



Ward 5 NPA
DPW Conference Room, 645 Pine Street
April 20, 2016 7:00 – 9:00 pm

- [7:00 - 7:10](#): Steering Committee Elections
[7:10 - 7:30](#): Memorial Aud., 242 Main Discussion, James Lockridge, Big Heavy World
[7:30 - 7:50](#): School Board Update, Commissioners Jeff Wick, Susanmarie Harrington
[7:45 - 8:05](#): City Council Update, Councilors Joan Shannon, Chip Mason
[8:05 - 8:25](#): Parks & Rec Update, Director Jesse Bridges
[8:25 - 8:45](#): Pathways VT Presentation, Abby Levinsohn, Outreach Coordinator
[8:45 - 9:00](#): Legislature Update, Representative Mary Sullivan

The Steering Committee Members for Ward 5 are:

- Hans Manske, handsvt@burlingtontelecom.net
- Bill Keogh, Alder Lane, bkeogh@burlingtontelecom.net
- Alec Bauer, awbauer@gmail.com
- Nate Orshan, natosongs@gmail.com
- Elisa Nelson, nelsmith@burlingtontelecom.net

The Ward 5 NPA meets on the third Thursday, 7-9pm of each month at DPW/Parks and Rec at Lakeside and Pine Street. For more information about Ward 5 NPA visit <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CEDO/Neighborhood-Services/NPAs/Ward-5-NPA>



Neighborhood Planning Assembly Minutes – Full Notes

Date of Assembly: 4/20/2017

Start Time: (Commence): 7:00 PM

Finish Time: (Adjourn): 8:50 PM

Location: DPW Building, Pine St.

Notetaker: Nate Orshan

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

Alec Bauer
Bill Keogh
Elisa Nelson
Nate Orshan

(1) Steering Committee Elections

Summary:

Steering committee member Hans Manske stepped down, and current members Alec Bauer, Bill Keogh, Elisa Nelson, and Nate Orshan were re-elected. Three additional candidates were elected: Mike Fife, Joanna Grossman, and Ben Traverse.

**(2) Presentation: Memorial Auditorium and 242 Main Discussion
- James Lockridge, Big Heavy World**

Summary:

Presentation of petition (<http://tinyurl.com/save242main>) to ask that the teen club 242 Main, shuttered in December 2016, be part of any future request for proposal for rebuilding Memorial Auditorium. Asked the Ward 5 NPA steering committee to make a formal statement in support.

Shared URL for petition: <http://tinyurl.com/save242main>. There are currently 800 signatures on the petition.

Big Heavy World (BHW) archives Vermont music and supports local musicians.

242 Main: Created under Bernie Sander's Youth Office in the '80s and operated by the people who attended it. This club programmed music for 30 years. It was a safe space for many kids, very supportive to many of whom might be considered marginalized.

242 Main had 30 years of history being made at the hands of the kids. Historically, the music was punk, so it's the country's longest-running punk club. Burlington kids got to call it their own.

Due to deferred maintenance, Memorial Auditorium (MA) isn't safe, but it is repairable.

The city says it would take \$4-5 to \$15 million to rebuild MA. City leadership provided a request for proposal (RFP) process, then stopped to have a discussion with UVM, instead of soliciting the opinion of the public. Now the city says it's returning to a public RFP. That's a good thing.

BHW started a petition that asks that 242 Main be embedded in any future RFP for MA. "We want Burlington to be different from other towns. 242's a cultural institution."

Would the board members make a formal statement of support for 242 to be considered central to MA's future? We could make the new 242 even MORE inclusive. To NPA: Please put your hand in the air to say, "Please save 242 Main."

Moderator Alec Bauer: The steering committee will consider this request at its next meeting.

(3) School Board Update
- Commissioners Susanmarie Harrington and Jeff Wick

Summary:

Introduced new board member Jeff Wick. Stated that there was a recent, productive mediation session recently with the union representatives and that the next scheduled mediator session, if it's needed, will be 5/31. Addressed some concerns about the appearance of the contract negotiations being at a would-be "impasse".

Susanmarie: We can't comment on negotiations, but we had a productive mediation session a few weeks ago. Meeting again with a mediator on 5/31. If we don't get an agreement by then, the mediator would do additional fact-finding.

Other news: Special board meeting last Tuesday for a bid for work at Champlain School. The 2nd floor will be less of a rabbit-warren and have more windows; also more renovations in the library.

Q: In budget we approved, teacher's salaries were budgeted a certain amount...

Susanmarie: Generally speaking, budgets are tied to specific dates, i.e., Town Meeting Day.

Q: This timeline freaks me out; middle-August seems late. I'd rather it was wrapped up by end of the school year.

Jeff: Absolutely.

Ward 5 Councilor Chip Mason: I remained concerned with pickup/drop-off situation with introduction of the new City Market on Flynn Ave.

(Newly elected) Ward 5 NPA steering committee member Joanna Grossman: There was talk of having a roundabout for pickup/drop-off.

Director of Parks and Recreation Jesse Bridges: I've met with the school district to encourage them to think about outside spaces. The issue is lot coverage...

Q: How did we get to impasse so quickly?!? It's like none of the lessons have been brought to bear.

Susanmarie: I'd reframe. What "impasse" would mean is we need someone else to come in and manage. But mediation is built into the process, so I don't look at it as a moral issue. Yes, it happened last year and we're at it now, but it's just another phase. The way the process unfolds is built in, and we're not necessarily in the same place we were in last year.

Q: Is there a communications effort in place to get that point across, that "impasse" doesn't automatically lead to what we got last year.

(Newly elected) Ward 5 NPA steering committee member Mike Fife: It feels like there's tension & distrust from each side's "base" if they don't take these types of steps.

Susanmarie: We're coming back on 5/31. We're working with an experienced mediator.

Q: Maybe it actually works better this way! Maybe we should say, in the contract, "Let's START with a mediator!"

Susanmarie: We just adopted a new governance system. We'll also be doing different kinds of community outreach, e.g., "What additional issues do you think the school board should consider?"

Alec: (Recommends that the school board do more Front Porch Forum posts and other kinds of outreach re the process.)

(4) City Council Update
- Ward 5 Councilor Chip Mason

Summary:

Discussed recent city council activity, including passage of PlanBTV Walk/Bike, approving licenses for outdoor patios, and issues covered during an executive session.

This week there was a big action that was 2+ years in the making: Adoption of the Walk/Bike master plan (Cf. PlanBTV, <http://www.planbtvwalkbike.org/>.) It's intended to improve walk/bike accessibility throughout the city, and it has a bunch of recommendations for the South End. But there were legitimate concerns about some of the recommendations.

Neither of the NNE councilors were supportive of the plan. I encourage people to weigh in.

We also spent a lot of time on approving licenses for outdoor patios. You only reserve 5 ft. of sidewalk. I think we'll revisit that issue.

We spent executive-session time re new Moran facility, re Burlington Telecom (BT) (they're in the "quiet phase" re finalizing terms for prospective bidders), and the Burlington Town Center Redevelopment project.

Next: We're heading into budget season over next two months.

Issues I hear about most:

- Traffic (e.g., Pine St)
- Parking (e.g., Dedalus Wine and ArtsRiot)
- Development

Q: Is there pursuit of another utility working with BT, e.g., Water Department?

A: Given the Bluewater loan and the Citi Capital settlement, we agreed BT would be put up for sale and the proceeds divided up among the creditors. We're shooting to wrap that up by the end of this year.

Q: I wish there were a pedestrian crosswalk from Birchcliff Pkwy.

A: A lot of Birchcliff folks are interested in it.

(5) Parks & Rec Update: Director Jesse Bridges

Summary:

Discussed upcoming work, including bocce board reconstruction and upper-parking-lot repaving at Oak Ledge Park and converting Smalley Park to a youth softball field. Announced that he is stepping down after May in order to become the CEO of United Way in Vermont.

Breaking news: I'm going to be the CEO of United Way in VT! It was a hard decision for me. I'll be with City through May. We're about to go into presentations.

We just started on Bocce board reconstruction at Oak Ledge Park. We'll have four nice courts.

We're getting upper parking lot paved at Oak Ledge Park. We'll eventually move the bike path closer to the pavilion, taking out the big boulders, and have a nice path that runs on the outside of the parking area.

Oak Ledge softball field is finally closed. It turns out it's a Class 2 wetland. So...no more softball field. We'll be doing restoration work there.

Smalley Park on St. Paul: We're converting it to a youth softball field; we don't have many softball fields currently.

I'm going to keep working on the youth center project around St. Joseph's on North Ave.

60% of Parks & Rec budget comes from fees (e.g., marina docking). That's twice the national average!

(6) Presentation: Pathways Vermont
- Abby Levinsohn, Outreach Coordinator

Summary:

Introduced Pathways Vermont services for people managing mental illness and asked meeting attendees to help spread the word. Services include peer support, job-search support, and a Soteria house for crisis respite.

I'm an employment team leader and an outreach coordinator. Pathways Vermont (PV) Community Center site: <https://www.pathwaysvermont.org/>.

We're a non-profit working statewide. Started in 2010.

Our drop-in center at 279 No. Winooski Ave. started in the spring of 2012.

We provide peer support for people with mental illness. There are always two staffmembers on to talk 1-on-1 with people. We also offer support groups, mindfulness, and a place for open music jam.

PV also provides peer support for employment, including resume skills with a customized approach. We try to connect people with meaningful employment and also provide ongoing support.

PV sees about 15-20 people/day for meals as well as throughout the day. Work with about 30 people at a time for the employment support. Meals are the busiest times.

3pm to 1am peer-support line. Sometimes it helps people.

PV also has a Soteria House: Soteria is a 5-bed respite during tough periods.

Intentional Peer Support (by Sheri Mead, a Vermonter).

Housing First works: Gets people off street and saves on a lot of other spending, e.g., corrections, ER.

How to help: Help spread the word and advocate for it.

Motion to adjourn adopted at 8:50 PM.

<END>



Neighborhood Planning Assembly Minutes

NPA:
(choose one)

Wards 1 & 8	Wards 2 & 3	Wards 4 & 7	Ward 5	Ward 6
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Notetaker: **Nate Orshan**

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Bill Keogh
Elisa Nelson
Nate Orshan

Discussion Topics and Action Items:

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(7) Open Forum

No action items.

Motion to adjourn adopted at 8:50 PM.



Neighborhood Planning Assembly Attendees

NPA (choose one)	Wards 1 & 8	Wards 2 & 3	Wards 4 & 7	Ward 5	Ward 6
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Date of Assembly : 4-20-17 Location: DPW

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

1 Jane Hendley

21

2 Alec Bauer

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3 Nate Orshan

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4 Mike Fife

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5 Maria Gustafson

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6 Ashley Pendonski

26

7 Gordon Dragoon

27

8 Jeff Wick

28

9 Larry Forcier

29

10 JAMES LOCKRIDGE

30

11 ANDY SIMON

31

12 GAYLE WEAVER

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13 PAUL SMITH

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14 ELISA NELSON

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