



**Ward 6 Neighborhood Planning Assembly  
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, April 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.  
Greek Orthodox Church, 600 South Willard Street

*Minutes: Rick Bryant*

**Overview and approval of agenda & minutes**

- Both approved.

**City Councilor's Report – Karen Paul and Norm Blais**

- New 2013 Council Year beginning. Committee assignments:
  - Norm-Licensing, Public Safety, Charter
  - Karen-Ordinance, Parks and Culture
- The Church Street fountain will be replaced. No specific plan is yet available for review.
- The Cliff Street sidewalk is moving towards 2014 construction. Plans will preserve trees to the extent possible.
- The Burlington Police Department won a Better Business Bureau award.
- The Airport Strategic Plan will be ready May 10.
- City budget discussion should begin at the next NPA meeting if there is an interest.

**Institutional Neighbors Report**

- Joe Spiedel for UVM
  - Joe described UVM plans for dissemination of information regarding special events likely to have noise and/or traffic impacts.
- Gail Champnois for UVM
  - Spring Initiative-various neighborhood clean-ups are happening and planned.
  - Several "Have a heart" events have been held.
  - Greek orientation seminars are happening this weekend.
  - The Community Coalition will be supporting new street plantings and greenbelt gardens.
  - Off-campus life newsletter is being published.
  - Public safety information provided on Facebook and elsewhere for students.
  - UVM is reinvigorating Neighborhood Watch. Gardening projects have helped students interact with other residents.
  - Spring Move Out is coming soon. Tip sheet will be distributed to students.
  - Approximately 2500 undergrads live on campus in Burlington.
- President Finney is stepping down at Champlain College.

**Law Enforcement on the Hill**

- Rich Long (Champlain), Michael Schirling (City), Bill Ward (City), Lianne M. Tuomey (UVM), Scott Davidson (City Lt. for Ward 6)
- Schirling: The City will be monitoring "quality of life" issues that typically appear with the warmer weather. Community Impact Teams are working to address the Vermont heroine/opium epidemic. A full announcement is due soon.
- Tuomey: UVM has the 6<sup>th</sup> largest police department in the state with 24 officers. 16,000 people in campus population. Drugs remain a major problem.
- Rich Long: 12 officers at Champlain. Champlain is not authorized to make arrests. Must work with BPD, Winooski Police and S. Burlington Police. Responsible for Dublin and Montreal campuses as well. Share dispatch services with UVM.

- Bill Ward: Code Enforcement inspects student housing. Vacant building enforcement as well. Relies on BPD to step in as needed.
- \$91,000/yr to maintain a mid-level heroin habit. Robberies support these habits. This is the #1 crime problem in Vermont now.
- Tuomey: Police have state-wide authority. Not restricted by municipal boundaries. Only 600 police statewide. Much interaction and sharing of staff. Mutual aid agreement exists between agencies.
- For any off-campus issues residents should call 911. Generally BPD is first to respond.
- Success in making arrests for break-ins is diminished by a criminal justice system that does not hold criminals long enough. Recovery of stolen property is difficult as drugs are being brought in from out of state and stolen goods are being traded out-of-state for drugs. Police are always looking to crack down on second-hand dealers that support this system.
- Champlain is not interested in having full-fledged police officers at this time. While this may reduce the BPD workload it would impact Champlain operations. Champlain police do not need search warrants to investigate dormitory rooms. Champlain can often reprimand students/address problems more quickly than the BPD.
- The UVM Champlain Student Codes of Conduct apply to students wherever they are. Champlain can dismiss students for infractions when not on campus.
- Increased opium use has increased in part due to reformulation of Oxycontin. Oxycontin is no longer attractive to abusers.
- VT prisons are full. Some prisoners are going out of state.
- What you can do: "Drop a dime". Police need your help. Leads are helpful. 300,000 incoming calls per year but do not be discouraged. Motion lights are good. Thorny bushes by windows that don't cover windows keep intruders away. If you see something, call immediately!
- Bill Ward: Broken window theory. Keep your neighborhoods looking good. If it looks like you don't care, they won't care.

#### **Barbara Rachelson: New State Rep for Ward 6**

- Would like to hear from constituents. Not hearing enough. Constituents can have an impact.

#### **School Commissioners: Alan Matson and Jill Evans**

- Alan is now chair of School Board.
- Budget cut 15% from certain programs (athletics and co-curricula). A petition has been submitted asking that cuts be eliminated. On May 14 the Board may be asked to restore funds.
- The Diversity Task Force report has been released. It highlights areas for improvement.
- The superintendent's contract was renewed by the Board with very little controversy.
- Calendar changes under discussion-
  - Year round school with more short breaks and no long summer breaks. (Too much is lost over a long summer.)
  - Early Release Wednesdays for teacher training at elementary school level.
- Awards for Burlington schools were mentioned.
- Anticipating some budget cuts next year due to the Sequester.

#### **Waterfront and Downtown Public Investment Action Plan: Peter Owens**

- Started process in December.
- 70 'concepts' offered by residents. 50 have been developed in greater detail.
- A five-member team was appointed by the Mayor with Council approval to guide the process.
- Will use some Plan BTV tools to allow public to comment on concepts (online).
- Will "Sugar-off" concepts to a few that may merit an RFP process.
- Want to have plans available for a referendum at Town Meeting day next year.
- Concepts on line next week for review and comment. See the CEDO site.
- Open houses will be offered to review concepts.
- Projects must be eligible for TIF funds to be assigned in 2014.
- Categories: Moran-based, small projects and broader projects.

- Any “sequester impacts” yet? Warning sent that CEDO funds will be cut next year. Will look at alternative revenue sources.
- Concepts will be evaluated with respect to consistency with Plan BTV and prior plans.

**Other Business and Election of New Steering Committee Member**

- Statewide home weatherization challenge will be discussed at a future meeting. The City is looking to insulate 500 homes this year.
- Redistricting Commission: Andy Montroll is the Ward 6 representative. Michael Rooney is alternate. Michael may be elevated to full time member.
- Four existing Steering Committee members were reelected for another year.

**Adjourn-9:00 PM**