

South Burlington Planning & Zoning CityPlan 2024 Community Conversations Northwest Neighborhoods

Thursday, February 9, 2023

[THESE NOTES REFLECT SUMMARIZED COMMENTS OF THE PUBLIC AT THE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION, NOT ANY COMMITMENT BY THE CITY TO ANY PARTICULAR POLICY POSITION; THEY ARE NOT VERBATIM QUOTES AND HAVE NOT BEEN EDITED]

18 Attendees

- **Human-Focused**
 - Land next to the airport that the airport owns (44 acres); including the road relocation plan, etc.; concerned about the location of the road relocation
 - Wants to be clear that the 44 acres should be used for residential use
 - Migration crisis will happen - housing area will be needed
 - F-35s will be relocated at some point, so the land should be available
 - Lot of information has been left out of the 2016 Plan and the neighborhood study
 - F-35s shouldn't be in the Chamberlin neighborhood, area should not be used for airport uses other than residential
 - South Burlington has been a throwaway from Burlington; never developed a cultural identity as a city; community events aren't organic, lack of cultural spaces (museums, spaces, music, etc.); *humanize* the environment
 - Planning a convention - not sending people to SB, sending them to Burlington; too many chains, too much feels like everywhere else (malls, restaurant franchises, etc.) - victim like Williston
 - Walkability to stores, restaurants, etc. - need to walk to the post office, walking on White St, walking on Patchen Road, Not feel like you're going to be run over
 - Art and culture at City Hall and Library; Illuminate festival;
 - Need to look at services that support humans - further regulation, rental registry, compliance with housing code, short-term rental regulation, etc.
 - Rentals - vacancy rate is very low, so you don't have to maintain it and charge a high rate, no inspection, no recourse for renters,
 - F-35s also shouldn't be here, and should leave over time
 - Resources and paths for human travel - walking, biking, etc.
 - Include businesses in the mix
 - How do we get good businesses in the mix?
 - If some of the area by the airport could be developed without impact on the neighborhood, we could do that - sound barrier for the neighborhood
 - We will have input, but shouldn't say nothing will happen there
 - Same concerns about not having a City Center for the people on Shelburne Road
 - Traffic on White St is dangerous for walking children to school; need calming on Williston Road as well - make it possible for people to walk and feel safe

- Chamberlin neighborhood has a lot of people who have moved in from other countries - provision of community gardens for those families; planning for something equitable and culturally sensitive
 - Comment from AALV - Assn of Africans Living in Vermont
 - Community building
 - Loss of community from the missing homes - bring gathering spots back into the area
 - Traffic calming
 - bump outs - Victory Drive, Mills Ave
 - Airport lands are being used as recreational space - are there recreational areas in the other neighborhoods?
 - Opposes commercial encroachment into the airport lands
 - Gathering areas
 - Winooski and Essex Junction have outdoor pools
 - Outdoor resources and gathering areas - exercise and community spaces
 - What does smart growth mean?
 - Density is going to skyrocket, capital investment is going to skyrocket
 - Increased density is required, but it hasn't been well advertised
- **Inclusive, Fair, & Just**
 - The schools are working well; they can't do everything but that's where kids are mingling with other people and other areas of the city
 - Frustrated that the recreation programs haven't been able to develop additional space or a rec center because the schools have been using their space more
 - Should be improving and expanding the recreation programs - more affordable than private areas, provides childcare outside of work,
 - Should be geared to current and future residents, be welcoming to people, not being anti-population growth, goes to housing being affordable,
 - Big force on all of these things is capital investment, need to keep it under control to a certain level, should be more human, equitable, affordable,
 - Affordability should be a fifth vision & goal statement
 - Climate resilience shouldn't be undertaken when it is inequitable and will be costing working class people a lot
 - Walking
 - We don't have good facilities for walking - not the same as facilities for biking; bicycles on the sidewalks taking space from the walkers; stretches of roads without sidewalks at all - effect on climate, attraction of neighborhoods
 - Chamberlin is the most affordable neighborhood in SB but is becoming less affordable
 - Housing for senior citizens - issues with multifamily developments with two or three flights of stairs; need outside access from the unit; not having internal stairs
- **Climate-Resilient**
 - Yards in the Chamberlin neighborhood, based on sand, lawns are poorly managed and burnout, education about biodiversity in the lawns
 - Reduction of impervious surfaces; underground stream in Chamberlin - wet basements;
 - Vermont Gas - developing geothermal infrastructure
 - Reduction in solid waste; recycling; better organization of recycling, reuse, etc.

- Solid waste district has one of the highest diversion rate in the country; issue of needing a new landfill in 20 years, if you have to truck it out of state, that's a lot of carbon in the air
- Alternatives to auto travel are important; cultural shift in the way people act, what they do, what is expected
- Regulation of parking on pavement instead of parking on lawns (lawns become compacted), control off street parking
- If something doesn't become mandatory, it's not going to happen
- Permeable parking
- Building stronger communities needs to be a focus, will make us stronger as things change, including climate resilience, encourage neighborhoods to be organizing outside of official processes/programs
- We have not yet seen a major rainfall event (20 inches, etc.) but I am very concerned about something if it happens, can't be ruled out, hope public works will be focusing on it
 - Ability to handle large amounts of stormwater and runoff, drainage, culvert sizing, etc.
- **Opportunity Oriented**
 - Take advantage of federal money for climate spending
 - Inclined to capture funding for bike/ped projects and programs
 - Ability to work together with our neighbors for projects and capturing funding, how can we coordinate and not be working at loggerheads
 - Make sure that we focus on mass transit and improve our systems, sharing resources regionally