Ward 5 NPA
DPW Conference Room, 645 Pine Street
February 16, 2016 7:00 – 9:00 pm

7:00 - 7:05 - Introduction and Welcome (Elisa Nelson, Ward 5 NPA SC Member comments regarding Same Day Voter Registration

7:05 - 7:25 - Rhino Foods, 79 Industrial Parkway, M.I.D. Presentation with Q+A

7:25 - 7:40 - Ballot Item Discussion: Commissioners Harrington and Stoll - School Capital Spending Plan,

7:40 - 7:50 - Ballot Item Discussion: Councilors Shannon and Mason- Charter Change Explanation/Comment

7:50 - 8:20 - City Council South District Candidate Introductions

8:20 - 8:50 - City Council South District Candidate Q+A and Moderated Forum

8:50 - 9:00 - Open Forum and Closing

The Steering Committee Members for Ward 5 are:

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

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

Neighborhood Planning Assembly Attendees

NPA (choose one)		Wards 1 & 8		Wards 2 & 3		Wards 4 & 7		Ward 5		War 6

Date of Assembly : 2-16-17 Location: DPW

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

1 Charles Siegel
2 Olivia Matthews
3 Shane Gussman
4 Nate Larose
5 Alicia Feiler
6 Abdullah Sall
7 Gayle Neave
8 R. Paul Smith
9 Elisa Nelson
10 Nate Orshan
11 Marcia Gustafson
12 Alec Bauer
13 Andy Simon
14 Tom Roland
15 Molly Roland
16 Kurt Thom
17 Rachel Fraumann
18 Margaret Tipper
19 Susan Harrington
20 Miriam Stoll
21 Ibrar A. Stratibus
22 Alex Lavin
23 Jane Hendley
24 Ken Grillo
25 Ashley Dumansky
26 Gordon Dragoon
27 Larry Lewack
28 Bill Keogh
29 Ben Traverse
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Neighborhood Planning Assembly Minutes

NPA: *(choose one)*	Wards 1 & 8	Wards 2 & 3	Wards 4 & 7	Ward **5**	Ward 6

Date of Assembly **: 2 / 16 / 2017** Start Time: *(Commence):* **7:00 PM**

Location: **DPW Building, Pine St.** Finish Time: *(Adjourn):* **9:20 PM**

Notetaker: **Nate Orshan**

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

Alec Bauer
Bill Keogh
Elisa Nelson
Nate Orshan

Discussion Topics and Action Items:

(1) Introductions and Welcome
– Alec Bauer, NPA Moderator

(2) Comments Regarding Same-Day Voter Registration - Elisa Nelson, Ward 5 Clerk
Related a big change on March 7: Same-day voter registration. Used to be a cutoff of a week before election. You can also register via the Department of Motor Vehicles. You can register at the legal polling place you're registered to vote at, i.e., for us it would be in Burlington Electric Department, not, for example, in Ward 8.

(3) Presentation and Q&A - Rhino Foods: Ted Castle, Owner, Nate Larose, Architect (CMC Design & Build), and Elisha Feiler (DeWolfe Engineering Associates, PC)
Showed a slide of the modification to an addition to the building, which will now total 14,200 sq feet and will include a new employee space, a new receiving area for raw materials, and a driveway that loops around the entire building. Answered questions about materials delivery, setbacks, roof noise, and losing additional trees in a buffer zone.

(4) Discussion: Ballot Item and School Capital Spending Plan – Commissioners Susanmarie Harrington and Miriam Stoll
Discussed how the 5% budget increase for FY18 represents investments the superintendent recommended. Shared information about the upcoming ballot measure for borrowing $19 million for infrastructure investment. Comprehensive Budget Proposal available for public view at http://district.bsd.schoolfusion.us/modules/cms/pages.phtml?pageid=335192.

(5) Ballot Item Discussion - Charter Change Explanation/Comment – Chip Mason, Councilor for Ward 5, and Joan Shannon, Councilor for South District
Described the non-school ballot items, including some charter changes, determining whether to ask the legislature to increase minimum wage to $15, and asking whether to increase Councilor annual pay to $5,000.

(6) Election for South District City Council - Candidate Forum: Abdullah Sall, Joan Shannon, and Charles Simpson
Made opening statements and answered questions from the audience.

(7) Open Forum
No action items.

Motion to adjourn adopted at 9:20 PM.

Neighborhood Planning Assembly Minutes – Full Notes

Date of Assembly: 2/16/2016
Start Time: *(Commence):* 7:00 PM
Finish Time: *(Adjourn):* 9:20 PM
Location: Department of Public Works Building, Pine St.
Notetaker: Nate Orshan

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

Alec Bauer
Bill Keogh
Elisa Nelson
Nate Orshan

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(1) Introductions and Welcome
– Alec Bauer, NPA Moderator

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(2) Comments Regarding Same-Day Voter Registration
- Elisa Nelson, Ward 5 Clerk

A big change on March 7: Same-day voter registration. Used to be a cutoff of a week before election. You can also register via the Department of Motor Vehicles.

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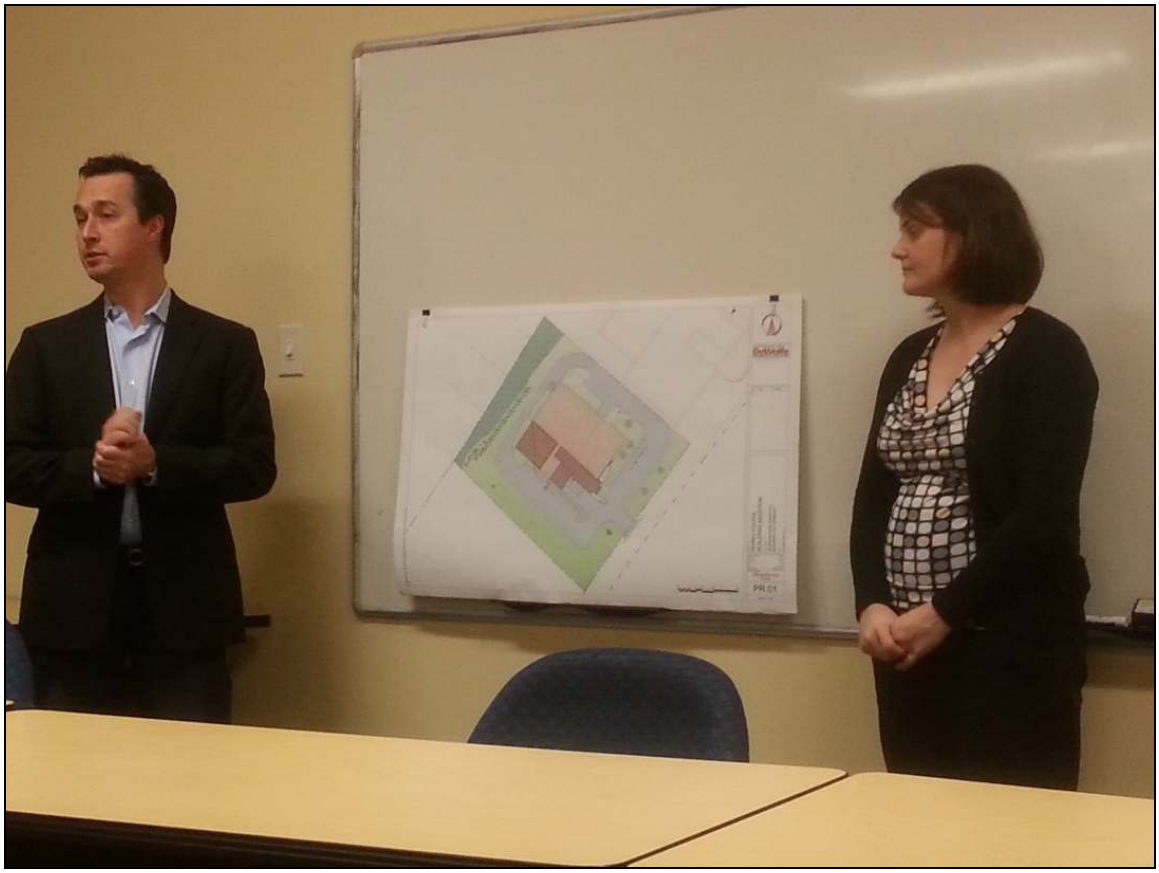
(3) Presentation and Q&A
- Rhino Foods: Ted Castle, Owner, Nate Larose, Architect (CMC Design & Build), and Elisha Feiler (DeWolfe Engineering Associates, PC)

Summary:
Showed a slide of the modification to an addition to the building, which will now total 14,200 sq feet and will include a new employee space, a new receiving area for raw materials, and a driveway that loops around the entire building. Answered questions about materials delivery, setbacks, roof noise, and losing additional trees in a buffer zone.



Nate Larose and Elisha Filer

Nate: There's been a slight modification: Adding 4,000 sq feet of warehouse space. Total of 14,200 sq feet. (In image, the dark brown areas are the expansions.)

There will be new employee space, a new receiving area for raw materials.

The idea is to have delivery-vehicle traffic be able to make the entire loop around the building, but it's especially for emergency-vehicle traffic. Note that there are actually very few truck deliveries.

Q: How many trucks/day on average? What is the route in/out?

A: Ted: For Nitrogen deliveries, once/day. That'll stay the same. The frequency for the rest of the materials should be the same. I'd say about 4 times/day.

Q: Any limitation to the hours the back road will be used? We hear the trucks as early as 5 in the morning.
A: Ted: I'd say it will be the same, but there will be no reason for them to use that loading dock in the back.

Q: There are 6 setbacks in the back adjacent to the "brown" area, plus an HVAC. Any chance you're putting up some screening to block the noise?
A: Ted: We'll try to screen the roof, do a better job at that.
Nate: There was a makeshift screen for the roof's boiler, but we're looking for a more permanent solution.
Elisha: The new development will allow the company to run the boiler a lot less due to not needing to double-sanitize materials.
Q: So nothing is changing in the setbacks?
A: Elisha: Correct. Nothing extending closer to neighbors.

Q: Last time you talked about taking mechanicals on south side & moving to west side.
A: We're still figuring it out. We're working with a sound engineer.

Q: What about the raised-bed garden?
A: Want to keep it.
Elisha: We'll be relocating some trees that were planted last fall.

Q: We lost 200' x 30' feet of tree buffer. It sounds like we'll lose more. I've got before-and-after photos, and it's drastic because of the edge cutting. It's been absolutely startling. I rarely open up my curtains on that side of my house.
A: Elisha: There's a storm water swale running along that side, so we can't have trees along its path.
Q: What about staggered fencing that animals can go in between? Our neighbor's requested that in the past.
A: Ted: What we had before, having trees within X feet of our building was dinging us in audits, and we were losing customers as a result.
Q: The more tree cover there, the better it would be for mammals.

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(4) Discussion: Ballot Item and School Capital Spending Plan – Commissioners Susanmarie Harrington and Miriam Stoll

Summary:
Discussed how the 5% budget increase for FY18 represents investments the superintendent recommended. Shared information about the upcoming ballot measure for borrowing $19 million for infrastructure investment.
Comprehensive Budget Proposal *available for public view at* *http://district.bsd.schoolfusion.us/modules/cms/pages.phtml?pageid=335192*.

Miriam Stoll and Susanmarie Harrington

Susanmarie: Entire board's excited about the FY18 budget. The increase is a little over 5% because, after several years of modest increases, we're actually making investments that are carefully coordinated with the district strategy. All the investments the superintendent recommended are result of a lot of consultation with lots of feedback from the board. There's a clear rationale for everything. It begins to grow and invest.

Miriam: In the past, the board hasn't consistently put out good info about the budget, because we didn't HAVE good info. This year: I encourage you to read the Comprehensive Budget Proposal (http://district.bsd.schoolfusion.us/modules/cms/pages.phtml?pageid=335192). It describes well the state's process.

We have about $1.75 million in new investment. The challenge now is that, if we don't strategically invest, we won't be able to graduate kids who are successful.

Susanmarie: The largest thing we need to invest in is infrastructure. (BSD Property Services Director) Marty Spaulding's been at this NPA talking about it. The second ballot measure authorizes borrowing $19 million over a number of years. In total, $39 million in infrastructure.

Miriam: Look for the two-page document on the web site.

The district went though a planning process, for example, adding more granular location data for 911 calls.

Susanmarie: Built into budget for next year is the assumption that we'll borrow $2 million in bonds.

Miriam: We're taking the next year to figure out what we want to do with the high school.
Susanmarie: Lots of opportunities for community involvement!

Re $19 million bond, that probably adds $91/year in taxes for the next 10 years.

I'm not running for the board again.

Susanmarie: There's currently a dire need for repairing our infrastructure.

Q: Would you support a statewide teacher contract? How about a tighter relationship with the City Council?
A: Miriam: Sure. Our group determined some opportunities. Ultimately, I don't fully support it.
A: Susanmarie: Burlington's a unique district in the state.

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(5) Ballot Item Discussion - Charter Change Explanation/Comment – Chip Mason, Councilor for Ward 5, and Joan Shannon, Councilor for South District

Summary:
Described the non-school ballot items, including some charter changes, determining whether to ask the legislature to increase minimum wage to $15, and asking whether to increase Councilor annual pay to $5,000.

Chip Mason and Joan Shannon

Chip: There will be six other ballot items aside from school budget. (See https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/sites/default/files/CT/Elections/20170307/Ward%205.pdf.)

Re Question 3: Shall voters advise legislature to increase minimum wage to $15/hour? The thought of advocates is that it would help.
Joan: It's not a detailed proposal.

Chip: Re Question 4: Charter change to repeal tax appeals. We have a separate board that hears tax appeals. Our current charter is odd in that it requires council to hear each appeal, which can add a lot of time to every meeting. So this would remove the appeal, but there would still be two other appeals people could use.
Joan: In the existing system, there's a "Y" in the road, letting you appeal it to the state OR to the council. We realized we just don't have the expertise in this. Even deciding whether to HEAR the case required more time to make a determination on the merits.

Chip: Re Question 5: Proposed charter change on whether the Mayor presides depending on the meeting.
Joan: Is it better policy for the mayor to be able to vote on their OWN appointments?

Chip: Re Question 6: Increase in City Councilors' pay: Currently it's $3,000/year. This would increase it to $5,000/year. I'm lone holdout. Are we losing people as a result? I don't think the $5,000 changes much.
Joan: The last increase we had was around 2002/2003. If you calculated inflation rate to now, it would have risen to $4,500K/year. In the end, people DID feel that people were being discouraged from running because of the $3,000/year.

Chip: Re Question 7: Board for Registration of Voters increasing from 10 to 12 people with no more than 6 from any party.

Chip: Re Question 8: Clears up language on when the council meets.

Q: Would tax assessments ever result in MORE appeals?
Chip: We would still have our local board, and you can still appeal to a citizen panel. We would just remove the Council as an appeal option.

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(6) Election for South District City Council - Candidate Forum – Abdullah Sall, Joan Shannon, and Charles Simpson

Summary:
Made opening statements and answered questions from the audience.

Charles Simpson, Joan Shannon, and Abdullah Sall

Joan:
Actually ran as a result of the Ward 5 NPA. This NPA came up with the idea for banning smoking in bars and clubs. I brought it forward and eventually got most of the Council to support it.

One thing achieved early on in tenure: bus station by Main Street Landing.

Re Southern Connector / Champlain Parkway (CP): In 2006, I tried to get a change in the purpose of the Southern Connector as something that might help traffic downtown. Now we focus on relieving neighborhood traffic so that it will feel less like a highway.

In 2008: Worked for zoning changes in the Enterprise Zone (EZ). I'd met with area businesses, for example, Steven Conant, who informed us that there were a bunch of structure uses that weren't quite legal. A lot of what people like about the South End now stemmed from that effort.

Re Burlington Telecom: We've created criteria for finding a buyer in the next year.

Looking forward: Memorial Auditorium. It costs $4 million to just bring t back to the same uses it used to have. Those are discussions we need to have as a community .

Abdullah:
I'm not running against these folks. I think I have something for the Council that none of them have.

I see council in need of help in issues of housing, wages....

I'm in the race because this is the time for me to contribute to the community as best I can. I make sure I always have a volunteer job so that I can be giving back to the community.

I'm a renter living on low wages.

I want to show to the world that Muslim Americans can participate in democracy and can be engaged in civic engagement. I also want American Muslim youth to thing that this is your country, this is your hometown. I want to serve as a role model.

Right now, immigrants are expected to accept anything that comes your way, and deportation is used as a weapon.

I will work tirelessly for the benefit of all people. I'm not afraid of challenges or had work.

Charles:
Retired sociology professor from Plattsburg State.

I cut my teeth on inappropriate development in lower Manhattan. We have this idea of large highways solving problems. I've been here for 20 years, working with a number of community groups.

I notice a lot of commonality here with what happened in Manhattan. The Champlain Parkway would be a horrendous mistake. We need more manufacturing. We should keep the land for manufacturing.

{Doesn't like Subaru dealership's large parking lot.}

{Has plan for Englesby Brook and turning CP to economic development land.}

{Objects to sale of airport-adjacent homes in South Burlington.}

I hear that taxes are a concern: In one example, Cambrian Rise, City said, "Take $1 million from our mitigation fund."

Re Burlington Town Center redevelopment: The developer said, "I'd like $22 million of public money. I'd like spot zoning." The City's been profligate in its tax money.
{Says that the Mayor essentially capitulates to large developers.}

We let Memorial Auditorium fall to rack and ruin. Would like to maintain public control.

Proposes smaller, eclectic buses

Wants to expand downtown pedestrian grid. It's out money-maker.
{Says Joan wanted to open up EZ to housing.}

Q: Climate crisis: We keep doing the same things over and over again re our approach to development & transportation. How do you propose to address this massive catastrophe? Local-level solutions?

Abdullah: We need laws to regulate these kinds of things. Nothing happens "just like that". Start with public officials first. Anything I can do in my power, I will support.
Joan: It's part of who we are. We value the environment. We try to make our city more bike-friendly. We're the first city to have all-renewable electricity. We keep upgrading our regulations, but in for example, in our new downtown zoning, we improved the level of storm water treatment what's being required. We're always looking to upgrade how we help the environment.
Charles: I don't think we're doing well. for example, closing our beaches. We have a 19th Century wastewater system that's overwhelmed by big rain events. We need to invest in wastewater system. Think about moving to tertiary treatment, i.e., to remove chemicals, pharmaceuticals. We need electric mass vehicles. We can also pass an ordinance so that large structures have to be more energy neutral.

Q: Chapin Spencer said that parkway was an irreversible decision. Charles is talking about a grassroots effort as a way to alter it. Is there something that COULD be done now?

Joan: In 2006 there was an opportunity, because the State came to us. We had to go through a new Environmental Impact Statement. While there are people who feel there's no value, there are also many who feel their quality of live hinges on this road. We can make changes for *safety issues*, but otherwise we can't, for example, changing the road's path. If you follow through changes, the project would end. But the City's invested a lot of money, and the state would have the RIGHT to ask for money back.
Abdullah: The only businesses on Pine St that like the project are corporate. The expanded road would hurt ArtHop.
Charles:
State Senator Dick Mazza would be happy to empanel a meeting to craft a different plan.

Q: Bill Keogh (also a Burlington Airport Commission member) to Charles: Dead wrong on airport. All the homes were sold voluntarily. It's an FAA program.
Charles: You're wrong: People are put in an impossible situation, so of COURSE they want to sell out. But the Council could have imposed a cap on the sound levels.

Abdullah re CP: Everyone's passionate about their own personal interests. As a councilor, you have to find a way to negotiate. You have to understand that there are people who disagree and people who agree.

Q: For Joan: Mayor described insurgent forces against development as "a reactionary fringe". Opinion?
Joan: The mayor speaks for himself. I don't think there are 45% of people who are against development. And {re Charles' earlier statement} I've NEVER supported housing in the EZ.

Q: How would you take fiery rhetoric into account as an councilor?

Charles: As an insurgent candidate, you have to challenge the status quo. One has to accommodate difference of opinion, but it's also important to stand up for principle.

Joan: Southern Connector's a good example: I had to look at both sides of issue. I listen to the input and I make a principled decision...and then go back to the community and say, "these are the reasons I voted this way."
Abdullah: I'm one of 12 kids, and I learned you HAVE to negotiate. Sometimes you have to gain something and sometimes you lose something. I want to make sure we all have a dialog.

Next candidate forums:
CCTV Candidate forum on Tuesday, 2/21: https://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/burlington-city-council-forum-south-district
Right and Democracy on Friday, 2/24: http://www.radvt.org/btvcouncilforum

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(7) Open Forum

Motion to adjourn adopted at 9:20 PM.

<END>