

Meeting Minutes

Ward 6 Neighborhood Planning Assembly

January 10, 2013

As approved at the February 7, 2013 Meeting

Neil Groberg was the meeting facilitator. The meeting started at approximately 7:05 PM and ended at approximately 9:00 PM. Members stayed late to discuss the open space plan with City staff.

- The December meeting minutes were approved with one correction. UVM noted that the Redstone exit gate would be on Davis Road and not Prospect Street.
- Mayor Weinberger spoke on the state of the City and took questions from the audience. He highlighted accomplishments of his administration to date with regard to the City's and thanked residents for approving the fiscal stability bond in November. Future goals include further bike path repairs, addressing the City pension fund shortfall, resolving the Burlington Telecom situation and spending collected funds in the "Penny for Parks" program. He also announced his availability to meet with residents at the Bagel Café, Wednesdays 8-9 AM in the New North End. Finally, he described his proposed Public Investment Action Plan (PIAP) as a follow-up to Plan BTV and mechanism to prioritize investments in the Waterfront. Questions from the audience related to the potential for future tax decreases (now that the fiscal stability bond has passed) and the status of the Moran Plan redevelopment in the context of the PIAP.
- School Commissioner Alan Matson reported that there will be a more detailed discussion of the school budget at the February NPA meeting. Alan says to expect a 5.3 percent budget increase. Health care costs for employees are major drivers of the budget increase. Other cost drivers are described on school department website. Also, there are principal searches scheduled for this spring to fill two vacancies. Construction winding down at the Flynn school. Alan announced that he will be running for reelection. Alan was asked if changes in health care being implemented by the State would help reduce costs for the School Department. Alan is unsure of the impact of new state policies.
- UVM Student Government President Conner Daley described updates to the school's community relations program. Discounted taxi service will be available for students late at night after CCTA services shut down. This service may also be offered to Champlain students. Neighborhood clean-ups will resume in the spring. New learning programs may soon be required for students looking to live off-campus. Gary Chazzman and others noted difficulties with UVM police not responding to off-campus incidents. Others offered that the Burlington Police Department should be called first regarding off-campus incidents. Further discussion of this issue will be conducted at a future meeting when UVM and Burlington police can send representatives.
- Champlain Colleges John Caulo noted that bids are in from contractors for construction of the second Res-Tri dormitory. Work could start late winter or early spring. Coordination is planned with the Edmunds school due to proximity issues. John was asked about surface parking in the

footprint of the proposed building. John noted that pursuant to the Champlain Master Plan parking is being to Lakeside Drive. Also, Champlain is looking to transfer management of on-street parking near campus to Burlington DPW. Parking meters may be installed. John was also asked about the status of the Ethan Allen Club and Eagles Club projects. These are on hold as the selected developer has backed out of the agreement to develop the properties on behalf of Champlain.

- Burlington Country Club President Bob Stevens invited residents to use the country club property for winter activities at their own risk. He asked that people treat the property as they would treat their own property. If flags appear on the greens the course is open and visitors should stay off. Certain restrictions on winter use of the course will be posted on Front Porch Forum.
- Burlington Planning and Zoning representatives Scott Gustin and Dan Cahill along with consultant Amy Sheldon described the ongoing update to the City's Open Space Protection Plan and requested public input. The last plan was done in 2000. Inventories of the City's parks, trails greenbelts, community gardens and public open spaces are underway. Recommendations from the study will be made in the spring. Comments can be submitted via the Planning website, www.burlington.gov/PZ/.
- Councilor Norm Blais announced his intention run for reelection citing the dramatic change in tone and tenor within the Mayor's office since last year and his eagerness to work with the new mayor.
- Karen Freudenberger was elected Ward 6 representative on the Community Development Block Grant committee.
- At the next Ward 6 NPA meeting the NPA will need to nominate and elect a representative to the City's redistricting committee. Interested parties should notify steering committee members.

Minutes prepared by Rick Bryant for the Ward 6 NPA Steering Committee