

South Burlington Planning & Zoning

CityPlan 2024 Community Conversations

Recreation & Culture

Monday, February 13, 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]

26 Attendees

Inclusive Fair and Just

- Love what's happening with Library & outdoor event this winter. Love what's happening on Market Street. Not everyone knows about it.
- Youth programming is great. Can't answer whether it's equitable and accessible to everyone. At Red Rocks, there are some physical issues
- Would like to make sure that all of our public spaces are truly inclusive. Have found that since I've become of limited mobility, what I've found is that the City does the minimum amount in terms of inclusivity. Would like to flip the coin and be proactive. Example: Dog Park at Wheeler. I find it very difficult to navigate. I am a member of Common Areas for Dogs. I think more is required; more paths. Would help everyone in the community. This community has a lot of assets.
- Our buildings have had more concern placed on them, but in our open spaces we have a ways to go
- Dog Park wasn't accessible when it was put in. When Muriel says flip it around, we should be a leader in accessibility. All of our parks we should look at how to be a leader in accessible.
- Having public art gallery has been a plus and is accessible.
- Winter events, summer food trucks have been great. What I noticed and when I think about the City Plan & more housing along Shelburne Road, there hasn't been much focus [of parks]; the focus has been over here. If you have a plan to put more housing in that area, there's going to be a very large disparity; not easily accessible in that area.
- When we talk about equity, the city is emphasizing more concentrating living. The equity is where is there access to green spaces, to trees. Adequate green that goes with them. Community is very gung-ho on sustainability. Green space is an after-thought.
- Traffic. The more people come here, the worse traffic is getting to be.
- Sobu music series; helps build a sense of place. When we integrate a cultural plan, which we need to do. we should look at neighborhoods as well. Bookmobile used to go to neighborhoods. Bus is broken, Have beautiful library, but need to make sure the outreach continues, especially around equity.
- Art & cultural assets in our community.
- A lot of our work has been tied to City Center.
- Would be great to have an equal commitment on set aside for art to be expanded to other parks. Utility boxes are a reminder of our community. Have events and activities in each different neighborhood & area of the city. Maybe some art can be exchanged for open space in development.

To what extent is our community reflected in our events

- Illuminate VT was very diverse. Library is diverse, but maybe the message isn't getting across on it's availability. Would be great to get more community members involved in art in their businesses. To get the message out, it needs to be beyond our borders too, and hitting people in our community.
- A lot of volunteers are of a certain demographic. As a mom of two children, it's hard to be active in community at certain stages of lives. Very hard of diversify. Maybe we can build having the PTO in bike/ped committee. Ways to tap into different groups. Maybe looking at wards or NPAs. There was some funding given to our neighborhood as a result of a development in the area, that funding was used to create an annual community BBQ.
- Charter Committee is exploring multiple options

Human-Focused

- Route 7 and Route 2 are not very pleasurable walking experiences. As SB grows and tries to put in more development, it's important to make sure all those corridors are accessible to all and are pleasurable.
- That would be great goal, but will need to get cars off road.
- I live in Kennedy area Nice to walk, but corridor from high school to trader joes is feeling less safe; needles and drugs. People shooting up.
- painted power boxes was surprising and pleasing and thrilling; I do think with our pedestrian bridge I think the design is gorgeous. it's going to be called the South Burlington Bridge. An opportunity to create a visual identity that distinguishes us from SB. I think we can be seen a community filled with color.
- It does sound a lot like streetscaping. More people on street, more people engaged.
- One of things we have done right is rec path. Disconnect is connecting across Shelburne Road.
- We are talking about some amazing opportunities to expand parks & recreation. Include a tiny note to expand staffing! We have to do something for the safety issue for walkers. Sharing of paths with cyclists (they don't think about pedestrians).
- Thinking about the porous division between SB and Burlington. Could we have bus stops that identify south Burlington, and encourages people to use the bus (and same for bike paths).
- Would like to encourage us to become more pet friendly, dog friendly community. Need to have more dog parks throughout the community. We also need to have developers consider dogs and dog needs in their proposals. Example: City Center. Dog needs, going to bathroom, etc. And sanitation: more poop bag dispensers throughout city and in public spaces.
- I wanted to mention Garvey park. See a steady stream of people of all ages walking dogs, daycare centers. Garvey Park is small. So small that developers couldn't build a road and homes; but it's invaluable for people to walk. Farrell Park as well.
- Opportunity to take care of small parks
- Where are families going to being their kids in a green space? Not having mind-set of having to get into a car to get to a park/playground.
- With these new developments having to have an area for park.
- South Burlington history. Not a lot of it, but need you value what we do have left. South Burlington was the throw-away of Burlington.
- Connector bridge. Creating identify through that. ARPA money. Were all solicited to submit ideas on how money could be used. I've heard rumors about how that money would be used next year. I'd like to try to spread that money around - dog park as great example of building community. New relationships are vital. I know that consideration is being given to putting a lot of that money to an agenda that is getting a lot of focus.

- Maybe city can contribute on how to maintain small (potentially private, informal) spaces like by eastwoods.
- Big Ask: We really need a pool. I know it's a big ask.
- Opportunity to create job opportunities for artists; supported in Burlington and invisible in Burlington
- Need a new recreation center. Erin Agreed! Park maintenance should come under Parks & Recreation. DPW is stretched in other ways.
- Wonderful that we're all here, but not sure we're reaching others. Students. What do they envision?
- It distresses me that the dog park isn't being taken care of. A significant number of residents are ignoring and not taking care of it. Wish we could nip it in the bud. People need to pick up.
- I'd like to second the person who asked if we're getting the right voices. Make sure we're getting input from a cross-section of our community.
- Outreach through homeowners associations.
- weed warriors, other things that bring people together.