

Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 10, 2024 6:45 - 9:15 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: Carol Livingston

6:30 Welcome and Food: Sam Ayotte

6:45 Formal start - Introductions: name, street

Announcements: share events, meetings, activities of interest to Ward 1 community.

- See Resolution below requesting that City Council consult with NPA's before voting on major issues.
- Gary Golden - BSD board is working on school budget - will publish more info in FPF
- Karen Vastine - UVMCMC working on renewing 24 yr old MOU - holding 2/7 5:30-7 – on FPF - another meeting for conversation. Will also present time at Feb. mtg.
- Dave Cawley - Burlington/ Winooski bridge project - Tues, 1/23 at Winooski HS, 6:30-8:30: designs of alternatives, how traffic rerouted
- OEE - 4th Winterlude celebration at Schmanska park - skiing, snowshoeing, music, food, - Friday 2/2 5-7 and Sat 2/3 11-3 - Brl P & rec & AARP & OSCR sponsorship

7:00 Richard Kemp Center - Christine Kemp

- See website; <https://richardkempcenter.org/>
 - Christine@richardkempcenter.org
 - [Use Richard Kemp Center Space](#)
- Center supports black Vermonters, advancing justice, supporting youth.
- Visit website and stop by - between 10 and 5
- Summer youth activities - small groups of young people; free lunch from BSD;
- School block Party; Vermont Black Legacy wall - leaders throughout state celebrated
- Chess Club, annual trip to NMAAHC in DC, Ongoing activities - youth movie

- night (themed) big hit; game night - pool; Art display & growing library
- Community Health & Wellness monthly gathering (tied with Racial Justice Center as well) - reframed from “public safety” term - looking at root causes.
- Working with Champlain Housing Trust - helping people learn about home ownership & find housing. Black home ownership in Burlington and VT is not great.
- Media Justice program partnering with CCTV and Champlain College
- Center is located across from CHC on Riverside - old Sam’s Furniture bldg.

7:30 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UVM & City of Burlington
 - *Meagan Tuttle, Director of City Planning and Brian Pine, CEDO Director*

<https://burlingtonvt.portal.civicclerk.com/event/6721/overview>

- (look at files associated with 2. Presentation: University of Vermont Housing MOU)
- See Meagan’s slide presentation: ***** (will be available shortly)
- Background history: 1st known agreement between City & UVM - 1990 - working to address long-standing issues between city & UVM - city used zoning as leverage
- can’t do this any longer; end of decade of Bernie’s work to get UVM to step up
- 1973-1993 - UVM enrollment doubled, no rooms created; 1993 - first addition to housing stock
- 2009 - 5 yrs MOU and then extended until 2019. Without an MOU agreement, there is a pattern of UVM growth
- Today: What are we trying to accomplish? Create substantial growth in housing and have UVM be the location for student housing. Essential to house juniors & seniors so they don’t overwhelm rental housing in Burlington.
- 2022 - Trinity campus rezoning worked on;
- Slide of UVM goals from Richard Cate presentation to City Council on 12/18/23
- Slide “MOU & Zoning changes” shows what these changes mean for impact on Burlington housing

Comments:

- Sharon B - discrepancy between cost of on-campus housing (1500) vs off-campus (800)
 - So encourages students to live off-campus.
 - Enrollment numbers are not decreasing - forever & the city gets nothing
 - Concerns about pedestrian crossing, parking, traffic
 - What does the City get -
 - Meagan - projects will decrease the demand for off-campus housing -
 - Back to 2000 number of 3200 vs 5800 today
 - Brian - benefits - without agreement, enrollment has grown & will continue without MOU.
- Troy Headrick - reasonable to be skeptical; every time UVM builds housing enrollment increased. 2017 new housing - now beyond capacity.
- Kathy O - make mandatory for juniors to be on campus. UVM made clear in past that requiring students to live on campus for 2 years is unusual.

- Sam A. - can enrollment be controlled by the MOU?
 - Brian - city has no power to control
- Rob G - forced triples
 - Brian: MOU will not be used to respond to forced triples
- Katherine V: Why vote against MOU?
- Zoraya H.: believes UVM admin will continue to do what they're doing; haven't been transparent in enrollment numbers - could put undergrads in new housing even though UVM said they're for upperclassmen.
- Melo G - UVM pushing graduate, research goals but not enough housing for grads either
- Tim D - all activity will take place in ward 1; process : city council not told this was the best we could do - many meetings with Meagan and Brian and mayor, getting input about priorities for negotiation. UVM has said they have reached end of negotiation willingness. Decision before CC is the proposed MOU; it's not all that we want but if we don't approve MOU, UVM could decide not to build new housing - Tim sees this as real risk. Agrees that UVM has fallen far short in its responsibilities. Concern that if we say no, we don't know what UVM will or won't do.
- Todd S - concern about reducing triples not being addressed by building new units
 - To be competitive UVM needs to build 1000 beds to alleviate triples and have to end triples to be competitive with other colleges.
- Brian - trying to include agreement about juniors & seniors in proposed MOU
- Troy - without crystal ball, have to rely on past practice which is horrific - can't allow UVM to continue; making these decisions without student input - concerned about inequity that parents can buy students out of triples; must have guarantee that UVM end practice of forced triples.
- Public forum - Wed. 1/17 at 6pm at Fletcher Free library - UVM attending

8:15 Ward 1 City Councilor Candidate Forum - Geoff Hand & Carter Neubieser

Geoff's website: www.geoff4btv.com

Carter's website: www.carterforbtv.com

See the recording of this forum at ***** (link will be accessible shortly)

- Sam Ayotte moderated: Forum not a debate. Issues discussed:
 - Background for each plus why running - key issue for each
 - Questions from SC - explain time commitment demanded; how involve constituents in decision-making that directly affect them
- Questions from attendees -
 - Kathy - concern about recusing self in decisions involving key city institutions
 - Erhard - concern about citywide and statewide housing crisis - what can you do
 - Brendan - limitations for campaigning on-campus
 - Richard - concern for budget deficit - how do we grow the city?
 - Brett - curious about what we should be expecting from our police force and how it should be funded and managed
 - Todd - anything cc can do to help grow good-paying jobs
 - Own questions: G: how do you spend time outside of work, Carter?

- C: how can we minimize the contentiousness between candidates and parties?

9:15 Adjourn

OUR NEXT NPA MEETING IS FEBRUARY 14, 2024 AT FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE.

Ward 1 NPA Steering Committee

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