Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)
AGENDA
Wednesday, March 8, 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

Facilitator: Tom Derenthal Minutes: Jonathan Chapple-Sokol

6:30 Snacks provided

7:00 Formal Start - Introductions and Announcements- name, street. Announcements time is for us all to share events, meetings, activities,… that might be of interest to the Ward 1 community

7:10 Election of Steering Committee – Our bylaws state we elect Steering Committee members at our March meeting. Bylaws can be found here:

https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/sites/default/files/Ward%20One%20NPA%20Bylaws%20approved%2012%20October%202022.pdf

7:20 Speakout – we are planning this meeting to be primarily a general discussion led by the community with your elected officials. Consider these prompts:

What are the issues you care about in Ward 1
What are the city issues that matter most
Who would you like to invite to an NPA meeting?
What do you want the City Council to work on in the next year
Are there ballot item outcomes you wish to discuss?

8:10 Summary of Discussion

8:20 City Council – Zoraya Hightower, Maea Brandt, and……

8:40 School Commissioners Update - Kathy Olwell, Aquilas Lokossou, and…..

We also want to recognize Kathy's incredible service to the community!

8:50 Legislator Comments – Troy Headrick

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

Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)
Minutes
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7:00 Formal Start - Introductions and Announcements- name, street. Announcements time is for us all to share events, meetings, activities,… that might be of interest to the Ward 1 community

Maea Brandt
Samantha Ayotte
Joel Kolata
Richard Hillyard
Catherine Verman
Jonathan Chapple-Sokol
Angie Chapple-Sokol
Carol Livingston
Kathy Olwell
Gary Golden
Zoraya Hightower
Nick Vaden
Troy Headrick
Sophie Quest
Sharon Bushor
Fletcher Pratt
Evan Knox
Serrill Flash
Tom Derenthal
Erhard Mahnke
Sharyl Green
Peter Lackowski

Announcement: Fletcher Free Library is doing some strategic planning and urges folks to fill out community survey.

7:10 Election of Steering Committee – Our bylaws state we elect Steering Committee members at our March meeting.
Nomination of Slate :
Moved/Seconded by Gary Golden/Erhard Mahnke: Tom Derenthal, Carol Livingston, Carter Neubieser, Jonathan Chapple-Sokol. No dissenting votes.

Richard quoted Jean Hopkins: NPA is "Ward 1's Town Meeting Day every month"

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Sharon Bushor– NPA used to be an opportunity for residents to bring ideas – a grassroot effort to communicate to leadership. Consider 2-3 times/year having more open-ended meetings Thanks to all who represents the ward.

Catherine Verman – Election was the most thoughtful she participated in . Agrees, more time for speakout . Grateful for everyone who ran.

Zoraya Hightower – Agreed. More time to 'deep dive' into one presentation per month. Make sure there is adequate decision-making/analytical point.

Tom – not always a decision, but provide experience and feedback

Carol – Departments are given directive from Department Heads to present. Working on a better way at All Wards Level to make it more meaningful for NPA and easier for presenter. Also developers, where we don't really know our role as a ward. How does it fit into City plan, and impact on Ward 1?

Richard Hillyard – The election – Richard has a green card. Legal resident voting, opposed, but will probably get political now. To Tim – be on the CC to look at the Mayor and hold Mayor to account. Urge new CCs to work together,

Jonathan – Tim needed to attend a funeral out of state

Maea – CC is doing their best together. Much divisiveness is hyperbole. It has been an honor to be on CC. Thanks to residents.

Sharon – Oversight Committee. Oversight is good, but not this flawed format. Police Commission work? Maybe not. All councilors should make sure we get the right structure, right authority, hold police accountable. No vote did not mean no oversight.

Sharyl – Deep listening happens by CC and candidates – appreciated

Zoraya – CC has respect for each other and work well in spite of the press' reportage. Commission may be a reasonable place for oversight, but an appeals body will need to be created. Hopefully a plan will be formed in a short amount of time.

Carol – What do you need from leadership?

Evan Knox – connection is great. How do we know what to ask questions about? How creative can we be? How do we communicate to folks not on FPF? Wants to help, limited time.

Catherine – Wat's happening with Trinity? A bit of a stalemate? What happens next?

Zoraya – Some history on Trinity. Yes, it is a stalemate, UVM says their position is non-negotiable

Angie Chapple-Sokol – Zoraya articulated it well - It's not the community against students, faculty, but it is about administration. Kudos to Troy for H.311

Troy Headrick – City unity in relation to university; students are equally engaged and aligned that UVM needs to be more accountable to community. It is a Housing Crisis.

Kathy Olwell – Formerly subsidized housing on Riverside. Used to be poor people; now its university housing

Maea – a Wikipedia page for city issues? It's currently like a treasure hunt to find information

Peter Lackowski – Power – who is UVM accountable to?

Troy – UVM is chartered. Is UVM holding true to its land grant mission? Review of components of H311. Should legislature step in? Only 5 of 11 BTV Reps sponsored. Trustees and legislature. Charters create entities. Is this overreach?

Erhard – Municipalities are creatures of the State. Charters can only be changed by legislature and governor. The City does benefit from the presence of UVM. UVM is underfunded by the State. UVM needs to tap out of state students for tuition. Used to be that UVM campus master plan needed to be submitted and reviewed by City. That was repealed at some point. It is incumbent on the city to use what it has to get UVM to the table. City could reinstate requirement to submit master plan.

Sharon – there is a disconnect between UVM and city. UVM are about themselves. State changed rules on review. Master Plan is a land bank usage map.

Joel – No experience with systemic issues – want to work on actively improving our community – ready to help

Sam – we would like to see focus: safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Things we can directly see on our streets, neighborhood,…the way to get things done is to come together. We can enact change. Working together we can make things happen. Food can help folks come together. Food is a great way to bring people together.

Sharyl – Bring Jake into room – Diaper Distro; It was incredible – mutual aid. Focused meeting of NPA on mutual aid>

Zoraya – do we have funds that NPA can use to do stuff? Community project to connect Hildred to Trinity.

Tom - $2500- from city. But we could look for grant money.

Peter – CDBG CEDO support?

Sam – Explained role of CEDO in Npa and NPA in CDBG. Contact samuelheinrichs@burlingtonvt.gov or sheinrichs@burlingtonvt.gov about CEDO, NPAs, ….

Sharyl - Business that might support NPA?

Zoraya – Community projects are important, there may be City opportunities

Erhard – Path was required when original zoning put in. Also Salmon Hole was a CDBG project.

Jonathan – The enthusiasm in the room is new in the sense that in the past few years there was not a lot of interest in spending NPA money.

Tom – Make this a topic for next month; ideas for projects,…

Erhard – Invite Brian Pine?

Sharyl – Field trip to the path?

8:20 City Council – Zoraya Hightower, Maea Brandt, and……
Tabled

8:40 School Commissioners Update - Kathy Olwell, Aquilas Lokossou, and…..

Kathy – 6.5 years on Commission. Thank you for passing the school budget!
Tom - We also want to recognize Kathy's incredible service to the community! We have been well represented.

8:50 Legislator Comments – Troy Headrick

Bills worth watching:see Twitter, Instagram,…troyheadrick.com

Corrections/Institutions; Women's prison. Design $$ this year, construction next year. Should we be spending money when we have not established prison policy? Access point to apply a brake to process of design/build. 50 years ago, there was a vision of incarceration that turned out to be a terrible vision. We have hubris to think we know better now. Spend design $$ leads to construction then leads to a men's facility. We are not doing incarceration well. Impact on corrections workers is very negative – causing harm to workers (to say nothing about the incarcerated). Incarceration vs re-entry. Designs spectrum from medium security → free access, furloughs,… the Maine model. Norway, Germany model. More humane facilities.

Affordable heat act

There's a huge infusion of Federal money that require 20% state match.

Close to crossover date.
Sharyl - Calahan Park 4-6 3/9/2023 – a variety of speakers

*9:*** Adjourn

Ward 1 NPA Machine-Generated Transcript 3/8/2023

0:00
okay all right thanks
0:06
all are welcome uh this is the uh Ward one
0:14
NPA meeting on March 8th um and we're going to have a slightly
0:19
different agenda than we typically have in that uh we're not going to have a lot of prepared presentations
0:26
um but we're going to focus on speak out what people really are concerned about uh what has been or has
0:33
not been addressed by yesterday's election and um hopefully we'll spark some good
0:39
discussion uh but to start our meeting off um we're going to go around as as we
0:45
have typically with introductions and we're going to start here in the room and Maya
0:53
hi I'm Maya Brandt I live on North Street and I'm the East District City
0:58
councilor until April 3rd
1:06
I'm Samantha ayotte I live at 20 Chase Street and I am we're kind of newish
1:11
residents to Burlington so happy to be
1:17
here um Joel Carter also at 20 Chase Street yeah moved here in uh June 2022 so we're
1:24
just here to see what's going on your microphone right back at the time right back
1:29
okay thank you I do um Richard Hilliard High Grove Court Ward one
1:36
Catherine verman and I live on North Street
1:42
Jonathan Chapel Circle uh North Prospect Street and one of the steering committee
1:48
members until we elect new steering committee members which will happen today
1:55
I'm Angie Chapel Circle North Prospect Street okay send that microphone back Harold
2:01
okay North Prospect Street outgoing
2:08

School Board uh Gary golden um old East End resident and the newly
2:18
elected um East District school commissioner thank you
2:27
hi I'm Carol Livingston I live on colorco court in Ward one um and I'm on the steering committee
2:33
with Jonathan and Tom uh Zariah Hightower she her uh hildred
2:39
Drive Ward one city councilor Nick Vaden I live on Hilder Drive
2:49
my name is Nick Vaden I live on hildred Drive hi Troy Hedrick I live on 75 billodu
2:57
Court I'm also one of two State Reps for this District okay we also have people online
3:05
Adobe mustard uh hi uh only stand neighborhood
3:10
Coalition and Chase Street uh Sharon
3:16
hi good evening Sharon butcher East Avenue
3:21
Evan hi Evan Knox East Avenue corner of University Place
3:28
uh Fletcher uh Fletcher Pratt Riverside Avenue Ward
3:35
one area and Cheryl uh Cyril flash excuse me off
3:41
of East Avenue and Sam
3:48
oh yeah and I'm Tom derenthal I forgot to introduce myself at the start of the meeting so well again welcome and
3:56
um we have next announcements and Jonathan you have an announcement
4:07
hi what I want to announce is um that the Fletcher Free Library is
4:13
doing kind of a mini strategic planning session and there the library is very
4:19
interested this is because the last one was done about five years ago and it's a five-year plan and we're
4:26
kind of coming out of it right now um so rather than go through a big broad uh strategic planning activity the way
4:33
it sometimes happens uh the Commissioners thought it would be a good idea to at least have a community survey

4:41
and for people to ex you know just basically people talk about what they like about the library what they think
4:47
the library can do what are the needs in the community and so forth you may all I'm kind of a I'm kind of prejudiced I
4:53
think the library is the single strongest and most important institution in the City of Burlington because it
5:00
serves it serves everybody it provides for everybody it has a huge spectrum of
5:07
opportunities that are that are available to the whole community and anybody who doesn't believe me should
5:13
just go into the main reading room and sit there for four or six hours and you'll see the entire city right there
5:20
in your living room it's an amazing place in any case we have a survey it's
5:25
open-ended questions so it may be a little intimidating it's not just check the box but I would love it if you could
5:31
fill this out if you filled it out during the meeting today um I can collect them if not you can
5:37
bring them to the library uh and if you don't want to do it on paper if your QR code
5:43
ready you can just click the QR code and do this online
5:48
um so let me if I can just pass these out and I really appreciate it if you could
5:53
if you could fill this out even if it's just one or two of them it'll be very helpful to the library
5:59
if I made an endorsement for the library uh not to me all right I I guess I'm I
6:08
I think a couple years ago I was a little bit skeptic of what our small town library could be like but what I
6:14
found is that at least books that I'm interested in are almost always there
6:20
and the ones that aren't you can talk to the staff and they've been very open about ordering books
6:26
so if there's something you want that uh isn't there talk to somebody and there's
6:33
a fair chance that they can add it to their collection and I've had pretty good luck over the last year or so with

6:39
that and if not there's interlibrary loan um yeah so they can get books from all over the state
6:45
um and one of the amazing things about the Fletcher library is that it is the largest lending library in the Interline
6:53
interlibrary loan um service the Statewide service and so it's great when we ask for something
6:59
that somebody else can give us because ordinarily we're giving books to everybody else okay
7:05
um before we go any further we have three people who who just came in would you like to say hello
7:11
whatever there's a right in front of you uh there's a microphone
7:18
thanks Tom Airhead Monica here um Grove Street 60 Grove Street down the
7:24
hill across from schmaska Park hi I'm Cheryl Green I live in Burlington
7:30
co-housing off East Avenue and um I too asked the library to buy books
7:36
from time to time and make donations a couple times a year and it's a great Library I think
7:44
yeah and I'm Peter olukowski and I live in the same place as Cheryl and I agree with everything she said
7:53
all right that takes us back to um announcements do we have announcements here in the room
8:01
I'm not seeing any hands up how about online not seeing hands up there either so uh
8:08
we're gonna proceed to our next item which is the election of the steering committee
8:14
um I don't know if you know but we did pass bylaws last year
8:20
so we're making our group a little bit more formal and you question
8:27
oh that's going to nominate somebody oh so I'm going to turn it over to Jonathan
8:32
for the elections he's going to tell us the rules and then Gary's gonna I think handle the actual
8:39
election thank you um so so the bylaws state that that the
8:47
steering committee can have up to seven people on it um we have we are at our all-time high
8:54
right now of four a historic high of four should I say and
9:00

um and I believe all four current members are interested in continuing
9:06
elections can be done individually elections can be done by a slate um I want to suggest that we take
9:13
suggestions or nominations from the floor from the wall um and um maybe put together one slate
9:20
that we can all vote on at once if there are and if there are more than seven people total then we can duke it out
9:28
um I would love that to be the case because it would be that much interest um so I would like to start
9:37
actually I think I want to hand it over to Gary who may start a slate nomination but absolutely
9:44
oh yeah I don't know I'm sorry that's a fantastic question so
9:53
the npas were formed uh back in Bernie Sanders mayoral days and the whole point
9:59
was to uh create local venues for uh the
10:06
community to get in touch with their officials their elected officials or administrators
10:12
um and um and so in order for this to happen there has to be a group of people who
10:17
organizes the meetings find a book to stay try to uh or find a place to sit probably get some food at every meeting
10:24
make sure that the things that are interesting to the community are being dealt with any specific issues or
10:30
problems and that's the steering committee so what the steering committee really does is uh typically we meet once
10:36
a month at the week after an NPA meeting we try to set us an agenda we contact
10:43
people who would be on our Channel and try to and try to fill it all out
10:49
um and that you know that's really the Lion's Share of the work is building the agenda for the meeting and then in the meeting so somebody has to facilitate
10:56
um somebody has to take minutes um what am I missing
11:02
yes I don't have anything else is that basically it yeah that's it okay so
11:07
that's that's essentially what the steering committee is it's um it's it's actually very rewarding in a

11:15
lot of ways because um it gives just a little bit more opportunity to get connected not only
11:21
with um the people who run the city but your neighbors and that's what you know
11:26
that's what excites me about it Richard did it with centuries
11:31
yes I did do it for centuries but the best way to describe the mpa that I've heard is the wonderful Gene Hopkins who
11:39
many of you live close to uh and sometimes see on the wall or at our
11:44
meetings um describe the mpa as being Ward ones
11:50
uh time meeting day every month and I thought that that was a lovely way of
11:55
expressing what we think we are
12:02
Richard I love that um so can I hand it to Gary
12:08
so it's my pleasure on the behalf of the four existing members to put their names forward to to serve again on the
12:15
steering committee uh Tom derenthal Carol Livingston Jonathan Chapel Circle
12:21
and Carter knew Beezer uh who's not able to be here tonight
12:28
um we really don't need to vote on those as such um but are there other names that you
12:34
would like to put forward to add to that list I'm actually no one of the names I was
12:41
going to perform is on that one oh nice well that's not you know
12:47
um anyone else have um would like to volunteer or um open that to the those who are
12:55
calling in as well
13:01
okay yeah what this is this is your chance it's only one year and you you
13:07
know you can quit anytime you want of course um because because we have a minimum of
13:13
three so you know it's like you can float back and forth um it's uh it
13:20
it uh you so really I'm just encouraging people if they want to do this many
13:26
hands make work light even if it's your first meeting Maybe

13:33
you know if you do sign up don't leave I gotta warn you there's no severance but
13:41
so um with that I think if we would like to gather
13:47
something fun uh just clap to thank these people for all the hard work they
13:52
do and their willingness to serve again thank you very much
14:11
sorry just a few more I'm the nominator I'm going to lose that we
14:18
um elect the state uh the Slate rather as stated by Gary uh to being the
14:24
student Community for the next year
14:30
all in favor say aye any opposed
14:35
thank you again to the four of you for uh being willing to serve again
14:47
all right now we come to the fun part of our meeting I think um and that's speak out it's it's gonna
14:52
run for a long time compared to normal speak outs and
14:58
I'm I'm just going to read what uh is in the uh agenda
15:04
and our goal is really to find out what are the issues that that we or you care
15:11
about in uh Ward one um and what are the city issues that that
15:18
matter most um who would you like to see here giving us information about perhaps a city
15:26
operation or something like that or you know something about the city that you're concerned about
15:32
um and what do you want city council to work on in the next year
15:38
so um and the last thing here is is are there ballot item outcomes you wish to
15:45
discuss so all that stuff is is game for discussion tonight and
15:51
the floors open so Sharon you're you got your head up I do
15:58
I do um so when you were talking about um the NPA
16:06
um when I first got involved and that was early on um Earhart preceded me he was definitely
16:13

before me but I came to the NPA just trying to figure it out like many of you
16:19
are there tonight trying to figure out what's going on what is the NPA is this going to have value for me
16:26
um but the format was different it wasn't really an opportunity for the
16:32
city to tell us about certain things um it was more an opportunity for all of
16:39
Ward one residents that chose to come to kind of bring forward ideas and bring
16:47
them I mean the city councilors came to those meetings but bring them up and
16:53
have them percolate up to the council for agenda items so it was a Grassroots
16:59
effort of us getting together why am I telling you all of this not just to re
17:05
relive history but um this extended speak out really Sparks
17:11
uh something that I think we've lost and I'm hoping that the steering committee
17:16
may be able to carve out maybe two or three times a year a session somewhat
17:22
like this where you or some or some residents could could tell you in
17:27
advance maybe what they'd like to talk about a little more in depth but I feel like there's such great value for
17:34
something like this just open dialogue and maybe something will come out of it
17:40
that we want to advance forward in a more formal way through a resolution and
17:45
maybe not but in the conversation nothing's lost because you get to know
17:50
people better and you get to know what's on their mind so I just wanted to throw that out as something to consider in the
17:56
future as you look at the format for NPA agendas
18:02
um and I'm going to wait and listen to what other people had to say about the election but before I stopped talking I
18:09
want to thank everybody who actually put in the effort to try to represent Ward
18:16
one in all capacities and I want to congratulate those who are going to
18:23

serve as school commissioner or city councilor or Ward Clerk or whatever
18:29
you happen to win but I just want to thank everybody it's a lot of work and
18:35
it's a lot of effort and everybody really cares about our award and we're lucky to have them want to represent us
18:41
so thank you thanks Sharon
18:48
yes
18:56
um so my name is Catherine Catherine verman and I was going to actually say exactly or pretty much what Sharon said
19:03
I so I've come to I only come to about three or four meetings
19:09
the first meeting that I came to I had just had my neighbors broken into I was
19:15
really uptight about the theft in the area and I spoke out about it and I had
19:21
actually had people follow me out the door and thank me for speaking about it and come to me then the second meeting I
19:28
came to and I spoke out about it again and it I had a totally opposite experience I felt that
19:36
um people stood up after I spoke and said shared a very different point of
19:42
view than mine and then I came to the next meeting and I kept my mouth closed
19:48
and just listened and I think I I did that for the meeting after that as well
19:55
the point I guess what I want to say is that this election for me was probably
20:01
the most thoughtful election that I've ever participated in I really thought through who I was going to vote for and
20:08
what I was going to vote for and um I feel that Burlington is just in
20:15
this place of so much transition and change and that a
20:20
lot of care and thought needs to go into this time and I
20:26
I felt that in the past few meetings there was a very short time for speak out real
20:34
in fact I had to interrupt another part of the meeting in order to
20:39

speak out the first time I came because I didn't know the protocol um but I'd like to see more time for
20:45
speak out I love this idea of this being like a little town meeting every time we
20:51
come together and for us to share these different perspectives so that we can be
20:58
thoughtful so that we can really move into this period of time taking into consideration each other's
21:05
point of views and working together I feel really strongly about that and I
21:11
I want to come here and feel like I belong and that I'm a part of this and
21:17
that anyone no matter what their perspective is a part of
21:22
Burlington and particularly Ward one so I would encourage
21:28
um more speak out time and then I also just wanted to say that I was so grateful
21:35
for uh for everyone that ran you know for Jake
21:40
I just was I you know it's hard to
21:47
run and win and not win and all of that and I I'm I feel that maybe because I was so careful and thoughtful about this
21:54
election so that's all I have to say all right
22:00
and I'll try not to talk too much but I just want to add to that which I think both the general speak out and then so
22:06
agreeing with the previous two speakers both generals speak out and then I think sometimes maybe I feel a little bit bad
22:12
for City staff because they sometimes really get it from all sides and I think it would be really nice if after the
22:17
presentation there wasn't just time for Q a and feedback but also like at least like one presentation a
22:26
month if there was really time for us to dig into that subject when it's still fresh on our minds after we've gotten
22:31
that presentation to give maybe some more like more like something more constructive whereas in the NPA we say

22:37
we actually think that like this is like more direct feedback we're
22:43
like bigger feedback or more specific feedback that we have for you like through a resolution not always but I
22:48
think if one presentation can really be highlighted that we can really spend time on and dig into per meeting in
22:55
addition to giving time for General speak out um I think that might feel like a more
23:01
positive and constructive experience sometimes for some of the Departments to get kind of a whole wholesome feedback
23:10
if I could just comment so if we had if someone's gonna come and present on
23:15
some subject make sure that there's adequate we we typically have a small
23:21
amount of time after that for questions and answers but you're saying that we should have the the subject and maybe
23:28
questions and answers and then an extended period that goes a little bit further so that people can
23:34
not just get clarification about what was presented but actually discuss it
23:39
yeah sorry this is the adult learning person in me where it's like there's like different types of bright because there's one where you just have like a
23:46
reaction which is like positive negative then you have the or like you're absorbing the information then you've got a positive negative but I almost
23:52
want us to get to the decision making point and that's not for every presentation but I feel like usually there's one presentation where we all
23:58
have an opinion we all want to say something and we kind of just get to the like we absorb the information in the
24:04
positive negative and I kind of want us to get to the like the analytical or the like decision making Point as a group so
24:10
I think whenever a presentation like that comes up I don't know it is like a parking or like where there's one really
24:16
big topic maybe we can spend a little bit more time on just that one presentation afterwards does that
24:23

make
24:28
in defense I'm going to say that we the steering committee have painfully
24:33
found out that it's so easy to overload a meeting where you say oh no they want 10 we're
24:40
going to give them five minutes not ten and then and then they take 25. and then it's then the next guy and it's just you
24:48
know Avalanches after that um but I hear what you're saying uh that's right and uh I I like that uh I'm
24:56
not so sure that there is a decision Point
25:01
um after every presentation um it's like do you
25:08
for example parking is a good example because there a lot of people feel very strongly about uh what we should do with
25:15
parking but when it's when the person's presenting and says well here's you know what the rules are
25:22
there's I'm not sure that there's a decision for us to make but maybe what we can do is send back a message and say
25:30
look this is this is not good enough or hey we like part A we don't like part
25:36
whatever the case may be something like that yeah or even just saying
25:42
I mean not necessarily for the official to hear this but just to say you know it's really hard to park on my street
25:48
you know just for to share that common experience or uncommon experience
25:55
okay that's good
26:04
sorry I don't want to be defensive as a steering person but it's also um some of it is I feel like the depart the department
26:11
folks are given the directive by their leaders that they need to present to all
26:16
the npas so you'll hear we hear from everybody because they've been required basically
26:22
to get feedback from the community and we're it which means we can sometimes
26:29
get very packed meetings with something that's sort of obligatory on the part of the staff

26:36
um they're very patient with us they we've given them time it gets rushed um and we've tried to think we also meet
26:43
as an all Awards which is people coming from steering Committees of all Awards in the city is there some way we can try
26:50
to um sort of tailor this so that for example we have it just on tape and they
26:55
can go online and they can see these presentations or use front porch Forum to suggest that
27:02
um we get some questions ahead of time because this is what's going to be presented so often the presentations are
27:08
not ones we've asked for they're ones that the the city departments feel
27:15
obliged to inform us about um So It's Tricky and we want to help that happen but it's I can't imagine
27:22
giving five or six presentations which is what they have to do um so we need to work on that and I
27:28
think what we're really concerned about all of that plus another rule is
27:34
um we do hear from people who are are creating developments developments in
27:39
our in our Ward um and we're not quite sure what to do with that role
27:45
um we don't sign off on anything we don't check it off and say yep sounds good nope doesn't sound good go back to
27:51
the drawing board um and so we're looking um to the city to also help us uh with
27:58
that as well it's just how what is our responsibility um and we're just I'm just a resident
28:04
those lights sound really cool to me but I you know I don't really know and so at
28:09
the same time one of the things we've talked about and then I'll stop um is to ask the developers how does
28:15
this fit into the housing plan for the City so again and maybe that's true for a number of these presentations is how
28:22
does it have an impact on Ward one how does it fit into whatever our view is or our plan is for the city rather than
28:30

just these one-offs that we get bumped every month thank you for listening to me
28:40
well I see other hands
28:46
Richard
28:53
I would I would endorse everything that Solomon uh uh Carol has said because it
28:59
is very very difficult and very very tricky and um most frequently elected officials of
29:06
the most uh guilty parties of uh if you give them two minutes they'll say 20.
29:13
um uh because they have an agenda so I'm going to go on to something completely different and talk about the election uh
29:21
and um some of you know and some of you don't know that
29:27
although I've had a green card for about 35 years I'm not a citizen of the United
29:32
States uh uh and the only item on the uh
29:40
election card that um uh was successful that I think I would
29:48
probably have voted against was uh non-citizen voting um and I have a reason for that which
29:54
I've spoken to city council about a couple of times and I can go into that if um
30:00
anyone's interested uh but singers I sing as I can and I've I've
30:08
been involved in the steering committee here for gosh the best part of 20 years
30:15
um up until about four years ago and I tried studiously not to get into
30:21
anything political just be a God damn it man occasionally when the truth is clearly not being spoken
30:28
um but seeing as I might get the vote I think I'll get political
30:34
[Laughter] uh and I would just say to I'm sorry
30:39
that Tim Doherty is not here but I would just say to Tim
30:45
um that I hope he would um be on the city council
30:54
um to look at the mayor and
31:00

hold the mayor to accounts that this is
31:05
not a mandate for him to continue his bullying and coercive practices of the
31:12
last nine or ten years but more a repudiation of the regressive
31:18
um wing of the Progressive Party um uh and just do things together that will
31:26
make Burlington a better place a better economy better for everyone that lives here better culturally and better
31:34
housing we can do it if everyone works together but there needs to be a will to do it so
31:42
city council please do that thank you
31:47
comments people online
31:57
Jonathan like it's very brief I just wanted to I just
32:02
want to say that um Tim could not be here because he had to attend a funeral out of state so he planned to he isn't
32:10
here because he had a family thing sure
32:18
um I have will have been uh the East District City councilor for relatively brief time
32:26
but I do want everyone to know that everybody on City Council
32:32
is doing their absolute best for the city uh you know with everything they
32:39
have and there there has been a lot of
32:44
um talk about you know what people are doing their positions on things and it's it's a lot
32:51
of it is hyperbole you know everybody loves this city and people are working
32:57
hard for it so I just want everyone to know that and
33:03
um I am for for personal reasons um you know I decided not to run for
33:12
East District uh city council again but I felt very strongly that I wanted to
33:19
finish a term in which Ward won and Ward 8 were missing a representative and
33:27
having representation I still believe uh you know it's so important
33:32

um and this is such a great form um for people to communicate uh you know
33:39
what's important um but it's got to be ongoing we have to get more people voting
33:46
um I still want to hear from people about Trinity you know this is ongoing
33:51
and we cannot let it drop it you know if anything now is an important time to
33:57
approach um the university again but I I you know it's been an honor
34:03
um it is not easy and um but it's so worth it it is really
34:10
worthwhile so thank you everybody for you know speak out this is really this
34:17
is crucial for democracy thanks yeah I want to thank all the city
34:23
councilors because my impression is is that it's a it's
34:31
you're a slave to that job it just it you're inundated with emails you're
34:37
you're on committees you've got to report to um and not and of course city council
34:45
not every counselor has the same approach to making the city better so
34:51
um yeah uh you deserve a a lot of thanks
34:58
Sharon um yes um I wanted to talk about the um the
35:05
ballot item one of the ballot items that went down which was the oversight committee
35:12
um and um I'll be honest I didn't support it in its format but that doesn't mean I don't
35:18
support it I I felt that it I I didn't I didn't like this proposal I thought it
35:25
was flawed that was my opinion um but I know that
35:31
there's been all sorts of talk about the expansion of the police commission to be
35:36
the oversight committee I I really don't know if that's the right thing I felt
35:42
that the conversation wasn't finished and I'm just hoping that there will be
35:49
um it won't just be um let's just I want to I want all of
35:56
the counselors to once again just make sure that they get the right structure
36:03

and that um The Entity that's created or expanded
36:09
um has the right power and has really holds
36:15
police accountable um and so I I feel that I know you heard
36:22
this all I think over and over again but I think it's really sincere that just
36:28
because it went down it doesn't suggest that our community doesn't want
36:34
oversight for the police um and so I'm looking forward to having
36:41
everybody get together and really bring forward a better proposal that isn't
36:48
left to Montpelier to correct or or make make necessary changes so thank you so
36:55
much for listening I know Zariah you're the only one there that's going to be actually getting to take this up
37:02
um but um I I really hope that this happens in a timely fashion and and
37:07
people don't drag their feet thank you
37:13
thanks Sharon
37:19
hi I just want to speak to my respect for the city councilors too
37:25
um and with all due respect um you mentioned that you thought people
37:31
were when you're working on the city council it's like being a Slave um and I I just think it's way too
37:38
casual a term I don't it's nothing like being a Slave people are choosing the work
37:44
people are giving their all and I I'm just asking that was a bad word to use
37:49
so yeah thank you it it just struck me in and I wanted to
37:56
say that the thing I meant to say it's just a lot of work and it's a lot of unanticipated work yes people make
38:03
demands of you that may be unreasonable
38:09
yeah yeah and lots of surprises that you never anticipate
38:16

um and I also the thing that I really appreciated too is the amount of deep listening that happens by counselors and
38:23
also hurt felt that during the campaign as well um I I think people really are trying hard
38:31
to listen to each other and that people we've put in office by our votes and
38:37
their acceptance um are listening deeply I really appreciate
38:43
it
38:50
and along those lines I don't know if it's helpful for um May and I to maybe also address some
38:56
of the things that folks are saying and we can maybe just run into our time instead um if that's okay which is I did want to
39:02
speak to um Sharon's point on the ballot item which
39:09
um on number seven which I think Jonathan even quoted me on front porch Forum isn't what I would have written
39:14
even though I did support it um but I do think I'm very hopeful and maybe also just have to say because I
39:20
think sometimes do books do have this image of city council and that we're just always at loggerheads because the
39:26
only thing that gets into the media are the issues that are really contentious and I think if you go to some of the
39:31
committee meetings you'll see that we really do have a tremendous amount of respect for each other and work really
39:38
well together and I don't think that there's a counselor that I don't have respect for and I don't think there's
39:43
one who doesn't have a tremendous amount of respect for me um but I do I'm very hopeful that we
39:52
will take this up that we can start I don't Sharon I don't know that it'll be
39:58
feasible to have it be outside of the police commission I think I've become convinced that that's not as problematic
40:04
as I thought it would be we'd have to create another body um because you can't have both discipline and um

40:12
uh what's that called um no not policy um they're currently the
40:18
body that reviews discipline um or you can appeal to the appeal body so you can't have the discipline and
40:24
everybody also be the appeal body um so we'll have to make another body one way or another but
40:29
um yeah just I do feel confident the council will take that up I feel confident working with
40:36
other counselors to make that happen hopefully in a short amount of time
40:45
I guess I just would add two because I'm the NPA got that hat on is what do you
40:50
all need as um attendees and residents um from Zariah from Tim
40:56
um and from people who know housing or no Public Safety or no I mean what questions do you have and what ways can
41:02
we use our NPA meetings to have these presentations that will be helpful you know that really because these are
41:08
complicated issues and as a new city council person I think you're sort of flooded with all this information so how
41:15
can we inform one another so that we're we're better able to give Zariah and Tim
41:20
feedback that's meaningful um you know to have Milo come and talk about the the PO the police commission
41:27
and what they did and just the Dynamics of what's happening in the city was really helpful I mean what more do you
41:32
all want um to help with that um you know I do think the housing panel
41:39
that that Keith Pillsbury ran for us was part of the reason that seven days went ahead and did a housing
41:46
um series and because we played pretty prominently in those first few so we can
41:51
make a difference it's just we need to ask and we'll be glad to take it from there
41:59
Evan hey um how did you say it first time caller first time listener
42:07
um so I am new to the neighborhood um my wife and our four kids we moved in

42:13
over the summer and I wasn't sure I was already in touch with Zariah and I was
42:19
very impressed how quick it is um for a response I we come from New York City and I'll just say it's
42:25
completely the opposite you're lucky if you could use an online system to get in touch with somebody at the board
42:32
um let alone city council and your state legislatures so this is impressive one
42:37
of the things that I just wanted to find out I know this is a speak up which is really amazing and everything that
42:45
everyone said I could relate to um not really disagree with much of it
42:51
um but it would be interesting to find out how we could find out what what
42:57
we're supposed to think about right so for instance Public Safety was brought up
43:03
um there's the Police Issue um I'm not super familiar with like the past you know two years three years five years
43:10
ten years how things have been I just see from for instance front page uh
43:15
front porch Forum some of the things that are happening so what could be done
43:21
um for Public Safety do we together get into sorry for the background baby
43:28
um what could we do as a community do we have neighborhood like Community watches
43:34
um do we have to depend on just the police is their budget issues with the
43:41
police that are preventing some of those safety issues um and then a second issue is I see how
43:49
many people are in the audience um I found out about this event from
43:54
from portforum I have a friend that had no clue about it he's on
43:59
um he's on build a new court I believe um one block over for me so basically
44:05
backdoor neighbors he didn't know about it he's not front he's not on front porch for him so what are we doing in
44:11
terms of our award to reach out to neighbors to let them know about these meetups and so on
44:17

um because I think that would be pretty awesome because he's really concerned about like the crosswalk that's going from the hospital to
44:24
um his block there's no stop there's just a stop sign um um a blinking light not a stop sign
44:30
like there is on our corner of East Ave and um University Road um so people are just like really
44:37
ignoring the crosswalks I know I'm saying a lot I'm new so I'm kind of nervous but
44:42
um and then there's other things too so I could I'm sure I could talk for hours I was on a condo board so I really
44:48
appreciate everybody that's on the steering committee too um as a member of a condo board I feel
44:53
like it's a thankless job it's a volunteer job um you but you know you want better for
44:58
the community um but some people are too busy right so I would love to be more involved but
45:04
I have four children I can't leave everything to my wife so it's kind of complicated especially now like their
45:10
bedtime and so on um so with a lot of that being said I would love to help I would love to know
45:17
more and I'm not saying this is just coming from Missouri but as um I believe Carol you brought up what would you like
45:22
to know from us um I think it's what we don't know like we don't know what we don't know is the
45:28
saying so what could we could we have I don't know if the steering committee would want to do it but I still want to
45:35
email some of the topics on the questions that you put out there um I'm not sure if everybody in the
45:40
meeting is going to be able to do something about all those questions I know Zariah um just from her background she's partly
45:48
our voice which is um one part of it and I know there's going to be many other people that need
45:54
to be involved just to get something done so yeah I guess I'll um and zurai
46:00
thank you again for responding to my emails so quickly and I guess I'll just the email that I sent to zarai was just
46:07

about like housing we wanted to know what the chances are of reducing square footage levels so we could convert a
46:13
single family into a duplex and so on so things like zoning but um to help with
46:19
housing because we live right across from the hospital how could we offer part of our house for
46:25
um for for nurses and so on um when we're not there
46:31
um and that's it
46:39
okay one of the um
46:44
questions that I have right now as far as what what we've been talking about is what's happening with Trinity campus
46:52
so my understanding was that it's already happened or it will happen
46:59
I don't know the sequence where the Town's going to say no in order to get a
47:06
response from UVM that's more responsible as far as
47:11
housing particularly Juniors and seniors
47:16
okay so I understand that Dynamic and I appreciate it but it also feels like it's a little bit of a stalemate and
47:23
what is what is actually going to happen next as far as that's concerned I think stalemate is a pretty good way
47:31
to describe it so the context is when um Trinity and I've written a few posts
47:38
about this but oh like I only communicate on front porch Forum which I could be better about trying to use other avenues
47:44
especially now that I get I feel like emails have trickled down since I started on city council every I feel
47:49
like a year I get less which I shouldn't be happy about but I kind of am it makes it a lot easier to answer emails quickly
47:56
um but um so about a year ago UVM presented Trinity campus initially
48:03
um the city council said we would need a stronger memorandum of understanding since then UVM let the memorandum of
48:10

understanding latch so there isn't currently a member and of understanding with the city and
48:16
um the um and the UV and UVM
48:21
um so they came to the in front of the city council again and we nearly unanimously voted to table the issue and
48:29
said at the meeting that we don't have enough information from UVM really to
48:34
make a decision about if Trinity makes sense because without an agreement and knowing the impact and knowing what the
48:40
plan is we can't make a decision about what that looks like for Ward one and the wider
48:47
city um they knew that was going to happen I think they should have known it a year
48:53
ago they definitely knew that it was coming before we had one-on-one conversations with them and they
48:59
basically said even before the meeting if you won't let us build there we just won't
49:06
and so that's that's where we're at that's where we're at right now they're moving forward with building some things
49:13
in South Burlington um I assume at some point they're going to have to come back to the city I know
49:19
the mayor's being proactive on reaching out to them especially after that meeting to say you've gotten to know is there actually
49:26
you know like there were some things that I think it is at a stalemate and I I
49:31
mean I also said this in the to I think they got quoted and then I do think it's uh I think it's a stalemate because
49:37
they've come to they've come to the table not as non-negotiating they said we have a non-negotiable position we
49:44
won't negotiate with you which makes it really hard to move forward with
49:49
anything so I think we've told them when you come to negotiate with the mayor
49:54
um then we can talk essentially so
50:01
um I would like to say um personally to Zariah and publicly about
50:08

Zariah that um regarding this housing issue there was an article in Vermont Digger a
50:15
week or two ago where Zariah seemed to have gotten it exactly right where she
50:22
said it's not the community against the students it's not the community Against
50:27
The Faculty it's not the community I mean we're together in this city it's that
50:35
the it's the UVM doesn't seem to be part of the conversation at all they're not
50:42
attuned to what the rest of us want to know and do and Zariah you said it much
50:50
more succinctly than I did but I really appreciate how succinct it was and how
50:56
accurate about how the city is just the the university is just not showing
51:02
up they're just not showing up and that seems to have been a problem for quite a long time they don't really
51:09
interact with this city too much enough I'd also like to say
51:15
about housing I think Troy I read something about a proposal that you're making about
51:24
um getting the University to um come to an agreement about how
51:32
many more students they're going to allow on campus and I appreciate the clarity of your um
51:40
of your request there because you're making it very clear you know you have some limits we're needing five percent
51:47
here and so I just want to commend our
51:52
elected officials for the way they're speaking out in the community for our community against the
52:00
powers that are not responsive enough to our community
52:07
right um I can say more about this when when
52:12
my time shows up um I just I really want to punctuate that point that everybody everybody
52:22
um when is the last time the city council voted that unanimously on on
52:27
anything right and I want to focus on the students right now because I did talk to the students
52:34
to the degree that I could I went to an SGA meeting um I've since met with uh groups of

52:39
students about about the bill it's h311 um and I've lived in this community a
52:46
long time I've worked at UVM in a very student forward-facing position for a long time so I feel I really have a
52:54
pretty good historical kind of reading on the pulse of students
52:59
um and they are equally engaged um to the same you know from coming from
53:06
the same point that everybody in this room everybody in this city pretty much is coming to and the students are
53:12
aligned um with the realization that UVM has to
53:18
become more accountable to the impact it has on the surrounding community so I I
53:24
just really really really want to punctuate that that um you know there's there's a
53:30
unification here that I that I think is rare um and I think that speaks volumes about how important this issue
53:37
is when there's so much significant alignment on on the need for you for the University
53:44
to to be a more willing participant in how their presence impacts our housing
53:50
crisis and it is a housing crisis it is absolutely a housing crisis the state of
53:56
Vermont is the second lowest rental vacancy rate in the country and Burlington is even further below the
54:02
Vermont state average um and it's it is simply not sustainable and and this is one piece of the puzzle
54:09
um right we we have to start looking and I think there's some legislation that's Gathering some steam around zoning
54:17
changes and looking at where we can build more high density housing um
54:22
and that's all going to be part of the conversation but we've got to tap the break UVM has to tap the brakes while we
54:28
have those conversations about what's going to work it it just seems like a no-brainer to everybody who is asked a
54:35
question so I'll say I can say more about it in a little bit

54:42
yeah I just have to say when I was going door to door I was pretty appalled when
54:47
I was down on Riverside Avenue and I don't know what they're called I've heard people call them
54:54
The Ten Commandments or whatever they're the housing the subsidized housing on the left hand side going down Riverside
55:02
towards Boys and Girls Club and then there's the brick subsidized housing which is I think the
55:09
housing you know what I'm talking about the
55:15
is that Champlain Housing Trust on the right okay and on the left is now
55:44
at least years ago those were all very poor people a lot of new immigrants
55:51
living in those and when I was going door to door almost every one of those kids was a UVM student and I you know
55:59
when I finished going the whole row I went are we really displacing
56:06
Isis for really really poor people with students I mean somebody must have bought them or
56:13
something I have no idea but I just I was really taken aback at that I thought
56:18
oh my God
56:28
any other comments yeah yeah you know there's so many
56:35
complex issues and something like Trinity is it's pretty clear we all are
56:41
kind of aligned on that but maybe there could be something like a Wikipedia page
56:46
for the city with all these different issues um I found that being on city council
56:52
having to paraphrase complex issues was incredibly difficult and I I sent drafts
57:01
to people and they were like that's way too long but I also don't want to tell people how
57:08
to think and it is subjective information is you
57:13
know the it's not totally objective and when we read something we have different opinions but
57:19
to have important issues like the community control board uh Trinity
57:26

um you know many issues with policing to have the issues on some sort of
57:32
accessible site with um
57:37
the possibility for input but synopsis I don't know if this is a
57:45
possibility but with so many complex issues that that affect all of us uh
57:51
some of these things I I was I was amazed at how many different locations these the you know this incredibly
57:59
important information was existing you know you'd have to really it was almost like a treasure
58:05
hunt um so to have some location where this information is accessible maybe it's a
58:13
city site um but again this idea of information you
58:19
know is it biased that would always come up to be have it be as
58:24
um objective as possible thanks
58:29
is there a microphone right next to me thank you
58:34
yeah I'm thinking about the university and the and the whole question of
58:40
bringing the university to the table getting them to sit down and talk it was
58:45
a kind of I'm just curious about the way the way one relates to the university in other
58:51
words the city can sort of hold development hostage in a sense or I don't want to use too loaded of terms
58:58
but you know the whole question of just plain power the power to build or whatever
59:04
but I don't I'm also thinking who is the University accountable to I mean legally
59:09
who yeah that's the trial I figure would be able to answer this and and how how can can somebody from higher above say
59:18
to the university go to the table and sit down and talk to these people
59:23
so that's what the bill is trying to do um UVM is a charter of the general
59:28
assembly and the general assembly does have an obligation to make sure that UVM is fulfilling its
59:35

well it's land grant Mission and I have a lot to say on whether or not UVM is strained from its land grant Mission
59:42
um so yeah so ultimate accountability as to whether or not UGM is living up to that
59:47
Charter lands with the with the general assembly and I still don't think I right
59:54
so it's not a question of so let me just do a very quick
1:00:00
um so this bill proposes kind of four things um one that we cap enrollment until we
1:00:07
reach a healthier rental vacancy rate I've got it in the bill to find us five percent which is nationally recognized
1:00:13
as kind of a pretty good place to be um it states that you can has to guarantee a minimum amount of square
1:00:20
footage for every on-campus student um right now students living in a triple
1:00:25
on average are sitting in about 65 square feet of living space this bill
1:00:31
States it has to be at least 93 square feet of living space which is half the
1:00:37
square footage of the average size double room uh it also states that any new buildings
1:00:42
must first serve to decongest those triple rooms that are that they're currently using to manage the
1:00:50
um over enrollment is what I'll call it um and that any rooms that can't meet that square footage
1:00:57
um minimum have to be allocated to students with a medically documented need for a
1:01:04
single a single room so that's what the bill does it's essentially guard rails right that if it were in place I think
1:01:12
the city council would have more flexibility to say look you can't grow anyway go ahead and build your building
1:01:17
right um because because now it's it's statute the the other thing the assembly can do
1:01:22
is to to change the charter they could actually change the charter that is a
1:01:28
really really heavy lift right so the question isn't can the legislation do this it's should the legislation do this
1:01:34
should the legislation step in or is it an overreach for the legislation to be kind of messing with what is really a

1:01:41
municipality and Institution um conflict
1:01:47
um so um when we reached that stalemate and it was cleared I think everybody that that stalemate has been reached that's when I
1:01:54
said well we have I feel an obligation to to go to the toolbox and and that's
1:02:00
what I did um you will note that of the 11 Burlington Representatives only five of
1:02:07
us uh co-sponsored it so there's there is head scratching continually going on
1:02:12
even within the state reps from Burlington as to whether or not this is a legislative overreach
1:02:19
um I think a few of them could probably be convinced that no it's not it's actually necessary
1:02:26
um and and then right we've got the Board of Trustees and
1:02:32
um they're supposed to be guiding the the direction of the university and the vision of the University
1:02:38
um I I certainly have my thoughts on where I think that vision and direction is headed and I'm worried about it and
1:02:44
that's mostly from the perspective of somebody who began work at UVM in 1996.
1:02:49
um and I feel we're straying from some really important core values that that have me concerned
1:02:56
but to the housing piece yeah that ultimately it's a it's it's a
1:03:01
it's a charter um like any of the other Charters that's how we build cities that's how we build
1:03:06
towns yeah I got a just a quick clarification question that how many
1:03:12
how many people on the board are uh legislators
1:03:18
um I don't know the the specific answer it might be six maybe
1:03:23
um and what I'm hearing this is new to me what I'm hearing because we just elected the three that are gonna to join
1:03:29
I don't I don't know that they have the the cred that the other board members
1:03:35
have right I think that that role was meant to do just this oversight the that
1:03:41

the legislation would have somebody in the room to make sure that this is happening I worry that it might not that
1:03:46
oversight might not might not be in the room I don't have a lot of evidence or anything to
1:03:53
verify that's more more conjecture right now in opinion right now
1:04:02
you refer to UVM as a municipality what a charter much like
1:04:09
municipalities I mean yeah it's a charter okay so what is technically again I'm I'm naive about this
1:04:17
uvm's relationship to the state of Vermont
1:04:22
so the the legisl the general assembly uses Charters to create these entities
1:04:28
that uses it right the so that's why that's why this so we just did
1:04:34
um all citizens voting that now has to go to the legislation to approve
1:04:39
um because Vermont Burlington was formed under a similar I mean I mean it's a different Charter but it's similar right
1:04:45
legislation still has to decide whether and that's why um um
1:04:52
the one that got vetoed last year
1:04:57
here um yeah I just said yeah we're gonna Pastor us cause eviction it got to the state and it got vetoed by the governor
1:05:04
um so there's still that that ultimate check in place but I think Earhart maybe wants to jump in I don't know could you
1:05:10
answer my questions I'm still not clear what a charter is chardon's a piece of legislation
1:05:17
yeah it creates The Entity so the city exists
1:05:22
the city exists only as Allowed by the charter can only do things that the
1:05:29
Vermont that the Gen whatever that the Mont legislature says it can do same
1:05:34
thing to some extent with UVM where it is created by Charter by the state legislature and it can only do things
1:05:41
that the charter says it can do okay so then why would the legislature be
1:05:48

challenged the idea of becoming involved in what's going on with UVM if that's the case
1:05:54
because I mean there's still kind of philosophically is this an overreach or and and you're going to hear evm say we
1:06:01
should be left to make our own decisions around enrollment um right you're not telling
1:06:07
um you're not telling zero gravity how many people they can employ and and the answer to that as well zero gravity is
1:06:13
not a charter UVM is I want to let your heart going because he's probably got some history here uh I mean I could
1:06:19
specifically address this but I think you guys have got it um I wanted to go on and say something else about
1:06:25
um about the university it's more clarification I mean
1:06:31
municipalities are creatures of the state um and what the City of Burlington is
1:06:39
and is not allowed to do as a municipality without going back to the legislature uh that is stated in its
1:06:47
Charter the charter is um you know it you can get it online um it's uh you know it's it's uh it is
1:06:55
the Constitution so to speak of the City of Burlington and it is a constitution
1:07:00
that can be amended by only ultimately by the legislature with approval of the
1:07:06
governor and there's a whole process you know around it which involves like we had last year or like we just had
1:07:12
yesterday um um votes by the residents to change that
1:07:17
Charter and as uh Zariah and um Terrell are saying evm is similarly a creature
1:07:25
of the State uh in that what it is and is not allowed to do is based on that
1:07:31
murder and in addition it is substantially funded by the state's annual Appropriations process which gets
1:07:37
to one of the things I wanted to say um you know I I think the only relationship to the University
1:07:45
of Vermont Vice and vice versa is always a delicate balance I mean I think the
1:07:50
foundation that we have to step back and realize is that the real the reason that

1:07:56
we have many of the cultural and other amenities that we enjoy in a city of only 43 000 people are due in large part
1:08:03
to the fact that we have these major institutions um in the community are they good names
1:08:09
are they good corporate models that's I think that's another issue but um we'll run other things we need to
1:08:15
realize is what benefits does evm bring to the city and there's no other city
1:08:22
with 33 000 people that has sort of the cultural amenities and and just the
1:08:27
general amenities of um of Burlington and part that's thanks to the
1:08:33
um the income and the wealth um and and some of the diversity that UVM brings brings to um to to the city uh the other
1:08:41
point I wanted to make that the university is unlike many other state
1:08:47
institutions in other states is severely underfunded um by the Vermont legislature the state
1:08:54
of Vermont has not a lot of capacity we're a small State uh our population is
1:09:00
the size of the District of Columbia I.E Washington DC or Boston
1:09:06
um and our budget is relatively small in our ability to
1:09:11
sustain and support the University of Vermont is is constricted in the time
1:09:16
that I've lived here since I was a graduate student at evm for a percentage of uvm's budget that is supplied by the
1:09:23
state of Vermont through the annual Appropriations process has shrunk unwieldably I can't you know try to
1:09:29
maybe cite the percentages but um it's it's it's shrunk over 40 years and it is
1:09:36
um you know it could be seen by some as kind of a state embarrassment to you know call this a State University City
1:09:43
and to have it be funded as as low as the state of Vermont can fund it what
1:09:49
that's resulted in in my view is um a a business plan a business model
1:09:55

um that has required the University of Vermont to expand its student body and that's where kind of the rubber hits the
1:10:01
road uh they uh rely on large part on um High uh tuition from wealthy
1:10:09
out-of-state uh families for their for their students um we couldn't afford to send our son if
1:10:15
he had gotten into evm to UVM under in-state tuition because famously we have
1:10:21
um either the highest or one of the highest in-state tuitions of a State University in the country so again
1:10:28
that's you know part of uvm's business model is that it needs to tap uh out-of-state
1:10:34
students uh that come from you know the Eastern Seaboard from wealthier uh major Urban uh and Suburban areas and that is
1:10:43
part of what um you know has had its impact on on us all of that said the
1:10:50
city has a number of mechanisms or I should say had at least one significant mechanism that I'm Sharon can comment
1:10:56
more specifically on this because I don't remember exactly when it was repealed but uh when I was still on the
1:11:02
city council back in the in the 80s and when Peter was there um there uh there was a requirement in
1:11:09
the um cities zoning and planning law that required the University of Vermont
1:11:15
to submit uh its campus master plan periodically to the city to the city and
1:11:22
its Planning Commission for review um at some point that was repealed
1:11:27
um and I was just looking at the UVM website um they the UVM Board of
1:11:33
Trustees just in the fall of 2022 uh approved their first new comprehensive
1:11:40
campus master plan since 2006 and incidentally
1:11:45
um under that old master plan that has now been completed that was completed in 20 uh the fall of 2022. UVM added 22 new
1:11:54
buildings or additions made major renovations to another 22 structures and
1:12:00
completed four major priority landscape projects one of which was done in

1:12:05
cooperation with the city namely the redesign of University Place um that
1:12:11
that was accomplished in uh what would that be 16 in 16 years clearly and I
1:12:19
Sharon may have um maybe really familiar with the new master plan but I expect that over the
1:12:25
next 15 years they will probably be planning on adding another 20 buildings um so you know
1:12:32
given all of what evm brings to Burlington I still think it's incumbent
1:12:39
upon the city council and the mayor at some points to once again play hardball with them because they're making
1:12:46
um as much as I bring to Burlington they're making Burlington unlivable in certain in certain neighborhoods and
1:12:52
um their dormitory prices for students are also driving uh prices in the housing in in the city of uh in the City
1:12:58
of Burlington landlords charge uh based on what UVM charges for
1:13:05
um for for for for a room um on on campus and then as we've you
1:13:13
know discussed at Great length um there uh they just don't have sufficient uh
1:13:19
housing for their for their students either so in many ways they're driving the uh the housing crisis in the uh in
1:13:25
the city in the City of Burlington um given that the University of Vermont is probably going to be coming to City
1:13:32
with approvals for new buildings I think that's an opportunity that the city council needs to use to get UVM to the
1:13:40
table and even before they bring in their next project I think the city council could reinstate the requirement
1:13:47
in its zoning laws that the University of Vermont submit its campus master plan to the city for its review and uh and
1:13:56
and approval um that's I think that's a fairly simple step that the the council could take that uh really will I think
1:14:03
get their attention and and help bring them back to the table sorry to go on at length but um Fair a lot to say about

1:14:10
this I've I've got just a general question and I know I'm supposed to be the
1:14:16
moderator and it's hard not to intercheck but do you think that the uh
1:14:21
the University of Vermont really feels that they're a part of the community or
1:14:27
that they have allegiance to the state I I get the financial piece uh I moved here not perhaps long after you moved
1:14:34
here and uh the number is 28 the state provided 28 percent of uvm's budget back
1:14:41
in the early 80s and now it's it's less than 10 I think it's between six and
1:14:46
seven percent so it's it from that point of view the dollar amount's probably gone up but the percentage has gone down
1:14:54
it's about 40 million dollars now so um
1:14:59
do they feel that they really have any responsibility to
1:15:05
direct responsibility to the state or or to the city can I say something Tom this is Sharon
1:15:13
um I I'm unfortunately I I feel they don't I feel there's a disconnect I feel that
1:15:20
Richard Kate doesn't really he is he is true to his
1:15:28
employer and I it I just I don't feel like they
1:15:35
well there's a disconnect but actually I spent a lot of time thinking that they
1:15:41
just didn't understand but I was wrong they understood they chose
1:15:46
not to act on it because it wasn't in their best interest they are about
1:15:52
themselves and and that's just the fact but I wanted to say something about what
1:15:57
Earhart was suggesting um and although I have some recall I
1:16:03
don't have perfect recall but Earhart and for all that listen to what Earhart
1:16:08
said so much is absolutely factual but somewhere the state
1:16:16
change the rules that as far as what Burlington can review
1:16:22
and any proposed development that comes before us that UVM is about to undertake

1:16:29
and so it's limited review so that has changed the Dynamics and what we can say
1:16:36
and what we can hold them accountable for Soraya may know more about about this
1:16:42
um but I do know that that's true because you know I'm a junkie still following all these meetings
1:16:49
um so that's that's troubling um to me
1:16:54
um because I don't believe we can we don't have as much leverage there we can
1:16:59
say no we won't allow we won't make a zoning Amendment we can do that but as
1:17:05
far as when they come forward with a proposal if the zoning has been cleared
1:17:10
it's almost by right um and there's very limited review
1:17:16
um and then the other piece you said something else about um about accountability and I I wanted to
1:17:24
address that and it's escaped me now I'm sort of annoyed at myself that I can't remember
1:17:30
um uh but um
1:17:36
it's their most recent master plan um so their master plan I'm sorry their
1:17:42
most recent master plan is is the master plan is not
1:17:48
doesn't give the detail it is a land bank usage so as as the council has seen
1:17:57
and and if you've gone to any Planning Commission meetings you'll see that there are colors and we saw it during
1:18:02
Trinity where this color is yellow and that's where they might put housing and
1:18:08
this color is green where they're going to keep it open space and this color is red where it's going to be don't hold me
1:18:14
to the colors but it's going to be administrative buildings or whatever but it's no it doesn't really have the
1:18:19
detail the detail is kept close they hold their cards close and and that's
1:18:26
very disappointing also so it makes it really hard for us to really give good
1:18:32
input because we really they don't disclose enough for us to give a good

1:18:37
response to it anyways thank you Tom sorry for jumping in
1:18:49
I see no hands um go ahead yeah sure um
1:18:58
um so Sam and I are new we don't have uh much knowledge or experience to back up
1:19:05
these Grand systemic issues so we certainly have opinions but we're not experiencing
1:19:10
we're not experienced like the mines in this room um but what we do what we would like to bring up is that
1:19:16
we are willing to take action and affect material change um and since this is the ward one uh
1:19:23
meeting we'd like to focus on the ward One issues things like sidewalks
1:19:29
crosswalks lights simple things that are kind of
1:19:34
immediately help and improve the um the conditions of the neighborhood
1:19:40
and even things that can go a little further and improve the social cohesion um of an area
1:19:45
and so um this is kind of I guess just an open message to the city council and
1:19:51
to other people that um you know there's some younger people moving in lately I know Evans on the call as well
1:19:58
um Sam and I are here and we're trying to connect with more younger people on our street and we're all ready to like
1:20:04
do things um so we're looking uh to help out some of these City departments I know
1:20:10
all of the city departments are stretched it's hard to find people to take the jobs uh to get things done and
1:20:18
we can sit and knock on their door and yell at them all day we need things done and things do have to get done but um
1:20:24
there are some people that are willing to help and like do things um so that's kind of what I wanted to just
1:20:31
throw in there is I know we have these great systemic things but just locally we're ready to help we're ready to do
1:20:36
things thanks for being the the you and Evan for being the first timers who have
1:20:42

the the nurse to get up and say something um but yeah Jules Jules right we
1:20:49
um were personally and I guess I'll speak for Joel too
1:20:55
um I would say that our the things that we would like to see focused on or have some sort of impact
1:21:02
are just safety for pedestrians and cyclists it's
1:21:08
um I mean even coming here tonight uh we had to we rode on the sidewalk just
1:21:13
because like 6 6 30 rush hour is feels a little bit unsafe to go up call Chester
1:21:20
so um just personal experience and um I know that there's Grand schemes to
1:21:27
you know continue the multi-use path and have a complete Street for Colchester
1:21:32
um but yeah some if there's things that can be implemented into like Joel was
1:21:38
saying our Ward our neighborhoods that we can directly see happen
1:21:43
sooner rather than later and yeah we're willing to do things even if it is just
1:21:48
like give us the resources and we'll we can do it and we can build it or we can
1:21:53
put up a sign or you know we can we're ready to get our hands dirty
1:21:59
um and kind of to what Richard Wright um he was saying earlier
1:22:04
um we are like the way to get things done is to come together and like coming
1:22:11
from we came from Cleveland and moving here
1:22:16
has has been so great and has just opened my eyes to the fact that we can
1:22:24
enact change like this is a the size of the community in Burlington
1:22:30
is ripe for things to happen and working together we can make things happen and
1:22:38
um I'm just going to touch on the winterlude event um I personally felt very strongly to
1:22:46
provide Hospitality at the winterlude event and so I uh I had made chili and
1:22:52
we were we had the donuts and apple cider and everything and I think that one way that
1:22:59
we can make people feel safe we can hopefully

1:23:04
make college students feel connected to their neighborhoods is to provide food
1:23:11
and provide the sense that you have people around you and
1:23:18
um I one thing that I thought was really great yesterday was seeing how all these Town meetings had dinner before or like
1:23:24
lunch throughout the day and I think that is fantastic and the fact that there you guys had the cake today and I
1:23:31
know that you normally have dinner here that's something that personally to me it feels so welcoming
1:23:38
like food I think is just a really great way to reach out to people um and it doesn't even have to be food
1:23:44
but I think just connecting to the people in your neighborhood in some way can just make
1:23:51
some of these changes that need to happen or can happen I think it will make it a little bit
1:23:58
um I don't want to say easier but it uh will help bring people together to enact
1:24:05
change I yes
1:24:14
thanks that's really a great segue for what I wanted to say and I just wanted to bring up the idea of mutual Aid and
1:24:21
bring Jake Schumann into the room for a minute um so a few days ago I was working with him and he said hey do you want to do
1:24:26
diaper distro with me and I had no idea that there was such a
1:24:31
thing and I thought it must mean distribution yes that's true but it's a whole
1:24:37
operation in this city and so um Jake had all these boxes of diapers that had
1:24:43
been donated by companies in the back of his car in his truck and so we were over
1:24:49
um by his place and with one other person we were sorting these boxes and he had the names of people who'd signed
1:24:55
up to be part of this and he knows these people so we were doing the salmon run portion
1:25:00
and so we're going into salmon run with these boxes of diapers
1:25:06

um and they're according to the woman's name and um the size that she wants so
1:25:11
it happens once a month and you get 100 diapers of the size that you need or sizes I mean it was just this incredible
1:25:17
thing I'm suddenly finding myself knocking on doors and greeting people and children and
1:25:24
you know here are your diapers you know and it was it was just it was wonderful
1:25:30
and so there are other Mutual Aid you know food not bombs there's a lot of food things that are happening in the
1:25:36
city and like you were mentioning um but I think it'd be really interesting as an NPA to just to you
1:25:43
know have a focus meeting on Mutual Aid and any different examples of it that we
1:25:50
could bring and you know just I think there's tremendous potential you know
1:25:57
and it might even get some of those people into things like you know NPA meetings or you know dialogue and
1:26:07
new way or something when they have time so that's what I want to say I'm glad Cheryl got to speak first she
1:26:14
had a way better idea than I did um yeah I think that's one of the I think it's so I we have such an amazing
1:26:20
collection of mutual Aid networks and that's a great thing to call out um we don't have an old East End um
1:26:27
Mutual Aid yet but we do have an old North End Mutual Aid that I know is active um along with yeah
1:26:32
food based um and I just had a question actually which I should know the answer to but I have no idea do we have funds that the
1:26:40
NPA or the community can just use to to do stuff like the amount of times that
1:26:45
I've walked like up and down we live on Hilder Drive which is kind of below Trinity campus and so if you don't want
1:26:51
to go all the way around the only way to do it is to go through the woods which is not a
1:26:57
good path um the amount of times I've been like oh it'd be so cool if we just had a community project to connect those two

1:27:03
parts of our neighborhood again and that's just one but I thought all the time I was like
1:27:08
I'm not possibly taking on anything else but um yeah I just wonder if there's like if the NP I feel like the NP has
1:27:14
funds is there stuff like that in the funds where people can run with it I've got a bad answer and a good answer
1:27:22
you're the bad answer first from city council is 2500 a year and we
1:27:30
spend a fair amount of that on rent to have meetings and on food so it's it's not a real meaningful
1:27:37
amount to do something that you're talking about but there are groups that sponsor uh projects like that and one of
1:27:45
them is AARP and I think they're they put up some amount of money and I I can't tell
1:27:52
you exactly how much for this uh winterlude that was mentioned earlier they're the people that that put up the
1:27:58
dollars to get that done and that included I think putting benches in shamanska park and things like that so
1:28:05
it it was probably in the thousands of dollars uh but I four thousand
1:28:12
I think that's what it was okay so it's so there's there are some places that where we can get that and
1:28:20
when I wear a different hat I I I was going to bring this up at a meeting that we're having next week and it's like can
1:28:27
our organ again a different organization can we get a someone who can investigate
1:28:33
grants to do things that would make our organization better
1:28:38
and I know I'm being sort of obtuse about who that is but anyhow um the idea
1:28:43
is that is that we as an NPA could do the same thing and say look for grant
1:28:49
money and say if we want to do this if we want to put in um more lights for Crossings
1:28:54
um and we could get the financing for it maybe we could Grease the skids and get the those things put in or uh things of
1:29:02
that nature

1:29:16
when we first started it there was block grant money and that was one of the things that really got uh npas people to
1:29:24
come because there was some money we could decide as a neighborhood and I remember I was in I was in ward 3 in
1:29:31
those days and I remember one one of the projects that the NPA when you talk about getting your hands dirty we
1:29:37
planted trees there were all the elm trees that were down in those years those some years ago of course now
1:29:43
there's most of those trees that weren't vandalized or something or they're Big Trees now
1:29:48
um I was what I was thinking about was uh the the question of looking up
1:29:54
looking for Grants and so forth this is what cedo has people who are really good at this and I'm I'm a little fuzzy
1:30:01
thinking back so many decades but I think Bill had a role in in getting the
1:30:07
npas and helping mpas and some administrative ways and so forth and and
1:30:13
I wonder if we we could talk to the through through the ceto office if they they could give us some advice and help
1:30:20
and do a research
1:30:26
so I I am I'm from cedo um this is that's
1:30:31
where the the funds come through Community Economic and Development Office of Burlington uh I am the I'm the
1:30:37
NPA guy I'm a part-time worker I'm also a student at UVM so I come to all the meetings and I help out I make sure the
1:30:43
agendas get posted I make sure minutes get posted and I also just provide feedback
1:30:49
um the the block grant uh question that was earlier is the mpas do still have
1:30:54
um a role in it but it's much more now um You elect representatives every
1:31:00
couple of years who then serve I think it's either a two or a three year term and they get used so I think Ward one
1:31:06

will probably be coming up in the next year because it um it just it just got started again
1:31:12
um recently so I think that I think half the awards kind of had um somebody elected and then the next half will
1:31:19
happen next year so yeah I think it's two or three years um yeah if you have any of these kinds
1:31:24
of questions my email is uh
1:31:29
s-a-m-u-e-l-h-e-i-n-r-i-c-h-s at burlingtonvt.gov um if anyone wants it I can give it to them actually meeting as well
1:31:36
um yeah the minutes the minutes will have it as well um and I can try and do my best to help answer these questions
1:31:43
um all of the all of the mpas are really looking for ways that they can
1:31:48
um expand their reach right now so um it's really important to have these conversations and I'd love to be able to
1:31:54
help anyone if they have these kinds of things um so yeah that's that's what I can do for you
1:32:00
and I'm just wondering too picking up on your idea Tom about um are there any business owners
1:32:08
that live in Ward one that might be interested in making some kind of
1:32:14
contribution to the betterment of the award or any businesses you know that
1:32:19
are running out of people's homes that we don't even know about or um I I can't think of any right now
1:32:27
um there's there's also a much bigger one
1:32:34
and that's the hospital that might put the hospital interesting all right so exchange for
1:32:42
all the ventilating systems and all those things that go on the hospitals the biggest employer in the state I'm
1:32:49
pretty sure wow I just can I just add one more to that
1:32:56
path specifically and I don't remember where I I I'm I'm working at UVM technically 16 hours a week but
1:33:03
everything happens mostly on Mondays so I kind of forget where I hear things UVM related
1:33:10

in my UVM job but I know that path has come up in UVM conversation not to say that maybe we want to leverage with ubm
1:33:17
to fix the path because I I don't know that they want to play ball at all but I'm in a meeting on Monday with Joe
1:33:23
spidel um who is the liaison between UVM and the city and I can ask him if there's if
1:33:29
they have any plans for that and all that is to say is whoops I would just really like if
1:33:35
I say this is I know the person who approves the budget but like I would like it if yeah the npas did have some
1:33:43
pocket of money that they could just use to I think that would like Beyond wanting the path to be done I just
1:33:48
wanted to almost be a community project to do the path because that feels different than
1:33:55
um yeah then like yeah being this like oh I didn't want this thing to happen even if
1:34:01
evm owns the land it's like I don't I I want the community building they get our hands dirty and do something together
1:34:06
aspect of and I think I assume that there's other I guess I'll
1:34:12
bring this up in cdnr um Community Development and neighborhood revitalization committee
1:34:18
um because I feel like there is pockets of money that we give to
1:34:23
um organizations and non-profits to do this kind of work and I just think it would be nice if we made some of it more
1:34:29
an empowering community opportunity as well and that's the land
1:34:34
where there was this huge land record sorry huge land reclamation
1:34:40
project right and drainage and you know I mean it must have cost quite a few
1:34:46
thousands of dollars if not hundreds and did UVM do that
1:34:53
because I assume at least some of it is private I think part
1:34:58
private yeah development sorry sorry no no no no no no no we're
1:35:06
way over time but this is good yeah Earhart
1:35:13

um so I uh I guess I'm sharing our uh sort
1:35:20
of the uh de facto historical uh we have the institutional knowledge I was
1:35:25
actually on a Planning Commission when uh your development um Soraya was um was approved and uh I have this vague
1:35:33
recollection and it may have been I can't remember if it was for Hilda drive or for Salmon Run um but um we required
1:35:41
some kind of path um up onto Colchester Avenue from there
1:35:46
it may have been Salmon Run I don't know if Sharon remembers this better than I do um maybe it was overdrive um but yeah
1:35:54
yeah and so yeah and I was just looking on um
1:36:00
The Wild Rose uh so this would be a great project for Burlington driveways to work on
1:36:06
um and just another hysterical note back when uh the neighborhood plenty assemblies did get uh CBG dollars which
1:36:14
had stopped had told Sierra to stop that um because their requirements around
1:36:19
cdbg and low-income benefit and administratively it was also I think really difficult for Sito to administer
1:36:26
lots of little tiny grants that uh the seven npas will end up giving to you
1:36:32
know what they thought were good projects and some of them may never have come to fruition um so it it it it became I think an
1:36:39
administrative nightmare for um for Sito but one of the things that um a fellow
1:36:44
who used to live on upper North Street for Blumenthal some may remember her herb and I uh wrote a series of Grants
1:36:52
directly to the city to create the Riverwalk which is down a lot it starts at salmon Hall we got the accessible
1:37:00
path from Riverside down you know the whole parking lot um there was a cdbg
1:37:06
project as well as the little retaining wall where you overlook the river and
1:37:12
then the path down to the river and to the actual salmon hole was a cdbg
1:37:18

project as was the entire Riverwalk we did that over a series of a number of
1:37:24
years and you know tried to get it all the way to the Intervale but we we failed um because there's a a clay area
1:37:32
that was just impassable but um yeah it comes back up uh on Intervale uh on
1:37:38
Intervale um Road uh just near the top of Intervale Road there's a little pocket park there uh and that's where the
1:37:45
Riverwalk comes back up so that was all um cdbg dollars um that uh grants to
1:37:50
Herb and I wrote and then you know was accomplished a lot of it with Americorps uh Vista uh volunteers
1:37:57
unfortunately I've again run over on time and I
1:38:03
apologize but I think we've had a good conversation
1:38:12
oh sorry okay here but thanks just for clarification uh just a few years ago
1:38:20
every NPA was allocated 400 a year not very much my pretty much worthless you
1:38:26
couldn't do anything with it um and in the last couple years it might have been you who raised it we raised up
1:38:32
to 2500 per NPA and and that's a substantial amount more money when we
1:38:38
before the divorce when words one and eight were together we had five thousand dollars and we actually one year formed
1:38:44
a uh uh a committee to try to allocate the money
1:38:49
um but what we found at least a few years ago was that there was almost none of the enthusiasm that we're hearing in
1:38:56
the room right now about ideas how to spend the money and so largely the money
1:39:01
went unspent from from the East district from Ward one and eight it was it was shameful because it just goes back into
1:39:07
the Dental funds and yes it helps the city but it doesn't help us we
1:39:12
this past year we um first of all for the for the first time since covet or pre-covered we had
1:39:19

to start paying for space because because we used to be at the medical center this is a much better place it's very
1:39:25
cheap but we also decided we'd spend a little more money on Twitter we can
1:39:30
still assuming that the budget stays constant next year 2500 there's opportunity
1:39:37
there's tremendous opportunity for us to spend money the way the way the MBA wants to spend the money we'll still
1:39:44
feed people we still have the space the other thing Earhart that just
1:39:49
reminded me is we have a request from from her Blumenthal really yeah it's 500 I mean it's 500
1:39:57
there's not a ton of money I don't 500 a year or no no it's a one shot and Sam you might be able to check this for us
1:40:02
but herb Spoonful left us and we haven't done I don't think we've
1:40:09
done anything with it and we need to find out what that is we're we're we're pretty much out of time and I want to
1:40:14
give uh Sophie a chance to let's not forget SD Ireland they have
1:40:22
they they there they want a good place for their their uh tenants to live and they are building new tenant homes next
1:40:29
to that I just went and asked her for money for the um mural and she handed me fifteen
1:40:34
hundred dollars but we have not gone to them as much as we could be going to them
1:40:40
okay thanks Sharon um yes uh
1:40:46
um yes I was just gonna say that um yeah uh to Zariah that footpath that you talk
1:40:52
about times have changed but there was a desire to create that and there were
1:40:58
some safety issues but but Technology and Engineering has changed so go for it
1:41:03
I hope that you can do it because it was always a good idea um so anyways that that's number one and
1:41:10
number two is that um the monies that we talked about that Peter and and Cheryl and and Earhart are
1:41:18

recalling are just them like the projects that the new people that have just come want to get their hands dirty
1:41:25
want to make a difference want to do something that impacts Ward one there
1:41:30
were dollars about five or six thousand dollars that came to each Ward and they were cdbg dollars but they came with
1:41:37
with restrictions and it had to benefit low and moderate income people and
1:41:44
sometimes we had projects projects that didn't meet that criteria and so if that
1:41:50
criteria is still there we have to think think long and hard how we make a
1:41:55
project that really meets those needs for those that for those people
1:42:01
um that would benefit from them and all and would improve our Ward also so I
1:42:08
hope we could get back those discretionary funds I just think it really is the glue that holds the NPA
1:42:13
together they also had to be Capital items didn't they Sharon
1:42:18
I'm sorry excuse me they had to be Capital items I don't recall that you might be right
1:42:27
you might be right I don't recall Richard is correct you know we've got I'm I'm really I gotta apologize but
1:42:33
we're gonna have to cut things short a little bit can we make this the topic of
1:42:38
discussion next month about how to uh what monies we have we can all sort of
1:42:44
do a little research and see what historic monies have been around or bequests from people or
1:42:52
um a community block grant uh dollar amounts or constraints and and talk
1:43:00
about what are what we'd like to do in our Ward um maybe some ideas for projects and we
1:43:06
can take this to the next step along those lines I'd like to suggest
1:43:12
that maybe to help facilitate that to help facilitate that discussion that you know via Sam that we invite Brian Pine
1:43:19
um the director sedo who's got all of this history uh you know Brian not hasn't just been director cedo for the
1:43:25

last couple of years and for new folks cedo stands for community and economic development office sorry uh got a
1:43:32
Ackerman bust myself there um Brian actually worked for cedo as their housing director throughout much
1:43:37
of the 90s and into the Arts and you know has a great his uh institutional
1:43:43
memory uh including around these kinds of funds so um Sam if you could maybe if everyone
1:43:49
agrees uh if you could extend that would would that be a good idea would people
1:43:54
like to have that for uh a agenda item for next time yeah yes and maybe go
1:44:02
ahead baby you know spring really is going to
1:44:07
come and um stay here for a little while wouldn't it be cool if we went and like walked or
1:44:15
kind of explored together that path and that whole area between the back of Trinity campus and salmon run and the
1:44:24
other one once the snow's gone yeah yeah what's going on there and and the right
1:44:29
the mud is gone you know when we could go it could be a wildflower walk and uh you know but just kind of brainstorm
1:44:36
together about possibilities yep great idea yeah
1:44:43
if you going back to the Trinity campus and walk towards the river at some point
1:44:50
it goes down very steeply to uh
1:44:55
Riverside Drive super jeans there's one Ravine behind salmon salmon run it comes
1:45:02
up uh near uh like Nash place or on the Trinity campus the other Ravine comes up at the end of the uh Helga driver being
1:45:09
comes up at the end of Fletcher Fletcher Place
1:45:18
well I can I think I can describe it right after this meeting
1:45:24
but if so we'll uh the steering committee is going to meet I think next week and we'll we'll figure out an
1:45:32
agenda to that we should publish long before the
1:45:37

meeting so people can comment about it all right and see how we can
1:45:42
um yeah yeah yeah and we can uh bring our ideas together and I
1:45:49
Zariah we have um we've sort of run over the city council
1:45:54
time okay not for me okay
1:46:00
um but I don't want to uh go over the uh School commissioner title
1:46:07
because we yes because we have Among Us a school commissioner
1:46:14
who has served us mightily for
1:46:19
six years six and a half because I took over
1:46:25
yeah well it's my second time and menopause I served four years and then
1:46:31
this time six and a half because Kyle Dotson left in the middle of his term so
1:46:37
I took over from August until that following March so it's six and a half
1:46:43
years and just for disclosures I I ran against her and she beat me I think three to one
1:46:53
so you're the only person in the room now so if you're going to speak to the
1:47:00
camera you might want to stand up and walk in um Jonathan yeah so Kathy what I really wanted to do
1:47:07
was you know we we buy a cake I hope you enjoyed a piece of this yes thank you
1:47:12
yeah exactly everybody else has some kids you know we we I think I speak for
1:47:17
everyone when I say that we've been uh well represented by you and we really appreciate all the effort you put forth
1:47:28
originally It's been a it's just been nice to meet you we went out and had
1:47:33
coffee coffee once and talked about the
1:47:39
enjoyable yes so anyhow well thank you but also I really want to thank
1:47:46
everybody in Burlington for having passed the school budget last night so
1:47:53
that was I mean it was a huge win we even wore one in Ward seventh so that
1:48:00

was like every I think we won in all sports it was a 68 yes vote yeah yeah
1:48:09
Western basketball well uh less than the bond yeah but still well they're coming
1:48:15
pretty close to one another so right mine passed like three to one yeah
1:48:21
but again thank you very much you are all very welcome
1:48:27
and you know I I also think that it's been great to have you come and give us
1:48:33
some idea what's going on uh for us who don't have kids it's we're really a a pretty big step away from how
1:48:41
the school works well I'm not leaving the districts I
1:48:49
mean the the Lord saw me around you'll see me plenty well thank you all too
1:48:56
and uh I think
1:49:02
Troy did you want to make some comments yeah you know give us a brief little can I come up here yes
1:49:14
um I'm gonna I'm gonna start further away from anything specific
1:49:19
um I just put out kind of bills that I think are worth watching
1:49:24
um and that's on my BL on the blog on my on my website so if you just go to troyhedrick.com and click on the blog
1:49:31
you'll see that's the most recent one um also available on Twitter I think
1:49:36
it's just Troy Hedrick you'll find me pretty easily and I'm also reachable on Instagram
1:49:42
um both Twitter and Instagram transitioned away from my personal account so if you go back far enough
1:49:48
it's just gonna be all about my mustache so I'm trying to transition it into a
1:49:53
more legislative one but let me let me just talk about where we are just so that everybody kind of kind of arrived
1:49:59
to the same page um we are halfway through the first of two sessions in this biennium
1:50:06
um this session will wrap up mid-may and and then
1:50:11
um we are about to hit the crossover date so Friday the 17th is the deadline

1:50:17
by which any policy bills cross over to the Senate and then if they don't cross
1:50:22
over they they stay with the committee of jurisdiction um through through the entire biennium
1:50:29
so all of next session so even if things don't cross over by Friday
1:50:34
um and share all your prison stuff that I just read your emails about um because I'm on that committee
1:50:41
um are probably not going to cross over those so there was a prison moratorium um there's a there's a couple you can
1:50:47
you can look at the list there's a couple of um stuff but I'll talk more about the women's prison here in a second
1:50:54
um just just watch them anyway they're they're there the whole time
1:51:00
um and you can encourage the committee chairs to to continue um taking testimony and to continue
1:51:07
pushing those into the next crossover for the next session and then budget crossover is the following Friday on the
1:51:13
24th um I serve on the corrections and
1:51:18
institutions committee um so that's what I know the most about um so any corrections policy comes
1:51:25
through our committee and any Capital bill so those are that's that's the money the state
1:51:31
um approves to be bonded out for any Capital Construction any state-owned buildings
1:51:37
um and I think the biggest kind of biggest piece of that Capital bill is
1:51:43
going to be the the women's prison which is just down the road from us in South
1:51:49
Burlington um and currently the the capital bill has
1:51:54
um just designed money in it for this year and then next year they've got a block of money set to start constructing
1:52:02
a new facility and there is a lot of debate and talk going on about should we
1:52:08
be starting the process of building new prisons in Vermont um before we have a really good
1:52:14

understanding of um how we approach um well Society in general to decrease
1:52:21
the amount of people that would typically be incarcerated um and I'm kind of right in the middle
1:52:29
of those conversations and and more than happy to talk um at length with anybody who has
1:52:35
thoughts on where you would like that direction to go I know where I stand philosophically myself but I represent
1:52:41
everybody here so I'm more than happy to have those conversations
1:52:47
um a lot of great uh there's a minimum wage bill and I don't know if that's going to
1:52:52
get out um this session uh get out of the house this session the affordable heat Act is
1:52:59
concurrent there's a bill in the house and a bill in the Senate so the likelihood of that seeing the governor's desk this session is pretty high
1:53:06
um that's the other big one I'm probably overlooking something and I don't I I may want to just the second
1:53:12
one that involves forming a working group a very wonderfully diverse working
1:53:19
group to look at alternatives to incarceration right so that's going to be a policy I don't think any prison
1:53:26
policy just based on on my read on our chairs willingness to
1:53:33
take those conversations up right now I don't think it's gonna it's not gonna leave the house it's not going to leave
1:53:39
our committee before crossover I my job is to
1:53:45
so our chair has she's a wonderful wonderful um historian she's been there for a long
1:53:51
time and and that's a really good thing because she brings so much knowledge and experience into the room
1:53:56
um she's really in in the capital bill got really complicated this year because the governor shoved a bunch of one-time
1:54:03
money in there there are unprecedented federal dollars in our budget right now that we have to leverage
1:54:09
um most of those federal dollars require you know a 20 match from from the state
1:54:15

budget so um the capital bill is typically this is your bond rate and and this is how much
1:54:21
money you get to spend um now there's an infusion of of federal money into their from the general fund
1:54:26
and they did this complicated they're creating a fund that relies more
1:54:33
on cash than on bonds um so we're playing with that as well so I know Alice is nervous our chair
1:54:39
um uh representative Evans is nervous about getting all those working pieces sorted
1:54:44
out by the the budget crossover which is the 24th so she's really focused on the budget right now
1:54:50
um that's the long way of saying I don't think policy um prison policy is going to leave our
1:54:57
committee before this Friday the 17th a week from this Friday yeah
1:55:04
if they are already starting to design yeah and once those Wheels
1:55:12
there's almost no way to stop it so right right so let me let me tell you
1:55:18
where my the one access point I have to to apply a break and then you can all
1:55:24
tell me how you want me to use that position and I made the same very same point and there's I think there's a
1:55:29
Vermont Digger article that quoted myself and Michelle bosslan rep boss lawn
1:55:35
um are kind of the two people in the room who are really concerned that we're stepping onto that very slippery slope
1:55:42
and the way I phrased it um so we recently took testimony from The Architects that are doing the design
1:55:47
work H okay um and we got to a point in the conversation
1:55:53
and representative baslon was asking all those questions like we are doing this we are doing this we are doing this we
1:55:59
are doing this all that we all all to say that we're trying to decrease the number of people that we hold in
1:56:04
incarceration um why are we building such a huge facility down the road
1:56:11
and then I said like so so 50 years ago um right there were people in that very
1:56:17

same room at that very same chair that I'm sitting in right now saying we're going to build prisons
1:56:23
um and and and as it turns out they had a terrible Vision about what a person
1:56:29
should look like and they're terribly inhumane and we're at the point now where we're recognizing that right and in
1:56:37
recognizing that we're at we're making the very same decisions we're about to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on
1:56:42
new facilities what where is this hubris right how do we know that we're not
1:56:47
going to make the very same mistake that was made 50 years ago in hindsight so I was asking those questions
1:56:54
um and everybody yeah right and and the
1:56:59
question right now is the women's facility and they're calling it a re-entry facility um and I'm not convinced personally that
1:57:06
um there's enough attention being paid to the re-entry portion of that
1:57:11
um and that's you know they don't have a site for it yet but everybody's looking
1:57:16
at Saint Albans um and it's it's this sunken cost fallacy
1:57:22
right we just spent a million dollars on design of course we're going to dig right of course we're going to start construction so here's we're gonna we're
1:57:29
gonna set aside I think it's 15 17 million dollars that set us out in the capital bill for
1:57:34
fy25 and then you're going to spend that you're going to build a women's facility and you're gonna say well of course
1:57:40
we've got to build a men's facility now um right I'm worried about that I'm
1:57:45
incredibly worried about that so um but I also know where where I'm one
1:57:51
person on an 11 person committee um and I know where the Allies are in the room and there's two of us maybe
1:57:57
three um what's the name of the other person Michelle boslon boss hyphen l-u-n
1:58:05
um and the only evidence I can see consistently
1:58:11

is that we are not doing incarceration well right um we're in the midst of what's called
1:58:17
The Print study um this objective third party we're one of I think five states that are are
1:58:24
doing this study and and the data coming out of there on the impact our facilities have on our Corrections
1:58:30
workers is horrendous um fully thirty percent of them report having felt suicidal in the last month
1:58:38
um right so a third of our Corrections workers and and they're short staffed um and they're they're just being ground
1:58:44
up um so there's plenty of evidence to indicate that we're not doing incarceration well and that we're
1:58:50
hurting people in the process we're causing harm not to mention the incarcerated
1:58:56
um so I don't I have a really hard time committing even let's call it 15 million
1:59:04
dollars in fy25 when all indications are it's broken and we're not doing it well why would we
1:59:10
build a new facility in the midst of that so that's my that's my point where I can say I'm more than willing to to
1:59:15
see the design because the Design's not even finished yet right before I commit x million of dollars millions of dollars
1:59:22
into into construction so that's where I can try to cons convince the the rest of the the
1:59:29
committee that maybe we want to tap the brakes here and can they not take that money and do a thorough study of what I
1:59:37
mean right look planning very suspended phonics yeah they're in Europe and what many other Scandinavian countries are
1:59:44
doing because if we have to incarcerate someone then humanitarily and being more
1:59:51
in the community than taken outside so I was I can commit to being in the room and asking those questions
1:59:58
um I am not currently optimistic that the committee is willing to pull those
2:00:03
funds and the thing is we can always do a budget adjustment next year right and say you know what we like the design go
2:00:08

ahead start building but I don't know why we're committing money right now to construction when we
2:00:14
haven't seen the design but the way the northern you know the Scandinavian countries do is far cheaper than we're
2:00:21
doing it too I mean it it costs just you know a very small percentage of what we
2:00:28
put out yes and go ahead yeah I think that the
2:00:33
SE they do it say in Germany the whole philosophy or incarceration is completely different it
2:00:40
is here so the facilities that they build sort of align with their
2:00:47
philosophy and here it's really just punishment yeah and isolation
2:00:53
wow yeah you were saying that they are not really calling it the prism they're
2:01:00
calling it re-entry so it's go ahead I'm sorry is there
2:01:06
um if through this study we're showing that you know we're not doing incarceration
2:01:11
correctly whenever that truly means but is there a way to then like take those
2:01:17
dollars and truly make like a re-entry sort of
2:01:22
um like recovery written entry facility instead where it's a little bit more
2:01:29
insulated uh in bringing those people back
2:01:35
right so there's a whole Continuum of how people view what we should be doing right and and
2:01:42
the the designs currently um would have a facility that ranges
2:01:47
from you know medium security people who we know are going to be incarcerated for
2:01:53
a long time because of what they done did was was incredibly harmful right so
2:01:59
those beds will continue to exist and infirmary beds will continue to exist and
2:02:05
um beds for people who remain incarcerated as they become older are
2:02:10
going to exist and then um kind of steps down from there so the
2:02:15
model that everybody is looking at and talking about is the main model which by all I mean I've seen the

2:02:23
pictures I haven't visited the facility it looks much more Humane than our South Burlington facility does and it allows
2:02:31
um as in this case it's a women's facility as well it allows women as they're nearing the end of their
2:02:37
sentence to to be in a lesser uh you know free access in in out of the uh to
2:02:44
the outside which is then fenced of course um a lot more furloughs to work
2:02:51
um so there's a there's models out there that people are excited about um and then um you know ACLU will tell you that well
2:02:59
um it's still not great it's still not Humane um and then there are models of in
2:03:04
community incarceration where we build structures within the community that has access to Circles of support that have
2:03:11
access to job training that have access to so there's a wide variety of people
2:03:17
kind of weighing in on how we should and and then the Norway model and the German
2:03:22
model um yeah this is all in the conversation um
2:03:28
Vermont seems to be moving towards a version of that main model
2:03:35
that intends to build more Humane facilities but bigger facilities and the
2:03:42
argument that the Department of Corrections will give you is that we have to have more beds so that we have the flexibility if we have to shut a
2:03:48
wing down for repairs right now we house roughly 100
2:03:54
um vermonters in Mississippi prison that is a private prison a for-profit prison
2:04:00
so there's a lot of talk about what we would have to do to bring them back to Vermont so all of that is in the mix
2:04:06
step one is this women's reentry facility which will be a combination of
2:04:11
medium security all the way down to a more flexible living situation that gives access to all the things I just
2:04:18
mentioned um and I can't remember I think it's 36 but no 136 beds or something I can't
2:04:25

remember I'd have to look at my notes but yeah okay
2:04:31
um yeah and then like I said on my blog there's a list of legislation that is moving um and I can I can sit here and talk and
2:04:39
I can look it up on my phone if anybody wants to talk but um those are going to be more specific conversations so if you
2:04:44
see the see anything that Flags your attention that you want my particular attention to be paid to I am going to
2:04:50
continue to push the UVM thing um if if you want direct action the
2:04:56
thing to do on that one is to call that or to email the chair of the of the education committee and say give this
2:05:02
bill some attention what that will do is allow me to introduce the bill on record and then I mean it's already been picked
2:05:08
up Vermont Digger already did the story seven days did a story evm did a story um but to keep that happening we'll kind
2:05:16
of keep the pressure on UVM to realize that this isn't going away you know I've been given um time for
2:05:23
introductory testimony yeah no and then I mean to be fair the education committee has um school choice going on
2:05:30
right now extending vouchers for meals for all students that's going on right now so those are going to be high
2:05:36
profile things that are going to try and meet crossover I think um I doubt that this would meet crossover
2:05:42
um yeah so once crossover happens then it's then it then you get to do a little deeper
2:05:48
dive into some of these bills and if if UVM is if the Trinity campus thing
2:05:54
and or an enrollment cap is important to you that's I think when those conversations would start gaining some traction
2:05:59
do you have a companion bill on the Senate side no
2:06:06
I am we have a great Ally Martin Gluck and uh then she she's ready for anything to
2:06:13

show up there then I give her she's she's been a great Ally yeah and I've got a great relationship with
2:06:19
Chittenden I don't remember who's on um on the education committee right and Martine is definitely on the education
2:06:25
committee yeah all right and I've got a great relationship with Senator vihowski as
2:06:31
well Tanya um yeah
2:06:37
application oh yeah yeah yeah she married my daughters my daughter and her wife got married by Kesha in our
2:06:45
backyard yeah yeah all right Jordan well thanks my pleasure
2:06:55
I think I think we're done folks
2:07:01
by acclimation we're over there sure
2:07:07
Charlie Charlie so um and this is speaking about all
2:07:12
these big issues around incarceration um hope for a moratorium on the building
2:07:19
um tomorrow in Callahan Park between four and six
2:07:24
there are a number of groups including free her Vermont food not cops People's Kitchen cooperation Vermont people's
2:07:31
Network for land and Liberation and our meeting in the park and they're going to be speakers talking to these issues
2:07:39
um the headline speakers can be someone named Jim Fergie Cox Chambers Jr
2:07:46
um and here why this man is against his
2:07:53
family's investment in the militarization of police so it's also about you know the cop City situation
2:08:00
you're looking at construction outside of Atlanta is that right yeah
2:08:06
um so this is also in support of stopping cop city as well as our own
2:08:12
issues around incarceration here um why we and he's going to talk about
2:08:18
why we need to reprioritize funding for housing education and health care and what workers can do to organize and

2:08:25
resist so Callahan Park tomorrow from four to six
2:08:32
CCTV will record wait a minute is it outside yeah it's
2:08:40
outside of the park for eign