



All Wards NPA Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 15th

7:30-9:30pm

Sharon Bushor room, floor 1, City Hall

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/92994370932>

Facilitators: Rachel Jolly, CEDO Assistant Director, Community Justice Center (CJC)
Becky Penberthy, Adult Restorative and Volunteer Manager, CJC

Note Taker: Scott Rogers, Community Development Manager, CEDO

Present In-Person (22): Rachel Jolly (CEDO Assistant Director, CJC), Becky Penberthy (Adult Restorative & Volunteer Manager, CJC), Brian Pine (CEDO Director), Kim Carson (REIB Director), Scott Rogers (Community Development Manager, CEDO), Fosca Bechthold (NPA Public Engagement Specialist, CEDO), Jared Pellerin (Assistant City Attorney), Jonathan Chapple-Sokol (Ward 1 SC), Carol Livingston (Ward 1 SC), Lauren Ebersol (Ward 2 SC), Roxanne Meuse (Ward 2 SC), Chris Haessly (Ward 3 SC), FaRied Munarsyah (Ward 5 SC), Lena Greenberg (Ward 5 SC), Jason Van Driesche (Ward 5 SC), Ryan Nick (Ward 8), Christopher-Aaron Felker (Ward 3), Jake (Ward 1), Charlie Giannoni (Ward 3), Melo Grant (City Councilor, Central District), Sarah Carpenter (City Councilor, Ward 4), Mark Barlow (City Councilor, North District)

Present on Zoom (7): Samantha Ayotte (Ward 1 SC), Jessica Hyman (Ward 2 SC), Anita Rapone (Ward 6 SC), Nancy Harkins (Ward 6 SC), Ute R (Ward 6 SC), Colin Larsen (Wards 4/7), KP

Meeting Called to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Rachel Jolly (CEDO Assistant Director, CJC) who welcomed participants and initiated introductions. Attendees provided their ward, names, and pronouns. Rachel then introduced meeting guidelines and shared the screen for online participants.

Relationship Building Exercise:

Becky Penberthy (Adult Restorative and Volunteer Manager, CJC) facilitated a relationship-building exercise where participants shared three words describing themselves.

Agenda Discussion:

The agenda was discussed, clarifying the introduction of the Ward 5 Resolution and adding a discussion on all ward matters. Brian Pine (Director of CEDO) introduced and discussed the city

resolution, initiated by Councilor Ben Traverse of Ward 5, and sponsored by all councilors with unanimous approval. The resolution outlined the intent to reestablish a basic code of conduct for NPAs.

Open Meeting Law and Resolution Clarifications:

Questions were raised regarding open meeting laws and steering committee meetings. Jared clarified that meeting planning is not required in an open session. Chris (Ward 3 SC) inquired about the types of meetings subject to public meeting laws, and Jared explained NPAs, as creations of the city council, are subject to open meeting requirements. Discussions ensued about the relationship between the city and NPAs, including the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and clarifying conflict of interest clauses.

Resolution Intent and Timeline:

Jonathan (Ward 1 SC) expressed concerns about the relationship between the city and NPAs, urging clarification. Lena (Ward 5 SC) questioned how the resolution would enhance NPA openness and inclusivity. Carol (Ward 1 SC) highlighted time constraints for NPA bylaw updates, and Jared discussed efforts to support these changes by January 31st.

Grievance Processes and Equity:

Kim Carson (Director of REIB) discussed researching grievance processes and emphasized the need to understand each NPA's bylaws. Jake (wards 4/7) suggested focusing on celebrating diversity. GOP Leader sought clarification on hate speech, and the discussion emphasized creating equitable grievance processes.

Implementation and Communication:

Questions arose about implementing changes and a communication plan. Brian Pine (Director of CEDO) suggested NPA committees work on a new resolution, and Jason (Ward 5 SC) expressed the need for collaboration in the relationship between NPAs and the city.

Ward 5 Resolution Follow-up:

Ward 5 members shared their resolution's intention and discussed the process of building it into their bylaws. A committee was formed to work on a new resolution for city council consideration.

Orientation and Training:

Fosca (NPA Public Engagement Specialist, CEDO) presented options for training and orientation, seeking input from participants. Ideas included community outreach, defining relationships with the city, and creating guiding principles.

Action Steps:

The meeting concluded with identified action steps:

- Return to All Wards Meeting in the near future.
- Define the relationship between NPA and the City of Burlington.
- Form an NPA bylaws and resolution committee.
- Establish a communication group.
- Align nondiscrimination policies with the City of Burlington.
- CEDO to call Wards 4/7 and Ward 8 NPA meetings.
- Develop a grievance and data collection process.
- Encourage new registered voters to join NPAs.
- Host a mayoral debate.
- Utilize the All Wards Steering Committee Google Group for communication.
- Explore the possibility of hosting community events.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned, emphasizing the importance of collaboration, communication, and community engagement.