



Wards 2 and 3 Neighborhood Planning Assembly

January 13, 2022, 6:30-8:30pm

HYBRID FORMAT: In-person at the ONE Community Center, 20 Allen St.

and via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85860854764>

Moderator: Chris Haessly, **Notetaker:** Jess Hyman

6:30 pm Announcements | 5 min

- Introduction of Steering Committee Members
- Agenda suggestions/ Request time slot via [CEDO's submission form](#)
- Next meeting: February 10
- Recordings can be found on [youtube](#) or [cctv's](#) website

6:35 pm Public Forum | 10 min

NOTE: 2 minutes maximum

6:45 pm Community Development Block Grant Ward Representative Elections | 10 mins

Declared candidates: Julia Connell, Ward 2, and Alison Spasyk, Ward 3

6:55 pm City's Strategic Roadmap for Racial Equity Presentation | 20 mins

Skyler Nash, Racial Equity, Inclusion & Belonging [\(link\)](#)

7:15 pm Downtown Tax Financing District Presentation | 20 mins

Brain Plne, CEDO [\(link\)](#)

March ballot item: *Expansion of the Great Streets project to include additional Main Street blocks and relocation of the ravine sewer system.*

7:35 pm 2021-22 NPA Funding Applicant Presentations and Vote (Round 1) | 30 mins

View community applications here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SaNckQxHDZ6jpr96wBUvFM34Xicrr-lxRmtDo6kLX3U/edit?usp=sharing>

Applicant	Project	Request
Laboratory B	Old North End Repair Cafe	\$1000
Food Not Cops	Food Not Cops Daily Distro	\$2500
Naomi Peduzzi & Nour Noah El-Naboulsi	The People's Farmstand	\$1422.79
Shelby Glass	The Braille Trail at the 311 North Avenue Poetry Walk	\$500
NPA Operations	Yard signs, flyers, other outreach	\$250
Community Dinner	Kitchen supplies, food	TBA

8:00 pm Representative Updates | 30 mins

Vermont State Representatives, Vermont State Senators, School Board, City Council

8:30 pm Adjourn

APPENDIX 1: ZOOM INFO

When: Jan. 13, 2021 6:30 PM

Join the webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85860854764>

WebinarID: 858 6085 4764

Or iPhone one-tap: US: +19292056099,,85860854764#

Or Telephone: +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833

APPENDIX 2: WARD 2 and WARD 3 NPA BYLAWS for review

Please note that each NPA has its own set of bylaws that include a provision for joint operation. Please email any questions or comments to wards2and3npa@googlegroups.com.

WARD 2 FINAL DRAFT:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QO5c3xPUkg8pebiwYcvFwnSBMSh3uoBX/view?usp=sharing>

WARD 3 FINAL DRAFT:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13OG1J5VCWP-BCjKDmF7MrdVFuZUR-glF/view?usp=sharing>

A section of Burlington City Council resolution first adopted in 1982 establishing provisions for a Neighborhood Planning Assembly in each City ward.

...Neighborhood Planning Assemblies shall... help provide citizens with information concerning city programs and activities; help obtain citizen views of city needs; help provide citizens with the opportunity to participate in making recommendations with respect to governmental decisions including the allocation of revenues.

...Assemblies shall also be encouraged to provide advice to the appropriate commission or this council with respect to community development, housing programs, this City's Comprehensive Plan and its waterfront planning activities, and the city's budget among other issues....

Wards 2 and 3 NPA Steering Committee:

TO EMAIL FULL STEERING COMMITTEE: wards2and3npa@googlegroups.com

Andrew Champagne	Ward 2	802-540-0717
Mayumi Cornell	Ward 2	mayumi.cornell@gmail.com
Kevin Deutermann	Ward 2	kdootz@gmail.com
Patrick Johnson	Ward 2	superdogirie@gmail.com
Mollie Klepack Flanigan	Ward 3	mollieklepack@gmail.com
Charlie Giannoni	Ward 3	charliecpg@gmail.com
Chris Haessly	Ward 3	haessly@adelphia.net
Jessica Hyman	Ward 3	jessicahymanvt@gmail.com
Barbara McGrew	Ward 3	bmcgrew@aol.com
Tony Redington	Ward 3	TonyRVT99@gmail.com

Burlington City Elected Officials Wards 2 and 3

Mayor Miro Weinberger	Democrat	802-865-7272	mayor@BurlingtonVT.gov
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City Councilors:

Central District (Wards 2 & 3)	Perri Freeman	Progressive	203-623-9490	pfreeman@burlingtonvt.gov
Ward 2	Max Tracy	Progressive	802-373-1968	mtracy@burlingtonvt.gov
Ward 3	Joe Magee	Progressive	(802) 279-5513	jmagee@burlingtonvt.gov

School Board Members:

Central District (Wards 2 & 3)	Jean Waltz		355-7856	jwaltz@bsdvt.org
Ward 2	Stephen Carey			scarey@bsdvt.org
Ward 3	Polly Vanderputten			pvanderputten@bsdvt.org

Vermont State House Representatives

Chittenden-6-3	Jill Krowinski	Democrat	802.363.3907	jkrowinski@leg.state.vt.us
Chittenden-6-3	Curt McCormack	Democrat	802.318.2585	cmccormack@leg.state.vt.us
Chittenden-6-4	Brian Cina	Progressive/ Democrat	802.448.2178	bcina@leg.state.vt.us
Chittenden-6-4	Selene Colburn	Progressive	802.540.0546	scolburn@leg.state.vt.us
Chittenden-6-2	Emma Mulvaney Stanak	Progressive/ Democrat	802.828-2228	emulvaneystanak@leg.state.vt.us

Vermont State Senators (Chittenden County)

Philip Baruth	Progressive/Democrat	802.503.5266	pbaruth@leg.state.vt.us
Thomas Chittenden	Democrat	802.879.0054	tchittenden@leg.state.vt.us
Ginny Lyons	Democrat	802.863.6129	vlyons@leg.state.vt.us
Chris Pearson	Progressive/Democrat	802.860.3933	cpearson@leg.state.vt.us
Kesha Ram Hinsdale	Democrat	802.881.4433	kram@leg.state.vt.us
Michael Sirotkin	Democrat	802.999.4360	msirotkin@leg.state.vt.us

Wards 2 and 3 Neighborhood Planning Assembly

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6:35 pm Public Forum

- Gene Bergman (Ward 2) - Announcement of candidacy for City Council. More info at <https://genebergmanforcitycouncil.org/>
- Tony Reddington (Ward 2) - Endorsement of Gene Bergman for City Council and gratitude to Max Tracy for record of attending and informing and listening at NPA for past decade
- Jess Hyman (Ward 3) CVOEO in partnership with the city of Burlington is operating a Community Resource Center at the 176 South Winooski VFW with services to people experiencing homelessness and other community members in need. Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. everyday (except holidays). Services include: meals and hot drinks, snacks, clothing, computer access, phone access, emergency housing services, support to access public benefits, safe recovery information.
- Chris Haessly (Ward 3) - Endorsement of CVOEO services, especially business planning through Financial Futures program.

6:45 pm Community Development Block Grant Ward Representative Elections | 10 mins

Declared candidates: Julia Connell, Ward 2, and Alison Spasyk, Ward 3

- *Julia Connell (Ward 2) nominated by Gene Bergman; seconded by Mayumi Cornell; approved by NPA*
- *Alison Spasyk (Ward 3) nominated by Charlie Giannoni contingent on future acceptance; seconded by Chris Haessly; approved by NPA*
 - UPDATE: Alison accepted 1/18

6:55 pm City's Strategic Roadmap for Racial Equity Presentation | 20 mins

Skyler Nash & Anastasia Light, Racial Equity, Inclusion & Belonging

- Roadmap for Racial Equity developed over 6-8 months in 2021 with consulting firms
- Focus on how to collaborate with BIPOC and city as a whole to ensure racially equitable outcomes in these areas:
 - Community & power
 - Identity & representation
 - Safety & freedom
- Budget allocation recommendations \$2-3M for REIB department founded in 2020, data disaggregation & policy research, BIPOC coalition, planning/design/implementation,

community empowerment grants

- Background for roadmap: Operation Phoenix Rise, establish domains (education, economy, health, housing, justice), BIPOC listening sessions
- Roadmap lists 8 steps to change culture and disrupt oppression in 5 domains of equity:
 - economy - economically sustainable community where BIPOC residents prosper & thrive
 - education - healthy & nurturing learning environment that is representative of BIPOC community
 - health - accessible and high quality public health system to empower BIPOC communities and culture
 - housing - equitable access to high quality housing & homeownership
 - justice - build and strengthen justice & equity into all systems
- Commitments: Community engagement centering diverse BIPOC voices, sharing decision-making with partners, systemic change, measuring & evaluating process and progress
- LINK TO FULL REPORT: [\(link\)](#)

7:15 pm Downtown Tax Financing District Presentation | 20 mins

Brain Plne, CEDO and Laura Wheelock & Olivia Dureese, Dept. of Public Works [\(link\)](#)

March ballot item: *Expansion of the Great Streets project to include additional Main Street blocks and relocation of the ravine sewer system.*

- TIF is an economic development incentive tool first used in Burlington in the 1990s. The Waterfront TIF allowed for Lake Street reconstruction, development of Main Street Landing, Sailing Center (public and private investments)
- 2011 city developed concept of downtown TIF
- How it works:
 - 1) Municipal bond
 - 2) Build infrastructure
 - 3) Private sector development
 - 4) Creation of new property tax revenue (incremental)
- Approved TIF projects: 2 blocks of main street (church to pine) are now covered; New project would add Union to end of Main Street
- Downtown TIF would use Great Streets principles: balance the interests of pedestrians, transit, vehicles, and bikes and increase stormwater mitigation; everything below the surface gets rebuilt:
 - Complete redo of Main Street: wider sidewalks, outdoor seating/tree belts, dedicated/protected bike lane, parking, east/west travel lanes
 - Decades since Main Street was redone, has deteriorating infrastructure
 - Urgency: State deadline: must borrow \$ no later than March 2023
 - Need to mitigate impact of massive ravine that runs diagonally across burlington, under Fletcher Free Library, behind Fire Station, under Winooski & King St. to

Decker Towers - 20 ft below surface built in 1800s.

- All TIF info available on City website soon - come back in February for more info

Chris Haessly moves to extend time; seconded by Solveig Overby; approved by NPA

- More background:
 - TIF established 2011, have until 2023 to spend, can repay debt until 2036
- Proposed projects:
 - rebuild main st union to battery
 - relocating or upgrading ravine sewer
 - costs of managing project - public works, CEDA, consultant
- Existing approved funds to be combined with new funds
- \$25,920,000 project costs + \$1,470,000 related costs
- All incremental taxes from private developers will cover debt.
- No tax increase!

Questions:

Q: Gene Bergman: What development is in the works?

A: Redevelopment of VFW property by Champlain Housing Trust with VFW remaining in the building, new community kitchen, new nonprofit space, and three floors of housing; South Champlain Street 45-50 housing units Inclusionary and market rate; redevelopment of former YMCA into a hotel/inn or residential use; also Catholic Diocese has permit to remove former cathedral on Cherry St.

Q: Mayumi Cornell: If bond passes and development doesn't happen as planned, who ends up paying bill?

A: City has to pledge full faith in credit, so it would fall on the taxpayers, but that is unlikely (of 11 TIF districts in Vermont, never occurred)

Q: Chris Haessly: With decline in city revenues due to the pandemic and the city reappraisal, is concerned that there is a chance that the development won't happen. Has VFW sold to CHT or is it eminent domain?

A: It would be a partnership with CHT (not eminent domain), CHT is taxable vs tax exempt VFW. The taxes that flow today continue to flow. If bond is passed, enables private investment and new tax.

Q: Stephen Carey: Concerned about development of unaffordable housing. What % of new housing will be affordable owner/occupied?

A: The city isn't a housing developer - doesn't determine what is owned vs rented. Most development is rental. Private development must include at least 15%; may be up to 25%. Nonprofit involvement increases affordable units.

Q: Why should we support this expenditure knowing that in Nov. 2022 we will be asked to

support another bond for school

A: TIF financing is the only way to fund without There is no burden to taxpayers vs. the high school bond will all be on the taxpayers

Q: Patrick Johnson: City is always on the hook, regardless of if the development happens. Concern that TIFs don't benefit low income areas.

A: The level of oversight from city and atte means that downtown TIF can only proceed if developments are confirmed. Need to have a contract to incur TIF debt.

Q: Chris Haessly: With all the talk of federal \$ coming to the state for infrastructure, could \$ come from there instead? How will private developers deliver on promises?

A: We will pursue all \$ that is available, but Federal funds won't cover it. Only way to do it all at once is to use TIF financing. TIF financing has worked exactly as proposed. ie downtown hole has not cost taxpayers \$1.

Q: Gene Bergman: Why these 6 blocks?

A: DPW worked with admin to identify project that is needed and successful

Q: Solveig Overby: Will repairing ravine be part of redeveloping the block that contains Memorial Auditorium? Concerned about sale of Memorial to a private developer.

A: No development of that site is in the works; Fire Station is a historic buildings and would be preserved. Memorial has significant capital needs. Relocating sewer will allow to build and plan.

Requested opportunity to return to the NPA in February

7:30 pm 2021-22 NPA Funding Applicant Presentations and Vote (Round 1) | 30 mins

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Repair Cafe

Q: How many people?

A: About 100 things repaired, plus resources.

Food Not Cops

Q: Specific list of things that would be purchased

A: Listed examples on application

Q: Why food not cops?

A: 99% lunch 1% political education; providing food beyond other requirements

People's farmstand

no questions

Braille Trail

No questions

Outreach materials:

Q: Can outreach and community grant goal be combined

A: Yes, and also handouts fliers, etc.

Jess Hyman moved to use this process for vote: 1) Combine Wards 2 and Wards 3 grant funds and voting, 2) Vote on each project individually with fully fund, partially fund, or do not fund, 3) Steering Committee to make the final allocations based on the results of the community voting; seconded by Charlie Giannoni; approved by NPA

NOTE: A technical glitch made it impossible for all Zoom participants to vote. Vote is tabled until Feb. 10 meeting (see below for vote).

UPDATE: All grantees notified 1/13

8:00 pm Representative Updates | 30 mins

Vermont State Representatives, Vermont State Senators, School Board, City Council

- **Emma Mulvaney Stanak, Chittenden 6-2 House Rep:** Open meeting laws changed; working on H.616 - new unemployment advocate office to support people through UI process, also revising harsh penalty and definitions of fraud; H.615 - wage discrimination and transparency bill would strengthen wage disclosure laws; gender wage gap bill would require posting of wages with every job posting.
- **Curt McCormick - Chittenden 6-3 House Rep:** Transportation bill puts more \$ into EV incentives, including public transit and perpetual free fare; rent control bill; bill to repeal legislation that allows for sprawl zoning; bill limiting HFC chemical used in most refrigerants, move away from greenhouse gasses.
- **Selena Colburn - Chittenden 6-4 House Rep:** Connecting with educators, parents, families re: scaling back of in-school covid testing, inviting feedback, released statement after hearing from educators; new guidance coming from agency of education on Friday.
- **Brian Cina - Chittenden 6-4 House Rep:** Healthcare committee looking at Budget Adjustment Act implementing retention bonuses for health care workers, increasing medicaid reimbursement rates; committed to improving social determinants of health; reintroduced

racial/social equity in land access bill; tenants right of first refusal to collectively purchase buildings; energy and tech committee working on second Artificial Intelligence bill.

- Q: Update on Burlington Charter Change?
- A: Emma - trying to steward through. Airport commission from House to Senate, some concern about regional oversight; other 3 still in House Government operations (thermal energy, ranked choice voting, just cause eviction). Tough road for BTV issues on a Montpelier stage. Trying to stay united and move forward. Competing issues may hold it up.
- **City Council President Max Tracy:** Council is finalizing the march ballot. UVM plans to build several hundred bed housing at Trinity College - requires rezoning, TIF, weatherization for rental properties, contractor ordinance, trimmed down capital bond with reduced allocation; more decisions to be made at Jan. 24 meeting; not running again.
- **City Councilor Joe Magee:** Personal note, pleasure to serve with Councilor Tracy; finalizing ballot items, charter change re sex work, accepting applications for ad hoc redistricting committee - need two renters and commercial property owner - deadline is 1/14.
 - Q: Are there any opportunities for financial relief for reappraisal
 - A: Passed funding for lag relief
- **School Commissioner Jean Waltz:** Schools are asking for decrease in taxes. State education fund is healthy, plus covid funds. Now a restorative practices specialist at every school. ARPA funds have provided for more engagement supports/staff, continued covid precautions, added 2 pre K classroom sanitation literacy, mental health assessment tool, home visits for kindergarteners, \$10 million for BHS/tech center build. State can support a higher level of spending without raising taxes.
 - Interested in running for the Ward 2 seat on the school board? Please feel free to contact Jeannie Waltz (District Central rep/wards 2 & 3) with ANY questions. Email: jwaltz@bsdvt.org Cell: (802) 355-7856. To be on the ballot, 30 *valid* signatures from ward 2 residents are required and need to be submitted to the Clerk/Treasurer's Office at City Hall by 5pm on Monday, January 24th. Here's a link to the form: <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/sites/default/files/SchoolCommissionerTwoYearTermPetitionForm.pdf>
 - Next Tuesday, January 18th, 6-10pm the board will have a final review and vote of the budget. Zoom link and agenda should be available today by 5. Let me know if you want me to circle back with the details. Here's a link to the Superintendent & Finance Director's budget presentation at the 1/10 City Council meeting, #6, 50:25 - 1:19 <https://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/burlington-city-council-473>
- **School Commissioner Stephen Carey:** Not running for Ward 2 school board. Thanks for support. Hope to see candidate from Ward 2, happy to talk to anyone about it - exciting time to be on the board. Battling covid badminton game. Work in SoBu - seeing high number of absences, need for substitute teachers.

Patrick Johnson moves to table community grants vote to February; seconded by Mayumi Cornell; approved by NPA

Adjourned at 9:22pm