

Institutions and Human Resources Policy Committee Minutes

September 29, 2015

Conference Room 12, City Hall

4:00 to 5:00pm

Called to order at 4:15 by KP, AR

Present, Karen Paul (KP), Adam Roof (AR), Sharon Bushor (SB) Brain Lowe (BL), Joe Speidel (JS), from UVM, Peter Owens (PO), Chip Mason (CM) joined at 5:29

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of July 9, 2015 meeting – Motion to approve minutes by AR, KP seconded
3. Discussion of MOU/MOA with UVM

BL shared a document about quality of life issues to raise with UVM City beginning negotiations with UVM in earnest in the near future in hopes of completion by November with drop-dead date of overall completion by June of 2016. He shared a document regarding quality of life issues for discussion (attached). KP clarified that BL was seeking guidance on prioritization of seven bulleted items contained in the document.

KP: Issue regarding closing of Davis Road. Issue is gate either doesn't work or isn't closed most of the time. Residents were promised that would be a one-way street going in, but on weekends it is open or malfunctioning. It is an expensive electronic gate that hasn't always worked as intended. No specific rhyme, reason or pattern as to when and why it is not working.

Foot patrols seem to be working and going well. Residents would like more, but no issue.

Reduction of bus trips along South Prospect Street. JS, Lisa Kingsbury Campus Planning Services and KP have spoken about this multiple times and will continue to pursue.

AR asked BL to clarify scope of meeting. BL explained looking for background and guidance on prioritization.

CM wants to know disciplinary process, what data is being collected and if that information is being shared with the City. He asked if there is a similar mechanism in place for on-campus noise complaints as for off-campus.

JS: Indicated that all violation information can be found on UVM website and is public information. Explained that they work with BPD on violations of law for individuals under the age of 25 and are reported to UVM, who then cross-references with their database to determine if they are UVM students. UVM follows up appropriately depending on the level of infraction and if it is a repeat offense. Forty eight students were either dismissed, suspended or participated in deferred suspension programs last year.

AR: Would like to understand better mechanism for understanding how many students are living in the downtown area. AR would like to see a better interface between UVM and City related to quality of life issues. AR understands the hesitation of UVM to provide it and also the need of the City to know it. JS indicated that they are already tracking the information even if it is not necessarily UVM students. JS suggested that the committee involve the landlords and perhaps disorderly house or nuisance property designated and a fine issued to the landlord. KP indicated that there may be legal issues according to Gene Bergman, Sr. Assistant City Attorney. SB indicated that this is something that is in discussion mode and potentially become a City Ordinance issue. SB stated that the landlord is often the missing link in this equation. CM explained that often the landlord is not on site and is often difficult for them to know or control the issue. SB stated that they should still be held responsible, if multiple infractions. JS commented that there should be an easier way to identify landlords. KP indicated that she has followed up with every issue brought to her attention in the last seven years. She indicated that she has found landlords, even for those properties that are registered to law firms.

BL summarized that discipline data could provide information with a good story to tell, but that there is an opportunity to do more and potential need to review UVM discipline and cross-referencing with BPD, greater responsibility/consequences for landlords and perhaps parental notification. AR would like the City to determine where the high-value interfaces verses low value interfaces and understand where FERPA rights/limitations impact/limit ability to share information.

BL asked for committee feedback on expanding UVM commitment to support increased Cod enforcement, for example on four unrelated and lawn parking.

SB has been compiling info from Ward 1 since 2013. Appreciative that UVM has contributed significant funding \$100,000, but would like to see \$150,000 contributed. Also aware that UVM police force has been reduced, should UVM have another Gale Champnois position (Neighborhood Stabilization Planning) to help..... (get from SB)

AR asked BL if indication that City would like its inventory to expand to include identifying location of students in other towns was this administration's or past. BL indicated it was this administration.

SB indicated that there is constant pressure from Zoning to reduce existing acreage of Centennial Woods. Would like to see an MOU to protect and preserve existing acreage and maintain adequate boundaries for animals and vegetation and not permitting any new roads or pathways through the woods.

SB wanted to introduce the concept of reduced surface parking to help reduce number of cars coming to town. JS stated that there is a strong transportation demand program and although some 300+ additional beds are being added, parking has stayed the same. KP indicated that the parking was less germane than the other issues discussed today.

JS shared that omnibus payment and fire services are two areas that are of interest of the UVM board of trustees and the president will be resistant to paying the omnibus payment without full understanding of what that payment is going toward. Any agreement should be direct and easy to understand. CM asked if we have looked at other jurisdictions such as Ithaca, to see how their fees for services MOUs are structured. To the extent BL has copies of other MOUs available, CM would like to see them. KP would also like to see them, as well.

KP clarified that primary goals related to clarity and improvements in the discipline process, identifying student location and distribution in Burlington and in surrounding towns, and enhancing the UVM support for foot patrol and potentially code enforcement initiatives were of high priority, with other issues important but lower priorities.

SB hoping to find places where we can collaborate on providing housing close to where folks work downtown (Grove) and provide a shuttle system to reduce cars downtown.

JS indicated that housing is the other topic of MOU, could be one MOU or two. UVM agreed that if number of students goes over a certain threshold they will address housing and that is something to include.

KP left at 5:24

4. Adjournment AR motioned to adjourn at 5:25, CM seconded.

Committee Members:

Chip Mason, City Councilor, Ward 5

Adam Roof, City Councilor, Ward 8

Karen Paul, City Councilor, Ward 6