



## **Minutes from the Ward 5 Neighborhood Planning Assembly**

Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 7:00

Department of Public Works/Parks and Recreation Bldg, 645 Pine St

**In attendance:** City Councilors Joan Shannon and Bill Keogh, Steering Committee members Abby Russell and Sequoia Ponzio-Young, CEDO staff member Laura Hale, and community members Marcia Gustafson, Roger Marshall, Kirstin Daigle, Elisa Nelson, Kirsten Merriman Shapiro, and Ryan Mitofsky

### **Welcome, introductions, announcements**

- present were introduced and welcomed.
- Laura Hale thanked Bill Keogh and Abby Russell for their long service to the Ward 5 NPA and presented them with certificates.
- Laura Hale announced that she is conducting a community survey open to all Burlington residents to help understand the ways residents are connecting to their community and city government.

### **City Council report**

- Councilor Keogh reported that the council heard reports from the Winooski and Burlington Board of Civil Authority at their meeting on 3/12 on the reapportionment of Winooski and Burlington legislative districts. The Salmon Run neighborhood will now be part of the Winooski district. Councilor Shannon added that it is important to consider the social bonds of neighborhoods when considering redistricting. The next city council will move forward with any potential ward redistricting and the info will be shared on Front Porch Forum.
- Councilor Shannon reported the owners of the convenience store that was in the location of the recently closed One Love Market will be reopening their store in that space. They have been granted a tobacco and liquor license for their store, on the condition that one of the previous owners is not able to sell liquor, given the past violations of selling to underage youth.
- Councilor Kehoe reported that city council had received a copy of the full FY11 audit and that the management letter has reduced in size since the 2009 letter and that the functions of city finances are improved.
- Councilor Shannon reported that there will be a number of openings on city boards and commissions and that appointments will be starting in June. A list of open seats is available on the city's website at [www.burlingtonvt.gov](http://www.burlingtonvt.gov) and in the annual report.

### **Steering Committee Member elections**

- Abby Russell did not seek re-election to another term.
- Bill Keogh, Ryan Mitofsky, Kirstin Daigle, and Sequoia Ponzio-Young were unanimously elected to the Ward 4 NPA Steering Committee.
- There are two more interested candidates who were not able to attend the meeting, but the Ward 5 NPA bylaws state that there can be no more than 5 members. Everyone in attendance agreed to warn a vote on amending the bylaws at the April meeting to include 7 members on the steering

committee. If that amendment passes in April, both of the other interested members will be up for election at that meeting.

- **Community Discussion on NPA Participation**

- Bill Keogh brought up the possibility of merging with the Ward 6 NPA, but there was consensus that with the new steering committee members and a renewed commitment to the NPA that there should be an effort to increase attendance before considering merger.
- Several ideas were suggested for increasing membership including targeted outreach to each neighborhood, outreach to existing neighborhood groups like condo associations and neighborhood watches, trying different meeting times, having social gatherings like a pancake breakfast, and highlighting past accomplishments of the NPA to help community members see the potential value in participating. The conversation will be continued at the next steering committee meeting on March 29.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.