



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 Karen Paul, Ward 6
Councilor Ali Dieng, Ward 7

Committee Members: Councilor Brian Pine (BP), Chair, Councilor Karen Paul (KP), Councilor Ali Dieng (AD)

In attendance: Ian Jakus, Todd Rawlings (TR), Joe Speidel, Caryn Long, Sandy Wynne, Carol Livingston, Linda Rizvi

Monday, April 22nd, 2019
5:30 - 7:30 PM
645 Pine St. Front Conference Room

Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:40 PM

- 1. Review Agenda (5 minutes)**
- 2. Public Forum (10 minutes)**

Caryn Long stated that she has lived on Henry Street for 19 years and does not feel the CDNR committee has gotten very far on neighborhood revitalization. Homes are further deteriorating and properties where homeowners have moved out and have been converted to student housing. She said that there needs to be enforcement of existing ordinances such as four unrelated, minimum housing standard, lot coverage. One homeowner nearby is building an addition style ADU in order to rent the primary home to four students with only two parking spaces. Would like the CDNR committee to really take this on because several houses have been lost just recently.

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contact Ian Jakus at ljakus@burlingtonvt.gov

Sandy Wynne stated that single families can't compete with the cash flow that they can provide to landlords as rental units. They are fast quick deals and are going for up to 2 million. 59 multi-family units were sold in the last 12 months. For the newer members of the council every study for the past 40 years has come to the same conclusion, which is that UVM needs to house more students.

Carol Livingston – Stated that UVM has not taken responsibility for the community impacts, and they need to be held accountable. The ward 1 & 8 NPA cares about good landlords, and housing that is safe and effective, so as an NPA we are looking for leadership around having this conversation in a community wide way rather than just focusing on one angle. She suggested this take place at the upcoming housing summit.

Caryn Long said that Carol Livingston's neighbor is moving out and turning their home into an Air BnB. Which she heard is illegal

Brian Pine responded that it is allowed if you get permitted as a bed and breakfast.

3. Presentation on CDBG Action Plan and CDBG Advisory Committee Funding – Todd Rawlings, Acting Assistant Director, CEDO

Todd Rawlings provided background of the Community Development Block Grant program and process.

- Burlington is an entitlement community, and Burlington has to create a plan on how to use this funding which is the Action Plan. It includes CDBG (\$800,000) and HOME funds (\$400,000) on a yearly basis. FY 20 starts July 1st and runs for one year.
- The City Council Board of Finance will need to approve this Action Plan. April 29th there will be a public hearing at the City Council. May 13th Board of Finance will adopt and accept the plan.
- The CDBG Advisory board includes members of the NPA's, a representative from each ward, 3 seats for Mayoral appointees and one seat for the state. This group makes recommendations to the City Council through the Action Plan. There are development projects and public service applications. The maximum amount of the total funding that can be used for public service is 15%. See attached 2019 CDBG and HOME Funding and Projected Outcomes. The board is now able to make one and two year awards to try and give stability to grantees and also would allow the City to administer the program more efficiently.
- The HOME program accepts applications on a rolling basis.

KP asked how you address programs that you could not award the money to. How do we proceed when we cannot provide funding? In the past this has been an issue for some who did not get funding.

CL said that she has worked on the CDBG advisory Committee sees that YouthBuild is not funded and I think there is a real need for teen programming of this sort.

Councilors Brian Pine and Karen Paul discussed City Regional Programs funding which is \$2.5 million from the general fund for regional organizations that serve Burlington. For instance CCTA receives nearly half that funding to provide services. KP said that the application process is difficult.

AD asked about the application process for CDBG.

TR explained that typically the letter of interest is submitted in September, and if selected a full application is submitted in January. The CDBG advisory board meets 3 or 4 times and they make their recommendations. The priorities are set by the consolidated plan, where 5 year goals are set and won't be reviewed again until 2022. Each year there is an Action Plan and a CAPER which reviews progress.

AD stated that he would like many of the organizations awarded serve regional populations and he would prefer if this could be more specific to neighborhoods.

BP responded that all these grantees are based in Burlington and said that the City used to give CDBG to neighborhoods for neighborhood projects, but the administrative burden was so high, and the administrative requirements so much that this was discontinued.

KP said that there is a representative from each ward which sits on the CDBG Advisory Committee.

CL said that the City used to receive PILOT funds from UVM that would go to the schools, that we have now lost. Most of it has now gone to early childhood. These CDBG funds should be spread out to also include all age groups. We are focusing a lot on the early childhood and not older children.

BP said that much of the ELI money is being used to scholarship money which goes directly to students. We need to follow up on the issues that were raised about the neighborhoods tonight.

KP stated that it's important to support the work that the advisory committee has done in making these recommendations. As a whole they are reflective of a process and initiatives that provide assistance for lower income residents. It is difficult to go back through and question the committee's motives without having been in the room. Also given the application process and CDBG requirements it's hard for smaller organizations to be able to use this money.

AD said that it is important as a member of the committee to ask questions, not just support good work that has been done. A lot of this money is allocated to organizations that are well financed that take care of children where families are stable but we do not fund organizations focused on homelessness. The priorities are clear, but most of these organizations don't serve people of Burlington and serve people outside of Burlington.

BP said that many of these organizations do operate throughout the county but draw their funding from different sources. Yes many of these are large organizations, but they have to access this money and they have to get money from many different sources.

AD said that he will vote to move this forward but would like this committee to think about how this funding is really effecting Burlington neighborhoods

KP said that she agrees the more that we can do to ensure the money is serving residents and neighborhoods, and there are a number of these programs that are not just Burlington focused. Many organizations will go outside to get funding because they have to.

AD asked hypothetically if the vote failed today, what would we do.

KP stated that any councilor could sponsor this, it doesn't require the CDNR committee to sponsor. We should set aside to revisit this in the future.

KP made a Motion to support the recommendations as presented by the CDBG Advisory Committee. Ali Dieng seconded the motion. Unanimous decision.

4. CDNR Committee Planning Discussion

BP said that based on the issues raised earlier we should have Bill Ward come in.

KP said that she has wanted to be on this committee, because of her longstanding involvement in neighborhood quality of life issues and is proud of the work that has been done in ward 6. There are ways to address homes that are sold. In response to the earlier public forum KP said that having councilors calling landlords and homeowners is critical in addressing these issues. Additionally Bill Ward and inspections have gone through the process of creating a ratings system for properties. It is challenging when landlords can offer large sums of money for these properties.

AD said that we need to move this meeting into the communities. We should have the goal to have this meeting in different areas of the City. We could take on the issue of how to better work with the NPA's. Another issue to take on is that we have many businesses popping up. We could consider how to beautify businesses to help them. Maybe there could be a small fund to assist with this. We have an agreement with Burlington and the major institutions about housing. I would like to understand better these agreements from the Mayor's office. He would also like one day for the HR committee to join the CDNR committee.

BP said that we can invite Joe Speidel from UVM back to discuss the PILOT payment agreements in more detail. He would also like to focus on neighborhood quality of life with Bill Ward.

Karen Paul made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ali Dieng.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06