

South Burlington Planning & Zoning

CityPlan 2024 Community Conversations

Southwest Neighborhoods

Thursday, March 16, 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]

24 Attendees

Human Focused

- City doesn't communicate/collaborate with the City of Burlington related to QCP Road; collaborations with water district, bellco; Shelburne Road is state highway; relationships with other municipalities and the State
- 30% of the City population is in the SW; neighborhoods are unique;
- Lacking attention and services because of the location
- Redevelopment of blighted/vacant areas; need to redevelop with amenities (holistic redevelopment - park space, etc. - with the housing);
- Using the walkscore
- QCP Road - significantly impacting the neighborhood of QCP; need to work with Burlington City Council re 1-lane bridge, higher ground possible; issue with crossing Route 7 - can't walk to the Orchards School, too many curb-cuts; loves the idea of pocket parks; redevelopment
- Red Rocks Park is a magnet for residents of Chittenden County, especially Burlington; Airport is a regional resource; better ways to cross Shelburne Road - can't imagine a safe road crossing, so need pedestrian bridges or similar; Farrell St and other new housing - possibility for diversity, so should get more focus for amenities that richer parts have already
- Resident of Orchards, were mentored by neighbors and can now turn around and mentor young families, issues with road maintenance, issue of test driving cars from the dealerships in the neighborhood (but they were responsive); community pool?
- QCP, concerned about upkeep of public lands, concerned about the access road (QCP Road), neighborhood tends to check on the park; loose dogs in the park
- Issue of use of Red Rocks by out-of-towners

Inclusive, Fair, & Just

- Model of inclusivity in the SW, mix of housing types, welcoming to large and small businesses, need to expand transit - outdated transit pattern for commuters to downtown; empty lots next to the old Hannaford - do a land swap for those lots as open space or community center; City Council needs to pay attention to the SW; need investment for east-west travel
- Need to pay attention to the school system - education is a level playing field for kids, need to not overcrowd the system, add infrastructure in the school system to absorb the new kids in new homes; need to look holistically at open spaces, traffic, education, alongside housing in SW
- Inclusionary zoning; potential use of the Farrell property for a park and beach access and avoiding the issues with access to it
- Individual neighborhoods have a sense of place; want a neighborhood feel for the other side of Shelburne Road - need to build neighborhoods, not just housing; pedestrian access from

Shelburne Road back to Hannaford, to access buses, etc.; pedestrian overpass on the connection of the road to Orchards School; redevelopment is going to take investment

- Need shelters for bus stops everywhere the bus stops
- Inclusive around events - events are coordinated around Christian holidays, how do we plan for more inclusive events?
- Transit to Veterans Park for events like food trucks; why can't we do this at Farrell Park? Why can't we have a neighborhood party there? Or events permitted at University Mall? Connections to community
- Community events organized by the neighborhoods; Farrell Park area - something new to do with the women's prison if it's replaced?
- Parallel path to Shelburne Road - continuing south from the Lowe's to expand pedestrian and bike access; dedication for pedestrian and bike use
- Open space that's UVM land; City needs to be proactive with the cooperation with UVM lands - Eastwoods, etc.;
- Encourage City to keep Higher Ground at current location; Red Rocks is already overused, traffic will increase and isn't safe;
- Crossing Spear St is challenging; what's needed is pedestrians and bicyclists to access the park directly without having to cross at Nowland Farm Drive;

Climate-Resilient

- Community access solar to allow people to use solar who can't afford it on their house
- City should invest in agricultural land to protect from food insecurity with climate change
- Losing trees in the Orchards because they're from the 1950s - want the City to encourage/incentivize planting trees as the trees (birches) are getting older and being removed
- Flat-roofed buildings in the Shelburne Road area are prime for solar panels; doesn't agree with penalizing people who have fossil-fuel heat; QCP isn't great for alternative heating
- Transit Overlay District - "make it legit" - add frequency, add hours; safe crossings for pedestrians and bikes; traffic calming; investment in the SW for pedestrian/bike crossings; investment in low-income properties/areas
- Want to see truly affordable apartments in the SW areas/Shelburne Road; if you live at Hannaford, be able to walk to work
- State-level downtown designations; triggers development of housing; having Shelburne Road be a designated downtown area (some kind of State designation)
- Solar panels that provide shade at ECHO (solar over parking - could use in other parking lots, like at grocery stores - win/win for shading cars and electricity;
- Warming summers, reduce energy use; water resources for recreation; planning for public pool, how people can get to the water for cooling
- Micro-transit options, using an app on demand; smaller routes looping on a schedule - from housing to shopping, or to another bus line; rethinking A/C; people working outside; how to handle heat - cool space options, anticipate more breaks for people outside, etc., affects some groups of people more than others
- Community gardens - identification of how many people live within walking distance of a community garden and identify other locations to equitably expand
- Small wooded area within walking distance of all residents - for cooling, etc.

Opportunity-Oriented

- Shelburne Road is a corridor connecting to other communities; need park n ride lots to carpool with a coworker; intersection of 189 and Shelburne Road, etc.;

- Road systems were designed to go to Burlington; proactive regional partners by improving east-west transit connectivity
- Repurposing of a commercial building and use of an existing City amenity
- Overlook Park area - we are in a lucky situation that we are growing; we need to grow as smart as we can; Spear St is one of the most dangerous street in the City - opportunity to get true bike lanes and have safe biking; additional crosswalks; need to invest in the schools because they are why people move here but we haven't updated them in the last 27 years; collaboration with the school about budgeting and planning for the tax base
- Collaboration with others as part of the Lake Champlain watershed, including the health of the watershed, the brooks that run into the Lake, etc.
- Need for collaboration between the schools and the City; taxpayers look at the bottom line of the combined tax bill and City has a role in planning