

**Ward 6 Neighborhood Planning Assembly  
Minutes December 6, 2012  
As Accepted by Assembly on January 10, 2013**

Steering Committee member and meeting facilitator Annika Freudenberger kicked off the meeting by briefly going over the evening's agenda.

The meeting minutes from November 2<sup>nd</sup> were approved on a voice vote.

Ward 6 City Councilors Norm Blais and Karen Paul gave an update of City Council activities that included:

- City employee pension deficit - \$55million in unfunded liability
- Moran Plant – an RFQ has been issued for design/use ideas. Intend to keep sailing center on site in a new building
- Burlington Telecom
- Burlington International Airport – Strategic Plan is underway, parking garage has been refinanced shifting from short to long-term debt.

Lisa Kingsbury of UVM noted that classes ended yesterday, exams begin tomorrow and dorms will close on 12/14. She also reported on a gate to be installed at the Davis Road exit onto South Prospect to prevent cars from exiting at that location. John Caulo from Champlain College reported that construction on two more dorms at Res-Tri will commence in late winter pending trustees' approval. Construction is anticipated to be completed in summer 2014. Comments included a concern about student parking on South Union Street south of Cliff and improving the Willard Street entrance to the recently opened Res-Tri dorm.

Kesha Ram introduced herself as the new CEDO liaison to the NPA's. She briefly described her background in UVM student body politics and as a current VT House member from Burlington. Her job title will be public engagement specialist.

Neil Groberg solicited members to serve on the CDGB grant committee. A Ward 6 member is needed for the committee roster. Neil distributed a handout with committee responsibilities and meeting dates and asked anyone interested to contact him.

Janice Santiago and Emily DeWitt of Women Helping Battered Women (WHBW) described their organization and the services they provide throughout Chittenden County. These include a telephone hotline, legal advice, transitional and emergency housing, safe-at-work network, employment advocacy and skills training on dealing with abuse, self confidence and personal appearance. A clinic is held every Monday at the VT Department of Labor with a focus on the safe-at-work network and WHBW has been making outreach to employers on advice in dealing with abuse in a proactive manner with the intention to have a plan in place before abuse issues arise that could impact the workplace.

Burlington Code Enforcement Director Bill Ward demonstrated a newly adopted web tool for citizens to more efficiently report code violations called ClickFix. Complaints can be filed and tracked to see how Code Enforcement dealt with the complaint. Numerous cities around the

country have started using this system and many report its effectiveness. Bill took the members through a video demonstration of the web tool's features and encouraged members to access the site via their smart phones to check its capabilities.

Annika next introduced three Burlington High School (BHS) students to kick off a panel presentation and discussion on life at BHS and the recently started grant program called Partnership for Change (a grant shared with Winooski High School). Sophomore Suudi Mohamed, Junior Tobias Muellers, and Senior Emma Galvin described:

- a typical day at BHS,
- Suudi compared previous schooling to her BHS experiences,
- extracurricular activities,
- teacher and fellow student relationships,
- things they'd like to see improved at the school. On this last point each student had a similar message: Break down the cultural and other barriers that prevent greater interactions among students.

BHS 9<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Dov Stucker compared his recent teaching in Middle school before returning to BHS, the team model for teaching 9<sup>th</sup> grade at BHS, and technology applications – notably iPads for all 9<sup>th</sup> graders. BHS principal Amy Mellencamp talked about her typical day that could include teacher interviews, dealing with students in crisis (the BHS student population is 1,100), responding to 120+ emails, yearend studies courses, community building activities, and learning conversations. Lindsey Cox is the manager of the Partnership for Change program and described the efforts funded by the grant from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation:

- Building parent, teacher, student and community collaborative/partnerships
- Building on collective strengths and focusing on student centered learning
- Expanding learning opportunities throughout the community
- Working to achieve a prosperous future for Winooski and Burlington
- Engaging youth to build leadership skills
- Preparing students for the global economy

The program issues a newsletter and is working on a web site.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.

The next NPA meeting will be January 10<sup>th</sup> at the Greek Orthodox Church on Ledge Road. The meeting starts at 7:00pm with a social time beginning at 6:45.