



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT &
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE
c/o Community & Economic Development Office
City Hall, Room 32 • 149 Church Street • Burlington, VT 05401
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Councilor Brian Pine, Chair, Ward 3
Councilor Adam Roof, Ward 8
Councilor Karen Paul, Ward 6

Committee Members: Councilor Brian Pine, Chair, Councilor Adam Roof

In attendance: Ian Jakus, Gordon Miller, AARP, Sherry Carlson, Director of Lets Grow Kids, Joe Speidel, Councilor Dave Hartnett, Hannah Harrington, Rebecca Reese, Kirby Dunn, Homeshare VT

Thursday, February 7th, 2019
5:30 – 7:30 PM
City Hall, Conference Room 12

Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:40 PM

1. Review Agenda (5 minutes)

Motion to adopt AR with amendment to add a progress report on the City's new Equity Report by Brian Lowe. Brian Pine seconded, unanimously approved.

2. Public Forum (10 minutes)

No Comments.

Councilor Paul made a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes from the 6/7/18 CDNR Committee meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Progress report on the City's new Equity Report – Brian Lowe, Chief Innovation Officer

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contact Ian Jakus at ljakus@burlingtonvt.gov

First report, will be incorporated into the city's annual financial report. Defined equity based on other communities' definitions of social equity. Based on performance measurement tool of city departments that is reported monthly by department heads- BTV Stat. Take city-wide population indicators and link them to things the city is doing to affect outcomes.

B Pine: Does this address the question of "our part of the city isn't getting as much X as other parts"

B Lowe: Combination of equity report helps us look at BTV Stat plus other tools like See Click Fix and find if there are parts of the city that are underrepresented. Look at City of Burlington workforce compared to key population metrics for the city residents as a whole. Worked with many outside stakeholders to get feedback on the metrics in the report. Next steps are to institutionalize this as part of the report, receive continuous feedback, improve data source availability to further develop and enhance the report.

Joe Speidel: So is this about City of Burlington workforce, or city population as a whole? Look at the domains on a city-wide level, then what is the city doing that could affect equity in those domains.

B Pine: This is incredible, how do we roll this out instead of a passive document.

Hannah: any original data collected as part of this, or existing sources? How is the data being collected?

B Lowe: Used existing data sets, some was collected or organized for the first time. Will need to improve upon this in the future.

Hartnett: What % of people are we going to miss even with this report? Where do you think this will go in terms of people involved in the program.

B Lowe: Some things in here will not be surprising. Might focus us on youth in ways that we haven't always. Will likely change a bit for the second year based on people's feedback.

B Pine: Focus on the school board and district because a lot of this will drive decisions they make

Hannah Harrington: How much does city population account for transiency and temporary population?

B Lowe: some metrics careful to screen out college students to be careful not to skew the outcome of things especially like income.

J Speidel: Working with the Regional ECOS report? Some data may be applicable when you consider people who don't live in Burlington but work here.

B Lowe: yes, using some of their data, some regional data may be included in the future.

B Pine: should affect policies and programs rather than just be data for data's sake.

A Roof: what is the highest and best use of this data in the future iteration?

B Lowe: Recommendations will be about city policies to change, and the other will be how do we collect data around this report? Will depend on how council views this report and what they want to see out of it.

A Roof: what is the closest we have to this right now? Are we aggregating different departments' reports or is this truly a new thing?

B Lowe: some of it is data aggregation but some of it is new—more about how we act on the data.

A Roof: good report to go to whole council.

4. Early Learning Initiative Update (45 minutes) - Brian Lowe, Chief Innovation Officer

Brian Lowe presented an update on the Early Learning Initiative (The accompanying presentation is found [HERE](#)).

On track for a long planned transition to scholarships with the program. Lets Grow Kids has really helped us build upon creating 62 new childcare spots. City is looking at the gap between the CCFAP (state scholarship to childcare providers) and the average local cost for High Quality care. The state scholarship drops significantly as income goes up. Goal of city funds is to move families into high quality care. There is also a huge shortage of high quality space in Burlington. Have shifted from capacity grants to scholarships as planned. Priority is Burlington families, regardless of whether the care is in Burlington or somewhere else.

Hartnett: Any way to pinpoint how many people are choosing not to get into care at all?

B Lowe: About 120 of the 300 children ages 0 to 3 living in poverty are in regulated child care.

A Roof: City is focused on less than 65% ami?

Hannah Harrington: Are the spots held for the kids?

B Pine: Is it a lottery system for selecting applicants?

B Lowe: lottery system is the only equitable way to select applicants if more than 26 apply.

Working with service providers to try to get soft commitments to hold spaces for the kids who win scholarships. Doing this early in the year so that centers are planning for the next year.

Joe Speidel: Capacity money for infrastructure and training?

B Lowe: To create new spots. Like if they just built a bathroom they could have 4 new spaces

D Hartnett: Has it made any impact on spaces so far?

B Lowe: Capacity grant is closing in 3 weeks, and might see a few providers actually make improvements to move up in quality.

Hannah: is the application process difficult? What about outreach?

B Lowe: if you create a high bar, no one will enter. Trying to keep the city application a low barrier. Have hired a social worker through Lets Grow Kids that can provide assistance, trying to build a relationship with the Family Room to have applicants on site. State process is the second part, which is much harder. Have done outreach through WIC, Hospital, Family Room, LUND, school district, etc. but this is a pilot year, so not sure how many people will apply. Kids are in for a three year cycle. Once they're in they don't go back to the lottery. Money goes directly to the center on their behalf. Only lose if they aren't coming, or if their income changes.

D Hartnett: What if "income change" bumps kids out of programs. Happens with a lot of subsidies in the state of VT.

B Lowe: Only reassessing eligibility once a year, and there could also be changes to CCFAP- there is a small risk, but not as large as other programs that

B Pine: Which metric will we know closing the achievement gap?

B Lowe: Number of income eligible children in HQ child care

A Roof: What are the impacts of health on the families?

B Lowe: Wouldn't be surprised if some of the impacts are with families before the children first. Want to make the barriers for the program low, but not nonexistent because state application process is onerous.

Hartnett: Progress is very impressive so far. Of course will impact parents first, which is huge for quality of life in the city. When can the full council get an update?

B Lowe: Might update during the application process to help with focus on this.

B Pine: What happens to the families that don't get scholarship? What else can we do- give them referrals to other providers in case they can be on a waiting list or gain access to other resources

B Lowe: Other ways to expand this in the future, but need to demonstrate success first

A Roof: how will the lottery work?

Sherry Carlson: everyone will be ranked so that they know what order they're in in the waiting list.

J Speidel: Can you weight the lottery waiting list? Like by income, etc.

B Lowe: Regardless of what income under 65% of AMI, will be difficult to get to high quality care. The more income actually, the harder it is to get to high quality care.

Hannah Harrington: Per child or household? Looking at impact of childcare bringing people into the workforce, and then bumping them back out when their income goes up. Maybe work with them to project out when you would "age out" of the program so they can plan for it.

B Lowe: It is per child—each child has to apply separately. No real way to avoid that risk, is a problem we have to look at during the pilot year.

A Roof: has come such a long way, councilors watching with excitement.

B Pine: that we as a country have to do a program like this and have to say no to other kids, is sad for our society, but we should be doing more.

5. Housing Action Plan Item 5.2 - Review Accessory Dwelling Units – Presentation (30 minutes) – Ian Jakus, Projects & Policy Specialist - Housing, CEDO; Meagan Tuttle, Comprehensive Planner, Planning & Zoning

Presentation summarizing the report and its findings. Discussion about the next steps, there was agreement among BP and AR that the recommended ordinance changes be brought to the planning commission for further discussion. Further updates were requested to CDNR as a potential ADU pilot program is anticipated to evolve. There was some concern about parking requirements, and consideration should be made to how the requirement may be reduced, or eliminated but within the context of different areas of the City.

Adam Roof made a motion to adjourn at 7:15, seconded by Brian Pine. Unanimously approved.