we can get and that's just from Riverwatch so I do think if we work together we can

1:03:06

get more homecomes out um and I think that would probably be the biggest ask and then I think like 10 and I or did

1:03:13

some of the other counselors can definitely wear it to be like here's what we want to know about the structures and the Batman facilitate too

1:03:20

but my scene from the Riverwatch was that it was not that a lot of the sports were not NPA regulars correct yeah

1:03:29

definitely not certainly don't have 3D versions

1:03:37

so you know before you came in you know the question as well essentially the question was do

1:03:44

we do we want a similar reading of this NPA is that they have the five six again I

1:03:51

don't want to

1:04:13

you know the streets around them and be like we're having this community conversation I do think NPA like we put

1:04:19

the signs out but NPA nobody knows what that means if they're not involved in the city it's not versus if we're like we're having this community

1:04:25

conversations

1:04:41

yeah I think um oversight

1:04:47

customers drug use there's a fourth one what was the second

1:04:54

one okay

1:05:04

um and then maybe graffiti is the fourth one which is best

1:05:12

or vandalism so we can talk about larceny reputation

1:05:20

well you know I do not write down you understood but I I I I think that I

1:05:27

think you know the right sizing of the police department is going to be that might control all those issues as well

1:05:33

that's you know the size of the police department you know that said um which was an issue that we discussed

1:05:39

yesterday at the Republic Community um some pretty Stark numbers from from

1:05:46

mac and cheese on that front um but maybe that could be moving into

1:05:51

all of these all of these topics okay attention nutrition how are we

1:05:58

attracting people who will be attracted to apply what are the obstacles what is

1:06:03

it what does it mean to run a police department um with this deficit

1:06:08

um Institution

1:06:14

all of which though is to say that there's a it's enough I personally think of it's not like a big meeting

1:06:20

topic but instead of leaving dedicated to it solely and I think the balance again I don't

1:06:27

know how the word side and six were in their meeting but I think finding the balance between like giving the information but then addressing how

1:06:34

we want to do it I think that on a lot of the topics the city is kind of at decision points and so being clear on

1:06:40

what those decision points are and getting input on that instead of doing the what we've been doing for a while

1:06:46

now which is like what do we like what do we not like um so I think that would be the most

1:06:52

helpful I don't know that we're going to be at decision points around all of those things but

1:06:58

um I definitely know that on oversight you will be um and then I think on houselessness we

1:07:05

will be and then on I don't think it's as much I think the

1:07:10

city's kind of aligned at what it wants to do on drug use I think it's just a matter of making it happen and getting the state to

1:07:18

be on board as well I'm new here so I'm a little bit

1:07:25

hesitant to speak up but I wonder is there also a way if there was a meeting like that is there also a way to solicit

1:07:31

more than public comment but like question door-to-door like getting people who

1:07:36

will not attend the meeting to really say what what's important to them and or what questions they have

1:07:44

you mean like a door-to-door survey yeah either a door-to-door survey or yeah or

1:07:49

a study like a qualitative kind of uh not not to intense research project or

1:07:58

um or just a place where people could a website where people could enter public comment or record voice questions

1:08:07

yeah I'd figured back on that it sounds like you had good engagement at Riverwatch did you have the meeting over

1:08:12

there it was remote virtual that's an option maybe to engage people sometimes you

1:08:19

know communities like Bayberry they have a meeting Center and maybe I'm just kind of throwing out alternative ideas but uh

1:08:27

meeting people where they live sometimes people are intimidated to come to an NPA it seems like a big

1:08:33

super big deal right and I don't know just maybe some alternative ideas might

1:08:38

help engagement um and to kind of pay you back uh

1:08:44

uh we're hosting a Chase Street dinner and one thing that we are doing is

1:08:49

putting a QR code we just handmade signs and we're kind of putting them throughout tree Lawns and we just have a

1:08:55

QR code that goes to a Google spreadsheet and so if that's something

1:09:00

that we can do that just kind of like I know you said like no try not to have so many Flyers just like have something

1:09:07

that could then link back to you guys that is just like post some questions and post some concerns and you can kind

1:09:15

of like analyze that data and maybe have something um and then I think someone had said

1:09:21

something about engagement and like how do you reach people one thing that we've

1:09:27

I've started to notice is like we've been just outside in our front Lawns and

1:09:33

just like in our neighborhoods walking around and showing your face and just we're midwesterners and so we're just

1:09:41

like knocking down this kind of like what we feel is kind of like a New England privacy like everybody's very

1:09:48

open and warm but it we are just like block parties and we're gonna say hi to

1:09:55

you we're gonna take three hours to say goodbye and um and so we're kind of just like making

1:10:03

ourselves seen and making ourselves known and waving hello waving hello to

1:10:08

cars motorcycles people walking everything so I personally feel like if

1:10:14

you just keep saying hi and engaging with your neighbors and even not your neighbors just people who are walking around if you see them and just like

1:10:21

strike up conversation and say oh yeah hey actually like here's this thing going on

1:10:26

um I think that will help a lot more than people realize

1:10:32

yeah so no definitely the personal invitations of everything and then I may also just on the like topic of Public

1:10:38

Safety I think the age of people would actually help a lot with that

1:10:44

um I do like I will say I don't know if this has been Tim's experience yet I thought a lot more being a city

1:10:49

counselor would be talking to a lot of people and instead it's just sitting in meetings seeing people over and over

1:10:55

again um but I am no secret um but I do the one I love that two the

1:11:02

other thing is in terms of like how much we can do so city council doesn't have a huge budget to help like people get us

1:11:09

free stuff and obviously most of us have full-time jobs on top of what we do so it's like and as individual counselors

1:11:16

like Tim and I can't just be like hey we need City staff time in most City Science departments are really understand right now to be like hey we

1:11:23

want to do this extra thing I do think that if there's some combination of like hey we can get like NPA I'm excited

1:11:28

about how many people are in this room I feel like this has been not happening for a long time um if we can get folks to engage like

1:11:34

we're excited to want to help and you know be out there and let you know do some of the work and be like oh when we

1:11:40

can make a QR code then between that and like City Center we definitely make it happen but I just want to throw that

1:11:45

caveat out there oh yeah I would love whatever help people are willing to give and I know a lot of you and my most

1:11:52

experience in this and getting people to whatever we're going to have um and it doesn't mean one thing

1:11:58

[Music] um

1:12:04

it's such an important topic absolutely okay

1:12:09

so the time frame looks like it's going to go beyond June so yeah so that was The Proposal that was going to go beyond

1:12:16

it was June and I I think in my viewers it has to happen yeah

1:12:24

um

1:12:33

it doesn't project so um in the room so if you're not even heard that other continual

1:12:39

um

1:12:55

thank you okay so I I have a question so at this stage

1:13:04

has there been any new proposals put forward about oversight since the the

1:13:11

vote that took place or are we starting at Ground Zero on oversight what what's

1:13:18

taking place for the votes in place the city council

1:13:23

passed a resolution encouraging folks to vote no on the resolution and what we

1:13:29

would do if they voted no so that process has started being in place so

1:13:34

ordinance and Charter change are meeting together to

1:13:41

create a new proposal to get it on the ballot by November so

1:13:47

it is there is another process there's no proposal right now per se but I know we've got two more meetings I think

1:13:54

already maybe one more in early June to talk about it is that right

1:14:00

I think we've got two yeah we've got a lot of meetings on the books um so for

1:14:06

example has there been some proposals to uh provide uh more uh authority to the

1:14:13

police commission and I I haven't seen any details about what that means so but

1:14:19

no at the last meeting I tried to get close to pinned down to at least like what we could agree on

1:14:25

um I think we didn't actually take a straw poll or anything but I think most people

1:14:31

are aligned with focusing on the police commission for more Authority

1:14:36

um maybe writing it vaguely enough we haven't decided on that yet so that in the future it could be a different body

1:14:41

so that we're not holding ourselves to that but I I so my assumption would be is we're going to focus on the police

1:14:47

commission if we're going to focus on um

1:14:53

in both interns so the last proposal only focused on external complaints of

1:14:59

Citizen complaints but also having the police commission would get both internal which if you read the CNA

1:15:04

report our internal processes are a little weak for what officers can do with file an internal complaints so having that be kind of the second round

1:15:12

of HR mechanism for the police commission for that sorry that was it was useful

1:15:20

because for me coming to a public meeting and just expressing ideas and

1:15:25

sort of rehashing everything that's been going on for the past three years that doesn't sound like a lot of productive

1:15:33

um I think that if at this stage if leadership either from the police commission or from the mayor or from the

1:15:40

council have ideas that they want the community to reflect on where are we

1:15:46

headed to me that would be a lot easier you'd get a lot more comment than if it's just coming back out again with

1:15:53

General ideas and general questions and frankly a lot of belly aching

1:16:07

but like those are the other two times we gave the community right it's like very early and then right at the end when really it's like kind of in the

1:16:14

Middle where you should be if we're only going to be in one place in the Middle where it's like here's the three different Pathways we could take which

1:16:20

one of these makes the most sense because that's when we did with the the war in the district right we're like

1:16:26

tell us exactly what you want before like I don't know something different I guess can you get in that microphone July

1:16:39

I was just asking you to get in the microphone please

1:16:47

it's not only Zariah it's been the audio's been spotty on and off all night so but thanks I was just gonna put it in

1:16:54

the chat to Charlie but thank you uh for Mark for speaking up I don't think there

1:17:00

is a chat we'll do better just real quick because I came up a couple times the next two meetings are

1:17:06

uh Tuesday May 23rd at 5 30. uh it'll be in person and also virtual in person

1:17:14

location is TBD and the zoom link is TBD I would recommend if you want to go just email counselor Travers and say give me

1:17:20

the details because I don't know where they're being posted really it's not board docs but sort of not really okay

1:17:26

Tuesday May 30th is the the third one and it's at 6 30. same situation

1:17:34

excuse me is that the Public Safety Committee that you're the ordinance and Charter committee who are looking at it

1:17:40

there's a joint committee that's working on this process

1:17:46

specifically about oversight yes that's what they're working on now before again it's just right oh okay is is the

1:17:56

is transparency of like information sharing with the council and the public fall under oversight in that

1:18:02

conversation because I'm thinking specifically about like there was oh yeah sorry well I'm just

1:18:11

wondering if transparency Falls in that bucket or that's a later conversation because it feels like

1:18:16

not to get into the conversation but like one of the frustrations I have is like there was information super

1:18:21

pertinent to this discussion and the ballot item that was like withheld from the council

1:18:28

and withheld from the public before an election and that seems to me like

1:18:33

a pretty key to having like an honest Community conversation I don't know

1:18:39

um I think that will be part of the conversation in terms of um I honestly what I think will happen

1:18:46

is that the ordinance Charter change committee will have kind of one Topic at a time it's at least what I'm hoping

1:18:51

will happen because otherwise we're not going to pass anything um and so I don't know where that will

1:18:57

fall in the order um but I hope that a more empowered police

1:19:03

commission could be part of that mechanism and I mean it is I'm not that's all I'll say thank you

1:19:12

yeah if the commission and police commission

1:19:20

is more empowered does that require age or change yes

1:19:25

um it doesn't just some parts of it yes some parts of it know so what's in the charter right now is the is the

1:19:32

disciplinary Authority so that the um that the chief has sole discretion

1:19:38

over disciplinary decisions so if you just but if you we just reorder who like

1:19:44

who views completely so right now the police commission can't be the ones to be part of like a formal process because

1:19:51

they're also the oh Ryan's escaping me the appeal board

1:19:56

for some of the campaigns so they can't both be the body that first of the

1:20:01

initial campaign and then be the appeal board so there's some things we can move with an ordinance and there's some things that we can't move with an

1:20:08

ordinance anything on discipline yes absolutely needs a charter change and that was one not to rehash all the

1:20:15

things but that was one of the proposals a couple years ago was rather than having something specific just striking

1:20:20

the language that says the chief has solid disciplinary Authority so I think that's going to be kind of the minimum

1:20:25

of the charter that we will look for um but yes thanks thanks but that's why they're

1:20:33

joint committee meetings so that both of the Committees are working ideally together so that we

1:20:42

don't come up with sort of piece we know issues so does it doesn't make sense as a June NPA that we focus on oversight

1:20:50

rather than all four I mean maybe I I don't know I look to you but maybe

1:20:57

I'm also looking to my neighbors to see would that make sense to you does that no does that meet your needs in terms of

1:21:04

at least a starting point for talking about Public Safety I don't know if maybe a hybrid just because I feel like

1:21:11

if we do it just around oversight folks don't know if they have opinions around oversight and so I think if we can do

1:21:18

maybe like a two-part meeting where it's like let's talk about Public Safety generally let's give some

1:21:24

information let's hear some questions let's maybe come with some ideas I mean then maybe have like a the second half

1:21:30

dedicated to just oversight um that might be that might meet more people's needs okay

1:21:37

thank you all right can we move forward

1:21:43

I'd be happy to um so you know graffiti is a serious issue but compared to uh uh police

1:21:50

reform and police oversight it is it is blessedly uh discreet in some ways so

1:21:57

Carol and some others uh asked me to do some uh asking

1:22:02

um about um housing on a systemic level typically deals without with the graffiti

1:22:10

um and then specifically whether or not there was an opportunity uh for this NPA

1:22:17

if it so chose um to lend a hand and engage as part of

1:22:23

our um our frnra efforts to you know be involved in the community so I uh spoke

1:22:31

to the mayor's office I spoke to city council president Karen Paul

1:22:36

um but uh most fruitfully everybody was helpful but most fruitfully I had a long

1:22:42

conversation and then exchange emails um with Bill Ward

1:22:48

um uh so let me give you a little uh overview of what he emailed me and some

1:22:54

of the other information uh that I had um so let me start with and and this made

1:23:01

many of you may already know this I did not but uh but it might be repetitive for some some folks so how does the city

1:23:10

deal with graffiti now um the way the city uh deals with graffiti now is is that uh Chapin

1:23:17

Spencer at DPW um they have a team that is responsible for graffiti removal and the way

1:23:26

graffiti uh information comes to them is in in two basic buckets one is through

1:23:32

sequence which we're all I think most of us are all familiar with I'm a big user of it

1:23:37

um and then the other one is you know observation by city by city folks um they also higher for the summer a

1:23:46

specific graffiti removal team and they are in the process of starting to do

1:23:52

that um Bill explained to me that that is mostly but not exclusively college

1:23:57

students we're looking for summer um work um so they go out in teams they go out

1:24:04

individually and again through the same mechanism of secret fix or

1:24:10

um City observation City employee observations um they have a different process for

1:24:18

dealing with graffiti on city-owned property like Memorial which they can just address uh in dealing with non-city

1:24:26

owned um property like the old YMCA in which

1:24:32

they have to go out and solicit permission from the property owner to clean up graffiti they'll explain to me

1:24:39

that sometimes that permission is given and sometimes uh it is not given in

1:24:45

terms of numbers last year there were 359 uh

1:24:52

uh reports of graffiti that's calendar year 2022

1:24:58

um but that compares to 658 reports of graffiti in calendar year uh 2021.

1:25:05

um Bill told me that his sense his anecdotal sense was is that the decline in the reporting of graffiti may very

1:25:13

well reflect people's frustrations and feelings of hopelessness they are reporting graffiti that they don't

1:25:19

perceive being cleaned up as opposed to less graffiti being out there he's not

1:25:25

think that there is less graffiti being out there you know it is it was a little

1:25:31

bit of news to me um but worth noting the sort of gravity and the challenge of this it is not as

1:25:38

though people smart hard-working people in our city uh city employees are not worried about this and working hard on

1:25:44

it it is a tricky problem and just to illustrate it Bill told me that between March 15th and April 15th of this year

1:25:52

here um City uh graffiti folks uh cleaned and

1:25:58

repainted uh what the main wall on the old Y which they do have permission to

1:26:03

do from the property owner 21 times um and each time within 24 hours or so

1:26:10

it was repeating over again so it's it's tough problem

1:26:15

um which isn't to say that there isn't some uh optimism and hope but it is a it

1:26:21

is it is not if this were an easy problem to fix they would have they would have fixed it so these folks are

1:26:27

persistent they have some idea I asked Bill I said it was doing do you have any if you go do it or please does anybody

1:26:33

have any senses to who's doing this um not really is the answer

1:26:38

um they have some um you know ring video uh photographs of

1:26:44

what looked like you know young men but beyond that they don't really have a

1:26:50

census to sort of who the core group is but they do believe that the core group

1:26:55

is pretty attuned to City efforts to clean up the graffiti um and uh pretty focused on Reba feeding

1:27:03

once the cleanup is happening so I asked Bill well you know the MBA

1:27:09

asked me whether or not there was potentially room for the MBA to get involved

1:27:15

um bill was super enthusiastic about this he did want me to convey to everyone that he was sensitive to not not being

1:27:25

perceived as asking the community to do things that the city you know is doing and should be doing and I I made it

1:27:31

clear to him that this was something that you folks had asked to ask me um and that it was coming from this NPA

1:27:39

he thinks that this would be a tremendous opportunity for an NPA

1:27:44

neighborhood group informal uh neighborhood group or an npa-led

1:27:49

neighborhood group to get involved in he thinks that um you know a ward or even a smaller

1:27:56

area within award would be a great place to sort of try out a community uh

1:28:02

involved process um he told me that last year a community

1:28:07

group from Montpelier who was focused on trash and trash removal specifically uh

1:28:13

cigarette butts um came and worked with our city in order to get best practices

1:28:21

um and have done a really active incredible job in Montpelier sort of a similar idea he thinks that

1:28:30

um you know that his his uh uh Team would would love to work if

1:28:37

he would love to work with an npa-led cleanup group he had a couple

1:28:43

suggestions he said you know really immediate cleanup immediate cleanup of

1:28:49

the graffiti seems to have the best effect um he said even when the reaper feeding happens it tends to be smaller and less

1:28:57

damaging he suggested that whatever we do if we were to take this on we if the

1:29:03

NPA I'd be very enthusiastic and enjoying this I'll say if we were to take this on

1:29:09

um he recommended that we'd be thoughtful in the way we advertise it thoughtful in the way we

1:29:15

solicit um uh um participation because he did think

1:29:22

that this group of people who were really into graffiti would respond and we would

1:29:27

want to kind of minimize the way they responded um but um he's enthusiastic about doing it and

1:29:34

he would be if an invitation was extended to him would love to come to an MTA meeting and talk about next steps in

1:29:41

terms of supplies plans mapping best practices teaching folks how to do it

1:29:48

and and coming up with some concrete ideas um so that was the graffiti report so very

1:29:57

optimistic from from Bill incredible response um and I think something the NPA wanted

1:30:03

to take on I think my sense is that we would have an enthusiastic partner

1:30:08

um with the city um and you know why why wouldn't we why

1:30:14

wouldn't we try it perhaps um one thing I've been thinking of I

1:30:19

haven't talked about this with Zariah or really anyone on the city council yet is examining

1:30:24

um um our city ordinances under chapter 21. um I took a look at them and was sort of

1:30:31

noodling with a little red line they haven't been updated in a long time um I think there might be some room

1:30:37

um to revise um chapter 21 uh in terms of the citations for I have a little red line

1:30:44

here um right now we have a we have a single

1:30:49

um a fence single fine um for graffiti it's a one-time fine

1:30:56

um doesn't look like it's been changed in a long time you compare that to other sort of comparable type

1:31:02

um um civil uh violations like sorry but like public defecation where you

1:31:09

actually have a graduated offense you do you get caught the first time and it's a forty dollar fine you can talk the

1:31:15

second time it's an 80 fine you get caught time there's possibility to get referred for criminal prosecution there

1:31:22

are built into the ordinance there are multiple Escape patches for people who engage in

1:31:28

community Justice and those sorts of things I think it's worth at least thinking about looking at our ordinances

1:31:35

and uh and and perhaps updating them and changing them and stiffening them a little bit

1:31:41

um and sending a signal that we take graffiti seriously um so that's my update

1:31:48

all right you think um nothing to add we haven't talked

1:31:55

about the the ordinance change thank you for doing all that research I didn't know a lot of it

1:32:01

um I would say on ordinance change I wouldn't want to just because I assume a lot of people who are tagging or tagging

1:32:07

out of protest and they're probably not wealthy um I wouldn't want to increase fines um

1:32:13

but I think you know like having them do community service to clean up graffiti or something like that

1:32:19

probably be a better response Bill did tell me that practically speaking no one's being no one's being excited at

1:32:26

all right we're starting to run out of time but Jonathan just really quick

1:32:32

um I guess I was concerned with that side I was alertness inside of some liability on the part of the owners of

1:32:39

private property because they're they're they're not being responsible for

1:32:45

they're not being good stewards to the city you think about Simon's gas station or the why

1:32:51

um is there absolutely anything that any ordinance that could be created that actually creates some kind of liability

1:32:57

some kind of a fine or something that could escalate because those are people who have money thanks Jonathan I asked

1:33:03

uh I asked uh bill that exact question um there is no ordinance on the books right now

1:33:10

um that that allows for a property owner to be cited um for not for failing to clean up

1:33:18

um their graffiti um I personally think that given the fact that the city is you know is is not

1:33:26

able to keep its own buildings free of graffiti I think that that might be poorly received

1:33:32

um by Property Owners um at this point you know my my instinct

1:33:38

is that we might we might want to make sure that we are on top of our own buildings and our own properties before

1:33:43

we start putting the Otis on on property owners but it's definitely something we could

1:33:49

you can think about it it's hard hard to find a property owner for not keeping their building free of graffiti when all

1:33:56

of the state buildings Carol yeah [Music] um

1:34:02

yes please I'm gonna take a little different tack here

1:34:08

um in Venice and we saw evidence of this graffiti artists were engaged by the city as

1:34:16

artists to become mural makers so I feel like what's brewing here is a

1:34:22

war and that we are creating an enemy I I have no interest in organizing

1:34:30

ourselves to paint over graffiti and spend our time that way I think it's really important that we find out who

1:34:35

these people are and we figure out how to engage them in mural making as a

1:34:41

possibility other community service they're frustrated artists

1:34:46

they need to be able to have a way to express themselves um

1:34:52

that feels really clear they're not the enemy they're part of our city

1:34:59

and I'm not sure how we figure out who they are they're obviously very clever and

1:35:06

they know how to do this without people watching um but I'm wondering if Bill Ward has

1:35:13

and and who was built what department is Bill Ward part of

1:35:18

um code enforcement code enforcement okay so I'm wondering if any of this has

1:35:25

been talked about at all as a possibility um I'm I'm really concerned that we're

1:35:32

creating war with them so that the city does um does engage with folks who are

1:35:37

looking to turn either private or public spaces into murals so one thing that

1:35:44

bill told me sorry I forgot to mention it is is that the uh the wall that is on

1:35:51

uh adjacent to the gas station uh yes yes Riverside

1:35:57

um and North Prospect Street is long been a bus for uh graffiti awful graffiti

1:36:02

um and a City High School group um reached out to the city just recently

1:36:08

and asked for permission with the landowner to do a mural there

1:36:14

um I don't know if it was Bill exactly but somebody with this within the city sort of negotiated that and his

1:36:21

understanding is that that that's going to start within the next couple weeks that the space School group is going to

1:36:27

um build that space with some some positive artwork so there's definitely a precedent for that I I would agree that

1:36:34

that should be part of it yeah and I think too that um I want to mention that on the hula building that's right

1:36:42

um facing the bike path um there was graffiti there it's not

1:36:48

there now and what looks to me like what could have happened is that graffiti artists were engaged to do a kind of

1:36:55

graffiti-like mural if you want to call it that but it's it really is a mural and

1:37:01

I think it would be worth talking to people at hula to find out if that indeed is the

1:37:08

case also what I've noticed is Juniper creative which is a brilliant group of mural artists who's just

1:37:15

completed something at the Y an interior mural there's one on Champlain at school and there's another one on um Pine

1:37:22

Street in those old decrepit brick buildings near the farmers market and there's graffiti along the side of that

1:37:29

there's no graffiti on those murals so it's very interesting to me that

1:37:35

there's also that kind of respect for art on the part of whoever's doing the

1:37:41

graffiti um I think there's a lot that we can learn and that we that we really need to

1:37:47

learn before we go to war or it feels like we've already started I mean you know we're really being told something

1:37:53

if they're completely you know what you decided about how many times the graffiti goes over the

1:38:00

painting you know so we paint it and then they you know I mean that's the I

1:38:05

mean it has to say something to us about self-expression so I'm breathing

1:38:11

um thanks I don't need to say anything because this was

1:38:16

having worked with kids for 30 years I in this city and we had these problems

1:38:23

at Hunt Middle School and we put up huge big boards and gave the kids the paints

1:38:30

and they started painting and then we hung them in the halls of the school for

1:38:35

a couple of months and the graffiti stopped because I just think that they

1:38:41

do want they don't have the money to buy the paints all the time right they spray

1:38:47

paint just a little bit but if you gave them enough spray paint to really do a

1:38:54

beautiful project they might do it and I mean I've seen this stuff in Argentina

1:39:00

was it that she was in Venezuela big huge walls of these things I just feel

1:39:06

like we can use a more creative way and get the kids involved because I'm sure

1:39:11

as high up at that stuff is it certainly is no adult that's doing it so it's so

1:39:19

cute who's who's very agile in athletic so yeah sorry

1:39:28

[Music] give an update on

1:39:35

missing homelessness we don't have time so I'm just going to give the briefest of updates but you've heard me say it we have many more folks experiencing

1:39:42

homelessness than we did in 2019 um with the motel program endings we also have folks who are camping all over

1:39:48

the place we've got quality of life issues that are happening with that it's just a problem and it needs to be

1:39:54

addressed I think is the conclusion it's not safe City staff are exhausted by needing to remove campsites and not

1:40:02

giving people any alternatives folks are exhausted by being told to move but not having anywhere to go

1:40:08

um neighbors are exhausted by feeling like they are living with us without having any alternatives

1:40:15

um so cdnr had a few conversations around this with City staff with community

1:40:21

outreach workers and with the chicken County homeless Alliance based on that we feel like some

1:40:27

type of sanction camping may be the best solution but we can aggregate the services we need to do more research on

1:40:34

it there's a resolution on the city council agenda on Monday that I wrote the cdnr sponsored I think it's going to

1:40:41

be more contentious than I thought Tim hasn't seen it yet most of us Democratic colleagues have but I'll send it to you um I think it's going to be more

1:40:47

contingent than I thought so folks could just come out this is basically just asking cdnr to do research in

1:40:54

anticipation that this is happening around how we need to update our our um

1:41:00

our policies um and what we can do in terms of providing amenities in the short term so

1:41:08

so it's my very very quick update thank you very much

1:41:13

I just I just have one more thing to say I just really want to thank Tim and

1:41:19

Zariah for um the work that you do that's obviously very complex it's huge and you have an

1:41:28

entire other different lives so I just want to say thank you publicly

1:41:33

yes

1:41:41

thank you very much we're going to move forward and uh Carter I appreciate your

1:41:47

patience here um because we're running pretty late but uh maybe some of the discussion about

1:41:56

um graffiti will yeah I think our uh the decision-making

1:42:03

uh more concerned yeah so here let's see

1:42:10

okay

1:42:16

um all right so a quick recap for folks who weren't your last meeting um or haven't seen the email or like uh

1:42:24

yes yeah um we had a conversation about what our different Community projects we all work

1:42:29

on together as an NPA and so what are folks seeing in the community what are

1:42:35

things that could bring folks together what are um issues we might want to solve we sort of

1:42:42

got like a big brainstorm idea um session and then we narrowed those

1:42:48

into things that those doable in the short term meaning between sort of June

1:42:53

and August something manageable is the first project um and then things that were

1:42:59

really good ideas but maybe we're um not immediately within our capacity

1:43:05

like maybe there takes a lot of um research or they're like the timeline

1:43:10

for them would be really big and so the thinking was let's start with something small get some experience as an MBA

1:43:18

working on something together under our belt um and then reassess and sort of talk

1:43:23

about it once we come back because I think we said June July and August we're

1:43:28

not going to have MK meetings um so we will in September if that's if you say that right yeah

1:43:36

um so that's just quick recap of like how we got here there is so there's a bunch of ideas and

1:43:42

there were a lot of specifics and so our thinking as an MPA steering committee was you know we saw or as a as an

1:43:49

example I always go to flower gardens but there was lots of ideas other than flower gardens um you know flower garden on this street or

1:43:56

flower garden on the street um so instead of trying to have like a debate not a debate but like instead of

1:44:02

trying to like narrow specifically today like okay we wanted to apply our garden once you figure out the details of where

1:44:09

or what our priorities once we decide that so we sort of narrowed everyone's suggestions into three categories which

1:44:16

I taped up um on the wall there and

1:44:21

uh quick plug for our email list for those of you who aren't on our email list we sent out

1:44:28

um sort of a wrap up of what I just said um so you should sign up if you signed

1:44:33

in you can get on it um but so there's three like main

1:44:39

categories that sort of came up um explicit explicit community building projects that was an article because

1:44:47

um I narrowed them this morning admittedly because it's been a busy work week um but basically what what that entails

1:44:55

or what we're talking about in that category is you know there's ideas for block parties on Chase Street there was

1:45:00

ideas for um bike blasts where we come together um and ride bikes or I think that's what

1:45:07

350 calls them but bike rides Community bike rides um there were ideas around

1:45:14

um you know like sand providing which lasagna and looking forward to like all week because I got a sneak peek

1:45:23

um so providing more dinner maybe building out like we have a kitchen in the other building here that we could always use

1:45:29

um and start to build on community dinner um and that could be during the mpa that

1:45:34

could be outside in the end of the day um because there's more space and more facilities in the main building as we

1:45:40

come into this parking lot um so anyway so those are some of the things that like I sort of put under

1:45:46

that category where we're coming together it's not necessarily like installing something but it's an

1:45:53

opportunity for community building a relationship building in that way

1:45:59

um there was a couple admittedly there was that was a pretty big one the other pretty big one was sort of

1:46:04

beautification so a lot of what I thought about with this category is sort of you know there's a

1:46:11

lot of conversations around Community Gardens well that's a little yeah Community Gardens

1:46:17

um flower pots or uh flower beds rather along like side streets and beautifying

1:46:23

those thinking about you know are there sort of like Open Spaces where

1:46:30

um we want to put in a bench or are there bus stops that don't have those

1:46:35

covered bus uh things um or other you know bus shelters that

1:46:42

you know maybe we can put some stuff around to just make them a little more inviting and welcoming and look nice

1:46:47

um in word one um and yeah and then there was a couple uh

1:46:55

getting like advocacy the decision makers and what that's not maybe quite the right description

1:47:01

um there was one suggestion that was uh it's basically like there's a couple

1:47:06

suggestions around the mpa as a body all of us engaging more with the city

1:47:11

directly whether it's the city council um there's one suggestion about like protesting the UVM president's house

1:47:17

which is a suggestion after my heart it wasn't mine but um

1:47:22

like things like that where it doesn't necessarily need to be like you know the Alternatives as a beautiful

1:47:29

thing about democracy and Community um but but just trying to set up a structure where

1:47:35

uh like what we were just doing on Public Safety like we as an MPA can be helpful to facilitating Community

1:47:41

feedback in the city um so there's a variety of ways that that could work but I think there's a

1:47:46

couple in there that um that were sort of in that vein um so

1:47:52

what we're going to do tonight is really like try to pick one of those categories and then think about what are some next

1:48:00

steps and like well sort of coming out of this meeting was the next step to getting that project off the ground

1:48:06

um and who has real interest in working on what that's sort of the goals

1:48:12

um but before I get into it anymore they're like questions I know I've got my back turn into basketball but are there questions

1:48:18

about like anything that's happened to this point or what those categories mean

1:48:25

when we talk about them if not that's okay I just want to make

1:48:32

sure it seems pretty straightforward on the side um okay so

1:48:39

um Carter oh yeah sure yeah Sharon Hi um so remind me once we decide there is

1:48:49

a process where we're going to apply for money um in order to fund whatever I mean a

1:48:56

lot of it is our Blood Sweat and Tears um but there is some money sometimes

1:49:03

involved in some of these projects and so are we going to uh formulate a grant

1:49:10

and then ask uh for money from cedo or it just remind me about that component

1:49:17

please yeah no that's a great question Sharon I think we were going to decide on a

1:49:23

project but I I do think that's whatever project we do we should be thinking about like how much money

1:49:29

um or if money yeah like what it's going to cost and what resources we need I think we first want to pick a category because

1:49:36

then we can sort of narrow in okay we know we want to do beautification then we can have a conversation about like

1:49:44

um narrowing that to something more specific and then once we get to that specific project and have some like

1:49:51

two months idea of how we're going about it um

1:49:56

you know so there's a couple things one there's I know Tim we've talked about anything about

1:50:01

um there's some discretionary funds at the council level um that we could work with our city

1:50:06

councilors um around accessing the mpa always has money we don't spend

1:50:12

um and it seems like that's a that's something that happens at multiple mpas and then what I do for work is like

1:50:18

fundraising professionally so if it means like we got to call up a couple businesses

1:50:23

like Garden Supply and say hey like we'll throw your label on this event looks great for your business and like

1:50:30

could you you know donate whatever we need for like the gardening project um I'm happy to like help do that and

1:50:36

then like you said too there's a bunch of like um you know like the New England Grassroots fund comes to mind where

1:50:42

there's a lot of microgrants of and the Vermont Community Foundation there's a lot of micro grants stuff like anywhere

1:50:48

from 500 to 5000 that you can apply to for like community-based projects and

1:50:53

there's a lot of so I'm willing to do some of that investigation um

1:50:58

and try to come up with some options if if we need funds

1:51:03

what are the the um the ideas that are in these buckets are these these are all the short-term ideas that the long-term

1:51:11

ideas are still they're out there but we're not making any decisions about long-term ideas is that correct so these

1:51:17

are really sort of low cost no cost uh types of proposals right

1:51:23

yeah for the most part I think so it's going to take a lot of time and like organizing ourselves a bit

1:51:28

um but I think they're relatively robust in yeah sure

1:51:37

so I might have missed this but I remember that the conversation arose a

1:51:43

meeting a couple of times before this last meeting we had where there was a request to maybe make

1:51:50

a path from Riverside up that bank up over here

1:51:55

and I that was for me the spirit of this project was to be helpful was to create

1:52:04

um I don't know yes there's going to be Community spirit

1:52:11

that comes from that but it's also going to be helpful for sure so is there a bucket that that

1:52:18

help bucket yeah yeah no I think

1:52:23

um well two things yeah I totally agree that is definitely the spirit of of these

1:52:29

um and we at the last meeting we talked about a bunch of different path ideas specifically and agreed that they were

1:52:37

more they were longer term because there was going to take coordination with like but you know we can't just walk up and

1:52:42

go we're laying gravel sort of thing and like figuring out just some research

1:52:48

like what city Department do we have to talk to um

1:52:53

what are the costs going to be where do we need professionals and where can we supplement with volunteers that kind of

1:52:59

stuff yeah we were talking more longer than um

1:53:07

but still I'd like I'd still would love to

1:53:12

have a help bucket a bucket that we felt like we were doing a project that was really helping

1:53:18

our community our neighbors are like uh I don't know the word like Direction

1:53:24

Community um like would you call it Mutual Aid yes

1:53:34

all right community service you know service of some sort yeah

1:53:41

for that would folks um how do we feel about adding a bucket

1:53:47

reflective would there be anybody opposed to that

1:53:53

um are there short-term and did the group previously identify

1:54:00

short-term community service things that we could do in the next few months because this isn't isn't that what we're focusing on is things that are doable

1:54:06

this summer yeah I guess it's tough

1:54:12

um we're just Gathering my thoughts I guess

1:54:18

it's tough because I think there's pieces of that in each of these buckets right like in the sense that

1:54:26

um building community and meeting people um there weren't too many suggestions at

1:54:32

the last meeting around like you know volunteering at a community center

1:54:40

um so yeah I think lots of activities yeah maybe that I can

1:54:48

I can see that the help bucket might be long term the Greek the graffiti piece

1:54:54

could go into the help bucket also yeah it's kind of sounding like bucket

1:55:00

too advocacy to decision makers could be maybe more of a hybrid or expanded

1:55:05

bucket to be a community service actionable Community Service uh Mutual Aid type of

1:55:13

a thing um whereas like the explicit community building projects are a little more

1:55:18

based towards like hanging out getting to know each other more yeah but the the

1:55:24

community building or the um project building thing might go into that second bucket maybe more of a hybrid than and I

1:55:31

think like something like graffiti removal more beautification yeah and like the scale of that is then uh

1:55:40

whether yeah the scale of that is like what we could do in two months versus a year or something but

1:55:46

and yeah yeah I wasn't I here for the last meeting but it strikes me that for example

1:55:52

um any beautification project could be explicitly community building and then maybe any advocacy could also be

1:55:59

explicitly I don't know if the other three could overlap as well but it does seem like there could be a good deal of

1:56:04

overlap yeah seeing the bucket on the wall um they're all intended to build

1:56:10

community let's be clear hopefully the point is that we get to know each other a little bit better and

1:56:15

like do something nice in the ward um so that's why I looked at it trying to speaking I was like well

1:56:20

that's a weird way to put it um I just wanted to I don't know if this is like a helpful language offering but

1:56:25

I feel like what I was hearing from you is like it's help but I feel like what I was hearing is it's almost improving like the experience of being in the

1:56:32

neighborhood it's it's more of a usability thing it's more about how do you make it easier to be a pedestrian or a biker or just a person living in this

1:56:39

community so I don't know like improving neighborhood experience and there's and there's no well there's

1:56:46

no rules there's no rules that we want to add another bucket like let's just do that as long as the group feels like

1:56:52

that's something there that's right I agree with them I don't

1:56:58

know your name but I liked the idea because I think the livability advocacy is trying to address the same issues

1:57:04

through two different so I think that's what the word you were saying maybe was like livability so I like having that in

1:57:09

one bucket two Pathways to the same goal yeah usually that's right

1:57:15

how do you folks can I get a quick show of hands and then we'll go to voting or more questions do

1:57:22

we want to add a fourth bucket raise your hand and the second option would be

1:57:27

advocacy decision makers sort of encompasses that event as is what Joel

1:57:33

said you want to do a quick straw poll yeah sure I'm a little confused what is

1:57:40

sure document fourth bucket

1:57:45

improving livability livability

1:57:52

so take out the advocacy piece well sometimes yeah

1:57:59

yeah yeah yeah communication really is with a bill

1:58:07

yeah so I'll do a quick I'll do a quick recap I actually brought my laptop

1:58:14

so so just to recap some examples real quick so so like commute first bucket

1:58:21

right community building is what I'm calling it uh dinners uh block parties things like

1:58:29

that um

1:58:35

Wisconsin yeah exactly breaking breaking down the New England silence

1:58:42

um beautification is more flower pots graffiti removal

1:58:48

um you know putting benches and things of that vein signage signage the advocacy

1:58:55

the decision makers is super Broad and it's more about how do we get our voices

1:59:01

to how do we ensure that our voices are reflected and sitting

1:59:06

is that what I was saying um and so the question is like does that

1:59:13

do we add a fourth bucket that would be called

1:59:18

what's the end goal for tonight Carter are we trying to get to to one bucket

1:59:23

and then in another meeting we'll come up with specific projects for this get to one bucket and then pick a couple

1:59:31

folks who may be interested in getting together um between now and next NPA and think

1:59:38

about what are some like proposed next steps um to get that project rolling to come

1:59:44

back to the wider group so for one project or several projects we don't know yeah we came out of this

1:59:50

conversation with a group of five really committed to putting in flower bed and a group of five really committed to

1:59:57

putting on a community dinner I think that's a great outcome but I would suggest one just to like

2:00:02

you know absolutely yeah um and apologies and proceed as you were

2:00:08

planning if you like but I know it's getting late and I'm wondering if a simpler way to go might be to to say who's got some real serious energy about

2:00:15

a particular project and see if there's enough people to get to get together to

2:00:20

start working on it since we're not talking about money we're talking energy here mostly for sure um that might be simpler than the the

2:00:27

buckets and then the sub the projects within the buckets which would have to wait till another day just an idea

2:00:34

so absolutely I agree so I think the next step is everybody grabbing a sticky pad putting their name on one of these and

2:00:42

throwing it into the bucket that they would have interest in like putting however much time

2:00:48

um you know we don't expect people to sign up for like 10 hours a week or something but like this is something that I have

2:00:55

interest in like actively working on and how are we going to get from there to specific projects

2:01:02

um when we're not picking specific projects we're not so that's going to be in the fall no no no no

2:01:09

we picked generally what we're working on and then a group of folks who are

2:01:15

interested in working on that would come back next meeting meet before next meeting or resume for 30 minutes and uh

2:01:21

all of the buckets are being made

2:01:31

people interested in a particular bucket with me come to some consensus on what

2:01:36

they wanted to do and then come back and report that year and in June and and then

2:01:43

others would have the opportunity to partake in whatever they decided

2:01:51

not quite no no we're just I so so so good can we

2:01:58

just raise our hands sure so are we going to start playing yeah yeah so let's let's just decide

2:02:05

real quick is livability going to be a bucket raise your hand sure yeah okay good good good good

2:02:18

no no that works so I like raising hands so if you would have interests in

2:02:28

um working on explicit community building projects meaning like Community dinners

2:02:33

um Chase block party things like that raise your hand one two three four five six keep your

2:02:41

hands up do you go in one school two ones three four five okay

2:02:47

if you would have interest in um

2:02:54

foreign

2:03:17

good question um it's almost like we need a professional facilitators

2:03:24

um so as we see the decision makers that bucket was talking about making sure that the media's award are reflective

2:03:31

for the government and and are communicating on various things

2:03:37

um raise your hand if you had an interest in that as a project one two

2:03:43

I'm starting this way going once going twice okay

2:03:49

um um

2:03:54

beautification so this was like flower beds that sort of vein of a bucket what do

2:04:01

you have interest in doing that and I'll go this way one two three

2:04:06

four five six that's a popular one I think I said 12

2:04:12

there all right and then our fourth bucket livability so more like Mutual Aid

2:04:21

um esque projects like trying to do some direct direct service with folks we have

2:04:27

an example of something that's doable this time um

2:04:38

bringing food to the Pod housing more mutually

2:04:46

um you can raise your hands sorry one two three four five six seven eight nine

2:04:54

thirteen I need to be a bucket good good thank you

2:05:01

[Music] um I got a question yeah is one of your

2:05:06

next steps to sort of capture the names of people that want to be NHD instructors yes that's a great that

2:05:12

would be an experience [Music] it seems like so one more vote it seems

2:05:21

like beautification and mutual Aid at the two biggest

2:05:28

um are folks okay with narrowing taking the first these other two buckets advocacy and Community dinners not

2:05:34

saying that they're bad ideas but we put them to the side and I have that all the notes written down in a doc so we know those ideas

2:05:41

were captured um but for the immediate terms of those Society does that feel good to folks

2:05:48

okay I'm seeing relative consensus um

2:05:54

okay sweet so now we'll get to the names

2:05:59

um I should have brought a sign up for you if you yeah if you uh we might have to just

2:06:07

move your two chairs sorry to kick out um you have interest in working on

2:06:14

Mutual Aid I'm going to go cross out one of those emergency buckets and switch them in I'll have you put your name just

2:06:20

before you walk out at any time write it in pencil and if you have interest with your email and phone number or just your

2:06:27

name and phone number Mr comment if people signed in with their name and email

2:06:33

address then we always really need is your name here that's a good report you got the other information that's a great

2:06:40

question are you talking about interest or leadership

2:06:46

participation you don't have to commit to any amount of work or anything but you'd have interest in meeting between

2:06:52

now and the next MPA to talk about what that would look like

2:07:02

feeling good about that is there any questions

2:07:09

yeah yes a suggestion I mean could it be that that any project could be

2:07:17

increasing livability and mutual Aid bring some beauty and has a community

2:07:23

building element could that be kind of the cons the criteria that it seems like for

2:07:29

sure yeah yeah and I think all suggested yeah everything we had to talk about

2:07:35

last meeting during the brainstorm fits some of those criteria for sure

2:07:41

is that clear to folks not really but exciting so so these so

2:07:47

these two buckets yeah we're running out of time but these two buckets that we voted on so the the

2:07:52

beautification right like some type of beautification project or some type of mutual Aid project well I understand

2:08:01

if I put my name on there what you're gonna expect of me so I'm going to give you a call and I'm going to say hey

2:08:09

I would love to have you show up to this meeting we're planning to talk about with whoever's else's name is on there

2:08:15

to talk about like what's the next step in getting this going okay so and you could ignore my call you

2:08:21

could say Carter stop calling me like what are you doing like I don't want to hear about buckets anymore

2:08:28

but but I will call and I'll leave a voicemail in my contacts okay

2:08:33

um is that good everybody yeah so we should we need to do this right now yeah we got

2:08:38

this right now let me get there first until I can change one name and you get pencils I got a pencil right here okay

2:09:14

right there

2:09:59

secretary

2:10:36

thank you

2:10:43

foreign

2:11:12

it's a big deal yeah

2:12:30

mine too

2:12:44

I need your attention just for one second just to tell you that the

2:12:49

May meeting uh the board one NPA is officially over

2:12:55

stop recording and we'

Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)
MINUTES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 7:00 - 9:00 PM

In-person at the Friends Meeting House, 173 North Prospect Street

You Tube Video of Meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBRmEMqiGSE>

Facilitators: Tom Derenthal / Carter Neubieser

Minutes: Jonathan Chapple-Sokol

Video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGrhk0pB_fY

6:30 Welcome and Food: Samantha Ayotte's chili and cornbread provided

7:00 - Formal start - Introductions: name, street

Announcements: share events, meetings, activities of interest to Ward 1 community.

Jean Hopkins
Erhard Mahnke
Serrill Flash
Dave Cawley
Sam Ayotte
Cindy Cook
Nancy Kirby
Carter Neubieser
Tom Derenthal
Carol Livingston
Jonathan Chapple-Sokol
Angie Chapple-Sokol
Gary Golden
Sarah Hernandez Timm
Joel Kolata
Jesse Warren
Tevin Goldberg
Lydia _ UVM SGA
Amy Malinowski
Emily Pickler
Fletcher Pratt
Sophie Quest
Katherine Verman
Sandy Wynne
Kathy Olwell
Charlie Giannoni
Sam Heinrichs
Mark Hughes
Sharyl Greene
Paul Lackowski
Sharon Bushor

Announcements:

Serrill: Free Film Sunday 3:30 Main Street Landing – VT Filmmaker, based on experiences of a Brattleboro rabbi's visit to Palestine.

Carol: reminder about: Conflict Assistant Program at Burlington Community Justice Center; neighbor/neighbor friction – can work things through via CAP. Supportive, confidential space
Link: <https://www.burlingtoncjc.org/conflict-assistance-program>

Dave: TEUC 5/3 Riverside Colchester Barrett intersection. Starting to get project underway in conjunction with Bridge replacement. Take up matter again on 5/23

Joel Chase Street Block Party 5/21 Community Dinner 3-7PM. chasestreetfriends@gmail.com

Tevin, Jesse: .Contois 5/31 6PM Information Session on Citizens Assemblies. Democracy Creative

Erhard: Remembered Dean Corren

Katherine: Shoutout to Green Mountain Solar, also someone in the neighborhood, 'Paul' going around doing handy work, stole and cashed checks.

Jonathan: Volunteer opportunities with Friends of the Fletcher Free Library

7:10 - Speakout - this is an opportunity to raise concerns and appreciations about Ward 1

Tom: Thanks to Sam for making dinner; Thanks to Dave for organizing OEE Green Up; Thanks to City of Burlington for great job cleaning the streets. Thanks to Angie for treats

Katherine: Shoutout to Green Mountain Solar, also someone in the neighborhood, 'Paul' going around doing handy work, stole and cashed checks. Late 30s, tall, thin, white, cleanshaven

Carter: Services for Dean? See Seven Days. 5/10; Service in the Fall TBA

School Commission update - Gary Golden and Aquilas Lokossou

Gary: See FPF, Links –to Supt's letter, website. New BHS principal Deb Beaupre excited to take on Macy's; new Asst Principal, Director of Guidance
ggolden@bsdvt.org

2 Monsanto lawsuits have slowed down some progress
Admin, former teachers (long term exposure)
Ground is broken, but mitigation ongoing
Christmas break 2025-6
Work so far withn Budget/Contingency

Parking? Not a new issue but it is off-limits
Blueprints for School? On District Website

City Council updates - Zoraya Hightower and Tim Doherty

Tim: Meeting with Department heads, PD, FD, ; met with Riverwatch HOA. Budget Planning
Carol – how is CC getting input from NPAs, community on oversight

Some confusion on how CC is taking input? Joint meeting OC/CCC 5/23 5:30 FFL, 5/30
6:30.

Zoraya: Willing to facilitate a community meeting on Public Safety Oversight, Houselessness,
Drug Use, Vandalism.

Both T&Z think a meeting(s) dedicated to public safety would be valuable. City is at decision
points – advice from community more valuable than brainstorming. Consider 2 part – city tells
where things stand; then community provides input.

Suggestion: Meet people where they live. Door to door survey?

Transparency? It will be part of the conversation.

At minimum, Charter Change – eliminate chief as sole disciplinary authority.

Graffiti

Chapin, Bill Ward, See Click Fix, City can clean up city locations, private property city
must solicit permission. Between 3/15 and 4/15, city cleaned old YMCA 21 times!!

Bill Ward says crews will work on it this summer. NPA could help. Bill could come to
NPA to train. Typically one-time fine, not graduated.

Sharyl: Consider Venezuela.

Further speculation on causes, actors, and remedies for graffiti.

Ongoing discussion on camping on city property and the crisis

8:00 – Continued discussion about potential neighborhood projects and possible sources of
funding

Signups for Mutual Aid, “Beautification”; Carter will follow up
Adjourn

Ward 1 NPA Steering Committee

Tom Derenthal tomd.npa@gmail.com,

Carol Livingston carol.livingston1951@gmail.com,

Jonathan Chapple-Sokol chapplesokol.npasc@gmail.com,

JF Carter Neubieser carterneubieser@gmail.com