

Wards 2 and 3 Neighborhood Planning Assembly

Thursday, January 11, 2024, 6:30-8:30pm

At the ONE Community Center, 20 Allen St. and virtual

Moderator: Lauren Ebersol **Notetaker:** Roxanne Meuse **Attendees:** See next page

6:30 pm Introductions & Announcements | 10 min

1. Adopted the agenda
2. NPA member introductions: said names and wards
3. Annual City Election and Presidential Primary Election are on March 5.
 - The **City ballot** will be mailed to all active registered voters by Feb 14.
 - The **Presidential Primary ballot** will be mailed to voters **by request only**.
 - The recent redistricting will be in effect. [Check to see what ward you're in.](#) **And what polling place you should go to.
 - [Get more info about the election on the City's website.](#)

6:40 pm Public Forum | 10 min (2 minutes max per person)

- Richard Hilyard: Works as a crossing guard Elmwood x North St. Who can I contact to help make sure New Americans have orientation around road crossings.
 - Gene (city councilor) offered resources - Trusted Voices program, Local Motion, others.
 - Polly: We have multi-lingual liaisons in the school district.
- Polly Vanderputten (school board): have been representing Ward 3 but now lives in Ward 2 and running again. Please sign petition to be on ballot. And Sasha was the Ward 1 school board commissioner and now will be running for Ward 3, and Jean Walz is running for central district.
- Joe Kane: Running for Ward 3 city council. Literature available here.

6:46 pm Updates and questions with city councilors and school commissioners | 20 min

- Jean: Each table has a one-pager about restorative practices in the district. [[See BSD website about this topic](#)]
- Polly: How new BHS will affect taxes: higher than expected for several reasons she explained. It's twice as much as what was expected. You can see the presentation from Tues Jan 9 where Nathan Lavery explained the budget. It is complicated & confusing. [[Link to BSD board meetings on Board Docs](#)]
 - 13.97% is the number.
- Charlie: Can you share something fun/positive about the school district right now?
 - Polly: Had a group of students honored (presidential scholars) at their school board meeting. All young women. A bright spot.
 - AND we've started pouring a foundation for the new high school!

- Jeannie: DEI committee is working on a policy to protect non-binary and transgender students.
- (7:00ish) Melo Grant:
 - On the City's meeting notes/agendas site ([CivicClerk](#)) now has a calendar option so it's easier to find a meeting
- Gene Bergman:
 - On city council meeting tuesday Jan 16: executive session:
 - discuss changes proposed to the City-UVM MOU (from the UVM administration).
 - The current draft MOU isn't enough to support housing in the city.
 - Vote on the MOU is on Jan 29
 - On regular part of city council meeting tuesday 1/16: police oversight.
 - [[1/16 City council meeting info](#)]
- Joe Magee:
 - Be aware we're also dealing with a budget deficit. Will be voting on a 5-cent increase on public safety tax - will be on the March ballot.
 - Approval of overdose prevention centers was voted for in the VT state house. Joe will work on helping move those forward in Burlington.
- Chris Haessly: \$7-9 million deficit?
 - Joe: recommendations we're following: the 5-cent public safety tax increase, cutting other expenses, increased values on the Grant List.
 - [See the Board of Finance presentation](#)
 - Gene: Austerity is the bane of existence. I will try to move progressive taxation along.
 - Melo: There's a review of fees throughout the city (like parks). We also are waiting on money to be released from the opioid settlement.

7:10 pm Vote on a rep from Ward 3 to the CDBG Advisory Board | 10 min

Candidate: Sam Powers

- Sam (they/them): Student at UVM looking to get more involved in the community. Also running for ward clerk.
 - Chris: Nominated
 - Someone: Seconded
 - None opposed, no abstentions. Sam is in!

7:20 pm NPA funding discussion | 20 min

Initial comments from the Steering Committee (SC):

- Lauren (Facilitator & SC): Funds can be used jointly or separately (or combination)
- Chris H (SC): Current bylaws state funds are at the ward level.

IDEAS:

- Patrick: Put sharps containers around. [received claps]
- Jeannie Walz: [The Ramble](#) (any amount)
- Amy Francisco (SC): Transportation to meetings for people who live in a ward on the opposite side of the ward from meetings
- Jess Hyman (SC):
 - More outreach for NPA meetings, interpretation, and ways to have people be involved in the NPA without needing to be part of NPA meetings.
 - And the Community Dinner.
- Solveig:
 - Seconding the proposal to support the community dinner.
 - Will voting for funds still happen? That'd be great.
- Chris H (SC): Voting would be good
- Amy (SC): Highlight any voting or idea gathering on Front Porch Forum.
- ___: Building off the sharps container idea: Allocate funds toward classes on using sharps containers, how to volunteer
- Shelby Glass: Re: Sharps: Poppy Cafe has an old telephone booth outside their cafe that they want to be a community supplies resource. So that could be part of this.
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Lauren (Facilitator): We'll get back to you all, and will solicit more feedback when we can.

7:35 pm Ward 2 Bylaws discussion | 20 min

See our current bylaws with suggested additions highlighted [here](#).

- Vote: All yes's

7:45 pm Resolution on NPA-City Relations | 15 min

[Read the resolution on NPA-City relations here.](#)

- Chris: In support
- Jess: Like it in spirit, but have a concern that the NPA isn't necessarily representative of the community.
- Melo: A lot of what gets to the public is really controlled. I don't know if the resolution addresses that. The City Council often needs to make quick decisions.
- Chris: Agree with both what Jess and Melo said. 40 people out of 5000 people is not necessarily representative, but it does give the city council some actual opinions/perspectives.
- Chris: Moves to adopt the resolution. Charlie: Seconded.
- Chris: Introduced a motion to divide the question by ward. Chris Aaron-Felker seconded.
- Ward 2: 1 opposed
- Ward 3: 1 opposed
- The resolution passes.

7:55 pm Adjourn - thank you for coming! Our next meeting is Thursday, February 8.

Name

Suzey King
Frank June Chris
Amy Prenowitz
Joanne Ramundo
NANCY BLANCHARD
OLIVER SCOTCH
Dina Milvany
Sharon Webster
Jim Quinn
Dave Canning
Jacob Flanigan
Becky Rabin
Mollie Flanigan
Erika Fowler
Ryan Thornton
Adam Melki
Jeannie Waltz
Debra BE
Nimah
Caden x
Dawn Eberhard
JESSICA ROSSINS
BINTI Ibrahim
MURIN, HE
AMINA
Jennifer Martin
Andrew Davelkamp
Amelia
Rahman
Devece

NAME

Seemish

Ujjwal
Devin Rie

Goran Eames

Fosca Bechtold

Chris Steel
Curt McCormack

Creede Burton

Adessa + Miriam

Solvey Oerby

MIKE CHAMNEK

Gene Bergman

Melo Grant

Matthew Ennis

CA Felke

Richard Alleyard