

Brownfields Advisory Committee Draft Meeting Agenda

Monday, January 8, 2017 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

CCRPC Main Conference Room, 110 West Canal St., Suite 202 Winooski, VT

Or via Conference Call to:

Please call: Dial-in Number: (641) 715-3200

Access Code: 933085

To access various documents referenced below, please visit:

<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/economic-development/brownfields/#advisory-committee>

1. **Call to Order, Introductions and Changes to the Agenda** *(Information, 2 minutes)*
2. **Public comments on items not on the Agenda** *(Information, 2 minutes, longer if necessary)*
3. **Review and action on January 8 meeting summary** *(Action, 2 minutes)*
4. **Action on Site Nominations/Assistance Requests** *(Discussion, 30 minutes)*
 - a. Petra Cliffs, 75 Briggs Street, Burlington (materials attached)
5. **Project Updates** *(Information, 10 minutes)*
 - a. CCRPC Brownfields Program projects
 - b. DEC update
 - c. Others

6. Adjourn

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Brownfields Advisory Committee Draft Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 8, 2017 3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

CCRPC Main Conference Room, 110 West Canal St., Suite 202 Winooski, VT

To access various documents referenced below, please visit:

<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/economic-development/brownfields/#advisory-committee>

1. Call to Order, Introductions and Changes to the Agenda

The meeting began at 3:05.

Committee Members:

Curt Carter, GBIC (chair)
Justin Dextrateur, Redstone*
Kirsten Merriman-Shapiro, CEDO*

Sarah Bartlett, VT DEC*
Razelle Hoffman-Contois, VDH*

CCRPC Staff:

Dan Albrecht, CCRPC

Emily Nosse-Leirer, CCRPC

Others:

Paul and Lori Hayes, Champlain Chiropractic
Leisa Pollander, Sara Holbrook Center
Steve LaRosa, Weston and Sampson

Michael Nahmias, VT DEC*
Jeremy Roberts, KAS Inc.
Jessica Dominguez, EPA*

**Attended via phone*

2. Public comments on items not on the Agenda

None.

3. Review and action on November 20, 2017 meeting summary

Justin moved to approve the minutes, and Razelle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Action on Site Nominations/Assistance Requests

Hayes Chiropractic, 2031 Roosevelt Highway, Colchester, Weston & Sampson

The property owners requested additional funding for two issues:

- a. An additional \$4,000 was requested to pay for Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) costs. GPR of the whole site will show where all the underground storage tanks on the property are located, and will make tank removal, sampling and cleanup much easier. The committee supported this request.

Curt made a motion seconded by Kirsten that CCRPC approve of this additional funding of \$4,000. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. In 2017, the property owners received a letter telling them they had 30 days to address brownfields contamination on their property. They hired ATC to complete sampling on the property, which led to a \$4,128 lab bill from Endyne. They are seeking reimbursement from CCRPC for these costs.

The committee discussed the issue of whether or not these costs are eligible for reimbursement. Jessica confirmed that the EPA is not able to reimburse costs paid for projects before the site is determined to

be eligible, because a site-specific quality assurance project plan (SSQAPP) is necessary. Since the site did not have a SSQAPP at the time the lab work was conducted, and the site was not determined to be eligible, the lab bills cannot be reimbursed.

Given this determination by EPA, the Committee could not support the request.

Michael explained that once the assessment is completed, the property owners will be able to access money from the state's Petroleum Cleanup Fund (PCF). Some of the work that is completed with CCRPC funding will count towards the PCF's \$10,000 deductible (pulling the tanks, groundwater sampling and other monitoring outside of tanks are possible examples).

Steve asked if these tanks could be considered "unknown" tanks, but Michael explained that the record of them in town documents is too thorough for this.

Steve detailed the tank removal process, and explained that the Phase I will be completed in the next few weeks.

Sara Holbrook Center, North Avenue, Burlington, KAS

Jeremy explained that the Phase I showed two RECs: a garage with two drains and urban fill throughout the property. The Phase I report has been reviewed by CCRPC and DEC and edits are being made.

Razelle asked if there are concerns about exposure to soil vapors or groundwater contamination. Jeremy replied that groundwater is located about 80 feet below grade at this site and it's unlikely that any groundwater contamination will occur, unless they find something unexpected during the Phase II testing. Razelle also asked if the soil will be tested in the area that is proposed for a playground, and Jeremy confirmed that it will be.

Dan explained that because this isn't a housing project, staff would like to see if there is money available from other sources before fully funding the request. Kirsten Merriman-Shapiro noted that CEDO has some funds available but if they were used it would trigger numerous Federal requirements. Committee members noted that that would be an undesirable situation. Committee members were very supportive of the project given the numerous services provided by the Center as well as the fact that the Phase II costs can be split between Petro and Haz funds, and expressed their interest in fully funding it.

Curt made a motion that the CCRPC fully fund the \$22,230 request and the committee agreed.

5. Project Updates

Dan explained that the 314 North Winooski (Champlain Transmission) project for a Phase I has been assigned to Stone Environmental but was still going through the process of obtaining needed approvals and documentation, and therefore the contract is not up and running yet.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:50. The next meeting will be at the call of the chair.

Brownfields Site Evaluation Criteria

Project Name: Petra Cliffs

Address/Project Location: 75 Briggs Street, Burlington VT

Applicant: Erik Sandblom, KAS Inc., on behalf of Charest Alpinism, LLC dba Petra Cliffs Climbing Center

Reviewer: Emily Nosse-Leirer, CCRPC

Required Characteristics	Possible Points	Scoring
Is the property owner willing to sign a Participation Agreement and Site Access Agreement?	Yes = continue	Yes
Does the site meet DEC eligibility criteria for petroleum sites and/or EPA eligibility criteria for hazardous sites?	No = Not eligible	Yes
Is the planned use consistent with current zoning?		Yes

Project Location (10 pts Total)

Is the project located in Burlington or Winooski?	(Yes=2, No=0)	2
Is the project located in a Center, Enterprise, Metro, Suburban or Village Regional Planning Area (as identified in the most recently adopted regional plan)?	(Yes=2, No=0)	2
Is the project located within a designated state center? (Including areas with pending applications)	(Yes=2, No=0)	0
Does the project site have existing water, sewer, electric, transportation and/or natural gas infrastructure serving it?	(Yes=2, No=0)	2
Is the project located adjacent to another brownfields site?	(Yes=2, No=0)	2

Project Location Economic Conditions (5 pts Total)

Is the project located in an area where the poverty rate is higher than the County-wide average?	Up to 5 points	5
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Housing Potential (30 points total)

Will site cleanup enable housing development in an area planned for high density housing or mixed-use development by the municipality?	Up to 10 points	0
Will site cleanup contribute to alleviating identified housing need as identified in relevant adopted municipal documents?		
Will site cleanup allow multiple housing units (in excess of what is already on site) to be built?	1/2 point per unit, 20 points maximum.	0

Commercial Potential (20 points total)

Will site cleanup enable commercial development in an area planned for high density commercial or mixed-use development by the municipality and region?	Up to 20 points	20
Is the project a mixed-use project?		

Open Space and Recreation Potential (10 points total)

Will site cleanup enable improvement or construction of a park in an area where it can be readily accessed by an underserved population?	Up to 10 points	5
Will site cleanup involve creating or improving open or recreational space as part of a housing or commercial project?		

Project Economic Impact (25 pts Total)

Does the project have the potential to create or retain jobs?	1 point per FTE job, up to 10 points	5
If no direct jobs are created or retained, does the project lead to indirect job creation?	Up to 15 points	15
Does the project have other economic development benefits?		

Initial Score	
100 points possible	58

Bonus Categories

	1/2 point per percentage point	
If the project will enable housing unit construction, will a percentage of them be perm affordable, up to 20 points.		0
Is the developer/property owner willing to pay for the Phase I or pay for part of the Ph	Up to 15 points	#
Does proposed site cleanup mitigate impacts to surface water?	Up to 10 points	#

Additional Notes:	Bonus Score	
Petra Cliffs works with a number of local social service agencies, including the Howard Center and Vermont Works for Women, to provide discounted or free programming for clients.	45 points possible	0
TOTAL SCORE		58

**Chittenden County Brownfields Program
Site Nomination / Assistance Request Form**

*For information on types of assistance available and
CCRPC's protocol for deciding if, and to what degree to assist a request, see:
<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/economic-development/brownfields/>*

Site Name: Former Vermont Structural Steel / Barretts Trucking

Site's Street Address/Town/Zip Code: 75 Briggs Street, Burlington, VT 05401

Parcel Tax ID #: 057-2-128-000 Property Size (Acres): +/- 1.68

Zoning District: E-LM Enterprise - Light Manufacturing

Describe current use(s): Industrial / Abandoned - All buildings have been removed with the exception
of one approx. 3,500 square foot garage used for storage

Describe former use(s): Vermont Structural Steel, Barretts Trucking, Gulf Oil - Activities included
iron, steel, bronze, and brass foundering, machining, vehicle maintenance, and bulk petroleum storage

Are there plans for acquisition and/or redevelopment? ☒ Yes ☐ No

**If yes, attach a separate one to two-page document describing the anticipated benefits of the
redevelopment** such as housing units, commercial development, jobs, economic impact,
recreation, etc. (see Site Evaluation Criteria at link above for the types of information to provide).

Have studies been conducted to identify or assess contamination? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please identify the title, author and date of the report, and if available, send us a PDF: Stone Environmental, Inc. - Phase I ESA, Phase II ESA, and Corrective Action Plan

Potential contaminants include: ☒ Petroleum ☒ Other contaminants

What type(s) of site assessment or cleanup planning assistance are you seeking? Circle all that apply

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment

Phase II Environmental Site Assessment

Soil Monitoring during Construction

Archeological Site Assessment / Recon

Historic Preservation issues

Cleanup / Corrective Action Planning

Other

Property Owner Information:

Name: Onion River Cooperative Signature: 

Mailing Address: 82 South Winooski Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401

Phone: 802-861-9700 Email: jtashiro@citymarket.coop

Nomination Submitted By: On behalf of Charest Alpinism, LLC dba Petra Cliffs Climbing Center

Name or Office: Erik Sandblom, KAS, Inc. Date Submitted: February 28, 2018

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 787, Williston, VT 05495

Phone: 802-383-0486 Email: eriks@kas-consulting.com

Please Return Site Nomination Form (via PDF is preferred) to:

Dan Albrecht, Senior Planner

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission 110 West Canal St., Suite 202 Winooski, VT 05404

*Phone: (802) 846-4490 Ext. *29; Email: dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org*

Chittenden County Brownfields Program
Site Nomination / Assistance Request

Proposed Petra Cliffs Climbing Center at the Former Vermont Structural Steel Site
75 Briggs Street, Burlington, Vermont

Petra Cliffs Climbing Center has entered into a purchase and sale agreement with Onion River Cooperative to acquire an approximately 1.68 acre parcel located at 75 Briggs Street. This parcel is adjacent to and south of the Onion River Co-op's newly developed City Market store in Burlington's South End. Petra Cliffs was selected by Onion River Co-op after an extensive request for proposal (RFP) and vetting process designed to identify a potential neighbor that would align with the Co-op/City Market's Global Ends, which, in summary, are to be central to a thriving and healthy community, where consumers have local access to progressive social, environmental and healthful choices, residences enjoy an enhanced quality of life, and the local food system is strengthened. These ends are achieved by implementing a variety of community outreach projects.

Petra Cliffs Climbing Center is currently located at 105 Briggs Street and has been a fixture in the Burlington community since its inception in 2000. Andrea and Steve Charest have been managing the business since its inception and purchased it in April of 2012. Petra Cliffs is a for-profit, local business, which keeps its tax dollars in the community and provides local jobs. It provides a valuable resource to the community and supports a strong community through several programs. The attached pages contain excerpts from Petra Cliff's proposal to City Market that provides specific examples of its commitment to the community including letters of support for their programs and for a new facility.

A move to this new location at 75 Briggs Street will enable Petra Cliffs to provide a more modern climbing facility, and serve more members and groups in the community. It will create jobs indirectly due to a construction of a significant commercial development, and directly with its expanded programs and capacity, and will create expanded recreational and educational opportunities for members of the community and for many local non-profit organizations. Petra Cliffs is a community focused organization that provides access to climbing, recreation and fitness to anyone who has the interest. Petra Cliffs provides scholarships, discounted (and in some cases free) programming, and a healthy, substance-free, social atmosphere.

Details of Petra Cliff's vision for the redevelopment of the property are also provided in the attached pages.

Attachments: Project Description
Community Programs (*"Filling a Gap in the Burlington Community"*)
Programming Goals
Site Concept
Building Concept
Letters of Recommendation

Petra Cliffs Climbing Center & Mountaineering School: Project Description

Overall, our goals for the project come from our mission of creating “an inspiring atmosphere for families and friends to gather for challenge and fun.”

Petra Cliffs 2.0 will be custom-built with a beautiful, open and efficient layout. Windows and skylights will allow for maximized natural light. A portion of the building will be 45 feet high to accommodate a central climbing feature with an overhanging prow. We will have a modern training center with free weights, cross-fit style stations, and a full selection of cardio equipment. In addition to traditional climbing instruction we will offer group fitness classes, private physical training and preparation for adventures locally or around the globe.

Petra Cliffs will feature state of the art climbing walls with climbing for all abilities, from beginners and adaptive climbers to competition climbers. We hope that Petra Cliffs will not only be a place to climb and work out, but will be the hub of the climbing community. Social spaces throughout the building (such as a hearth and work stations) will give members a place to gather for more than climbing, and the open layout will provide viewing areas for films, competitions, and presentations. The rooftop deck will not only provide a place to hold classes like sunset yoga, but will offer gathering space, either for a meal or to celebrate a special event such as Burlington’s July 3rd fireworks.

Petra Cliffs 2.0 will strengthen our existing community connections and offerings with expanded opportunities in partnership with the University of Vermont PE Dept., Saint Michael’s College Adventure Sports Center, Champlain College Climbing Team, UVM Outing Club, Johnson State College Outdoor Education Degree Program and SUNY Plattsburgh, and with community organizations listed in our “Filling the Gap” section of this proposal.

We hope to encourage more youth and families to lead healthy lifestyles and to take part in the great outdoors. With a larger facility, we will be able to add spaces to our wildly popular SumMAT Camp programs, offer more birthday parties, and grow the Friday Night Kids Club. For the busy parents, we will have on-site day care services so parents can take a class or climb for a couple hours. Our Youth Climbing Team will have Olympic-level training facilities to take their skills to the next local, divisional or national competition scene.

Petra Cliffs will continue to offer instruction with highly trained guides and instructors with certifications from the American Mountain Guides Association (AMGA), Climbing Wall Association (CWA), American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education (AIARE), SOLO Wilderness First Responder, and professional organizations.

Petra Cliffs Mountaineering School will continue to host the Smugglers’ Notch Ice Bash (Vermont’s ice climbing festival) and will provide our clients and members an opportunity to fine tune their skills with highly trained guides. With our connection with the Certified Guides Co-op (CGC), we not only have access and permits to all of the Northeast’s excellent rock, ice and alpine climbing and backcountry skiing terrain, but to destinations throughout North America and Europe.

We are exploring renewable energy sources; our construction consultant believes the building could easily get to net zero, and perhaps even an energy plus status, returning surplus to the grid. Our architect and Vermont Solar Farmers have proposed solar panels on the rooftop and solar carports to help achieve this.

Filling a Gap: Not Just Your Typical Health Club; Petra Cliffs Serves the Community

Petra Cliffs has become intrinsic to the Burlington community through its mission and unique offerings. Rock climbing and nature-based adventure programs are activities that not only exercise the physical body, but allow participants to challenge themselves, conquer fears, reduce stress, burn calories, and improve mental strength—and we believe that recreation should be available to all, and not be a luxury. Petra Cliffs works with populations of youth and adults with physical and cognitive disabilities, visual and hearing impairments, and underserved populations who, without the collaboration of the organizations below, may not have access to experience the transformative power of climbing, nature and nature-based experiences. The following is a portion of programs we serve.

Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports: Petra Cliffs engages advanced raising systems and coaching to empower people of all abilities to climb to new heights.

Howard Center: Including the Baird School, Centerpoint School, Jean Garvin School, Autism Spectrum Program, Outdoor Challenge, Early Childhood Program, Inclusion Program, School Services Program.

Each summer, Petra Cliffs grants ten scholarships to youth from the Howard Center. Integrated into a camp group with nine other kids, this child gets dirty by crawling through caves, conquers fears by climbing and rappelling over a cliff, spots bald eagles and herons while kayaking down the Winooski River, and feels surrounded by nature while swinging high from the ropes course at the Bolton Adventure Center. These are truly life-changing experiences in nature that all children deserve, but many Burlington families do not have access to otherwise.

Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center: Partner camps, women's collaborative programming

Flynn Center for the Performing Arts: Fundraising and education with Over the Edge

Mahana Magic Foundation: Support and fun experiences for children who are coping with the fear and uncertainty of a having a parent or an adult caregiver with cancer.

Vermont Works for Women: Dirt Divas ROCK! Collaborative programming helps middle school girls develop perseverance, technical skills, and communication through rock climbing and ropes courses.

Burlington Parks & Recreation: Summer, vacation and after school programming for Burlington residents

University of Vermont: Physical Education: Semester programs promote mind & body and lifetime fitness

Dealer.com, Burton Snowboards, and more Burlington businesses: Employees climb during lunch breaks, business pays a portion or all of monthly membership dues as health incentive, within walking/biking distance to Petra Cliffs

After School Programs: Including Edmunds Elementary & Middle School, Champlain Elementary, Flynn Elementary, Sustainability Academy, CP Smith Elementary, Hunt Middle School, Integrated Arts Academy, Montpelier Community Connections, and others. We see a large refugee population join these programs.

Linking Learning to Life / Navicate: Provided internships for local high school students to gain job skills

Also: Mobius Mentors, DREAM, Northwestern Counseling & Support Services, United Way, NFI, Spectrum Youth & Family Services, King Street Center, Zeno Mountain Farm, and many others

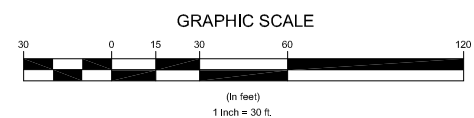
Petra Cliffs Program Goals

- Continued, Increased & New Community Events
 - Climbing Competitions
 - Reel Rock Film Tour
 - Talks, Guest Presenters, Films
 - Local Artist Gallery
 - South End Art Hop
 - CRAG-VT Fundraising Events
 - Everest Challenge Fundraiser
 - Over the Edge Sponsorship to benefit the Flynn Center
- Indoor Programming
 - Youth Climbing
 - Pro Team
 - Competition Team
 - Recreational Team
 - Mini Monkeys
 - Itsy Bitsy Spiders
 - Birthday Parties
 - Adult Programming
 - Private Lessons
 - Climbing Clinics
 - Free Member Clinics
 - Adaptive Programming
 - Dedicated space for adaptive programs
 - Accessible ropes course elements
- Summer Camp
 - Continue classic SumMAT (Summer Mountain Adventure Training) & School Vacation Camps
 - Work with Fresh Air Fund, Howard Center, The North Face Explore Fund Grant and more organizations to offer scholarships for families in need
 - Indoor half day camp option
 - Partner camps with City Market ("Climbing & Cooking," "Ropes & Roots")
 - Partner camps with more local organizations
- Membership
 - Expanded hours & fitness options to grow membership base
 - Additional member benefits
 - City Market members receive additional discounts
- Mountaineering School Programs
 - Increased educational programs with use of classroom space: Navigation, Avalanche Awareness
 - Expanded programming and destinations
 - Continue managing Smuggs Ice Bash, Vermont's Ice Climbing Festival, increase participation



LEGEND

- EXISTING PROJECT BOUNDARY
- - - ABUTTING PROPERTY LINE
- - - BUILDING SETBACK
- ☼ EXISTING TREES
- OHE — EXISTING UTILITY POLE AND OVERHEAD WIRE



Date	Revision	By
PETRA CLIFFS		Project No. 17023
75 BRIGGS STREET BURLINGTON, VT 05401		Survey -
		Design NDS
		Drawn NDS
		Checked ABR
		Date 4-4-2017
		Scale AS NOTED
		Sheet number
Lamoureux & Dickinson Consulting Engineers, Inc. 14 Morse Drive, Essex, VT 05452 802-878-4450 www.LDengineering.com		C1



15 May 2017

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Reg. Architect
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PETRA CLIFFS CLIMBING CENTER DESIGN CONCEPT RENDERING

studio b
architecture

114 meadow lane
dorset, vermont
802.318.1309

www.studiobvt.com



community sailing center

lake champlain : burlington vermont

May 10, 2017

Dear City Market Committee,

Please accept this letter for support on behalf of the Petra Cliffs Climbing Center & Mountaineering School a long-time partner of the Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center.

The mission of the Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center (CSC) is to encourage and celebrate the responsible use and long-term stewardship of Lake Champlain by fostering educational and recreational opportunities for all members of our community, regardless of age, gender, race, physical ability, or financial means. At the CSC, non-motorized watercraft become the tools to enrich people's lives, offer a unique environmental education experience, and instill a sense of ownership in one of Vermont's most valuable natural resources - Lake Champlain.

The CSC has partnered with Petra Cliffs for over 10 years. Together we have worked hard to provide unique, educational programming for youth in the greater Burlington area. Providing an affordable point of access to the outdoors through climbing and sailing programming is incredibly important and supports the positive growth of the young people involved. In the past few years our collaborative programming has grown to include single-gender opportunities for young women to develop their leadership and communication skills while building self-confidence.

Our community benefits from having dedicated, place-based organizations focused on the health and development of people through recreation. Without Petra Cliffs, Burlington would lack one of the most important organizations providing urban youth with these positive outlets and personal growth potential.

Like the CSC, Petra Cliffs has grown over the years and with the expansion of their facility the possibilities for our community to grow with them are limitless. Learning to climb is a life-long skill that would enrich the lives of Vermonters in immeasurable ways. I hope you strongly consider Petra Cliffs as new neighbor to City Market.

Kind regards,

Jen Guimaraes
Associate Director
Community Sailing Center



April 6, 2017
City Market/Onion River Co-Op
82 S. Winooski Ave
Burlington, VT 05401

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing a quick note to tell you about the truly unique and invaluable relationship the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts has had with Andrea Charest and her team at Petra Cliffs Climbing Center and Mountaineering School.

For the past two years, Andrea and the Petra Cliffs team have been an essential supporter of our Over the Edge fundraiser. Petra Cliffs is a perfect partner because our annual event features over 90 local community members rappelling seven stories down the side of the Courtyard Marriott Burlington Harbor hotel on the corner of Battery St and Cherry St in Burlington. Petra Cliffs stepped up and immediately offered to not only support us, but to also hold free rappelling lessons right down the road from us in the south end of Burlington. Their commitment to supporting a community partner, their expertise in rappelling and their location in the south end all has really helped to make our rappellers feel prepared and safe. Many of their staff volunteered to work the ropes the day of the events helping the Flynn to keep our costs down. Anything we needed, Petra Cliffs was there for us.

Our Over the Edge fundraiser has raised nearly \$300,000 over the past two years to support the education programming that is vital in our community. This money helps to support the 38,000 kids that come to a Student Matinee Series performance each year. Over 7,000 kids attend with a scholarship. I can attest that without Petra Cliffs' commitment to supporting us these past two years, our fundraiser would not have been as successful and the impact would not have been as great. Petra Cliffs has played a vital role in making Over the Edge the two largest fundraising events in the history of the Flynn.

The growth of a vital community resource like Petra Cliffs will benefit so many in our community that we all share. Having a facility in the south end of Burlington means it is readily accessible to so many. Being in the south end means not having to drive all the way out to Williston or South Burlington. It is also in walking distance or a short bus trip for thousands. As the south end of Burlington grows, it is my hope that Petra Cliffs will be there as a pillar for many years to come.

If you have any questions or would like any more information about the invaluable and continuing partnership between Petra Cliffs and the Flynn, I would be more than happy to expand on our incredible experience together.

Warmly,

John R. Killacky
Executive Director
802 652 4504 / jkillacky@flynncenter.org



May 12, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Petra Cliff, Andrea and Steve Charest's, request to expand their current operation.

Howard Center, in particular Family and Community Programs through Children, Youth and Family Services, has had a relationship with Petra Cliff that spans nearly a decade. This relationship has been a win/win for both Petra Cliffs and for the clients (mostly youth) who utilize various programs throughout the year. Petra Cliffs has provided us use of their facilities so that kids can have an opportunity to challenge themselves, increase their self-esteem and foster a "can do" mentality. Petra staff have always been very welcoming of our staff and our clients and are always willing to develop strategies that would benefit all our client's needs. Every summer, we have been able to send clients to Petra Cliffs camp for each of the ten weeks of camp. This gives an opportunity to children who would not otherwise have the means to do so. Year after year, these children talk about their experiences at Petra Cliffs and how they can have experiences that their peers also have.

It excites me to hear Petra Cliff's plans to expand. What this means is more programming that would significantly benefit our clients. For our clients who struggle to regulate, classes such as Yoga could be a wonderful way for them to demonstrate breathing and self-control. For those who are differently abled, having adaptive equipment could mean raising the bar to new challenges. Expanded programming would mean giving experiences that some of our clients could only imagine having.

In keeping Petra Cliffs in this community it has allowed many, access to a resource that they would not otherwise have. I look forward to our continued relationship with Andrea and her husband, Steve through Petra Cliffs. Their continued commitment to the community, in particular Howard Center, is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ruth D'Angelo
Howard Center
Director of Family and Community Programs

1138 Pine Street, Burlington, VT 05401

T: 802.488.6600 | F: 802.488.6601

HowardCenter.org

Member Agency of United Way of Chittenden County

May 15, 2017

Dear City Market,

I am writing in support of Petra Cliffs proposal to build a new climbing gym next to your store. Our family has lived in the neighborhood for close to 20 years and Petra Cliffs has been a big part of our weekly routine. Our daughter attended a birthday party at Petra Cliffs when she was in kindergarten that sparked her interest in climbing. That first experience was followed by many trips to "Petra" to climb with her friends or with whoever happened to be climbing when she was there. She went on to attend summer camps, join the climbing team, and learn how to climb outside. She is now 17 years old and attends climbing team practice three days a week, travels to competitions many weekends and even works at Petra Cliffs, passing her love of climbing onto the next generation. She has gained physical strength but also honed her ability to think through a problem and push herself out of her comfort zone to meet a challenge. Petra Cliffs provides a safe place for everyone to stretch their boundaries and conquer new challenges.

As our neighborhood develops, I feel it is important to have a diverse array of opportunities available to residents as well as visitors. We have grocery stores, restaurants, and art studios with small retail businesses sprinkled in. Petra Cliffs fits in with the mix of other recreational activities including Oakledge Park, the bike path, yoga studios, and spin gyms. I love the community that is growing in the South End and want to see Petra Cliffs remain a vital part of that going forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Hunt
Home Avenue

May 11, 2017

Dear City Market,

Petra Cliffs is an integral part of the greater Burlington region, contributing towards building a strong, healthy, and vibrant community. Petra Cliffs has partnered with Vermont Works for Women for years, offering our organization discounted rates so that we can offer a winter indoor climbing program for girls called Dirt Divas Rock. In this program, VWW brings their expertise in building strong and confident girls and Petra Cliffs brings their climbing teaching expertise. Due to the success of this program, this year we're expanding Dirt Divas Rock to the summer and including one day of outdoor climbing, guided by Petra Cliffs.

When recruiting to fill this camp at places like King Street Center and Miller Community Center, prospective participants get jazzed when they hear Dirt Divas Rock will be based at Petra Cliffs. Most of them have been to Petra Cliffs and enthusiastically talk about ringing the bells at the top of the dinosaur wall, learning how to belay, and walking blindfolded across the high ropes course. Petra Cliffs offers a warm atmosphere that is inviting even to middle-schoolers. It would be fantastic to have the Petra Cliffs community expanded to offer more space and programming.

Sincerely,



Katie Craig
Girls Program Coordinator
Vermont Works for Women
(802) 622-0400, ext. 159

