

Minutes Ward 6 Neighborhood Planning Assembly September 6, 2012  
As Approved at NPA Meeting on October 4, 2012

After a short summer break, our Neighborhood Planning Assembly meetings began again strong as ever. The great turnout mirrored the interesting agenda items, which included extra time for our city councilors and school commissioners, an introduction of new CEDO director Peter Owens, an update from the Burlington Electric Dept., and a visit from PlanBTV.

The City Council held one meeting in July and one in August, but councilors Karen Paul and Norm Blais had plenty to report. A Strategic Planning Committee was formed for the airport, whose members include a retired CEO of US Airways and the former undersecretary of transportation under President Clinton. The committee meets every other Thursday evening (the next one is Sept. 27) and are open to the public. With another city councilor, Karen and Norm are working on a three-year strategic financial plan for the city. On another financial matter, discussion is advancing on how to pay for bike path repairs which would cost about \$13 million total. Some of this money might come from a tax and some from the waterfront TIF (both may be on the Nov. ballot). If the TIF is approved, part of those funds would go towards improving the bike path from the Boathouse to North Beach/BHS. However, Mayor Weinberger is still committed to repairing the entire bike path. The city is also redistricting for the first time in 20 years. A committee comprised of the mayor and four city councilors has been formed to address the issue. Those meetings are open to the public and there will eventually be public hearings. The goal is to finish redistricting by March. City Council would cast the final vote, but the resulting charter change has to be approved by voters and the legislature. Regarding the Moran Plant, the mayor's office is expected to announce further plans within the next few weeks.

Alan Matson, Ward 6 school commissioner, gave an update on school matters. Because of the July 4<sup>th</sup> storm, basement classrooms at Edmunds Elementary flooded. Floors and drywall were replaced and classrooms were in use by the first day of school. The flooding repairs were well covered by insurance and the district only had to pay \$20,000. There will also be some upcoming roof repairs, so neighbors should be aware that there may be some noise and odors, though nothing toxic. The 2013 fiscal budget is being discussed, and the Finance Board has proposed three different budget options. The district is expecting about \$200,000 in federal budget cuts over the next year, so some programs that have been funded by those federal title funds may have to be cut. In terms of enrollment, this year's graduating class is around 250 students. Kindergarten enrollment is approximately 320 with the most growth in the South End.

Lisa Kingsbury spoke on behalf of UVM. The students are back; this year's class is slightly smaller than last year's, but it has a record high average SAT score. Ten countries and 41 states are represented, and 10% of students are ALANA students. UVM has provided funding to the Burlington Police Dept. for additional neighborhood patrols Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights during the fall and spring. After hearing noise

complaints about the South Prospect shuttle bus, those buses will follow an alternate route at night. Redstone Lofts have opened but the broad master housing plan is still being worked on. Concerning the new Virtue soccer field, the lights shouldn't be noticeable by Ward 6 neighbors. Noise will only be heard in immediately surrounding neighborhoods (Spear Street area); the soccer field is exempt from the city noise ordinance as part of an education institution, but minimal volume will reach the neighborhoods. In addition, late use of the field is more intramural (lights, but no sound system). For more info [www.uvm.edu/~plan/?page=virtue.html&sm=virtuemenu.html](http://www.uvm.edu/~plan/?page=virtue.html&sm=virtuemenu.html)

Peter Owens introduced himself as the new CEDO director. He is new to the city, and encourages comments and suggestions to him about community relations with the city and the NPAs. He can be reached at 802-865-7174 / [peter@burlingtonvt.gov](mailto:peter@burlingtonvt.gov).

Barbara Grimes, Manager of Burlington Electric Dept., gave a Smart Meters update: about 45% of the meters have been deployed with complete installation expected by December. As expected, less than 2% of customers have opted out. People are warned 45 days in advance of the installation and everyone has the option of opting out. BED is currently testing the meter data management system. It will take about a year to be able to analyze all the data. The meters have already proven to be effective - after the July 4<sup>th</sup> storm, they knew exactly when and where lines were down, so it took much less time for repairs.

Also from the Burlington Electric Dept., Ken Nolan spoke about the Integrated Resource Plan. His job is to manage BED's power supply. He started looking at the future steps for energy efficiency about 18 months ago and has come up with 9 steps, which make up the Integrated Resource Plan. Detailed information can be found at [www.burlingtonelectric.com](http://www.burlingtonelectric.com)

Sandrine Thibault (Comprehensive Planner, Planning & Zoning Dept) noted that about 200 comments have been received on draft PlanBTV that was released in early July. The plan can be seen at [www.burlingtonvt.gov/planBTV](http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/planBTV) and the public review period will close September 30<sup>th</sup>. An open house September 27-28 from noon to 8pm at City Hall will be the last chance to review and give comments on this draft. All the suggestions will then be evaluated, and the final draft will be written. The hope is that there will be few changes made to the final draft. There will be more public hearings then and meetings with City Council and its committees to develop zoning regulations.

Our next NPA meetings over the next few months are already shaping up and we promise plenty of excitement! October will likely focus on the Agricultural Task Force, the city bond resolution, and student housing. November will be an election themed debate, mainly with state legislative candidates.

Our meetings are the first Thursday of every month from 7pm to 9pm, at the Greek Orthodox Church on Ledge Rd.