NOTES | **CCRPC Community Engagement Advisory Committee**
More information available at: *ccrpcvt.org/committees*

MEETING DATE:
Wednesday, September 30th, 2026 at 5:00 PM

LOCATION:
In Person at CCRPC's Office
110 West Canal Street, Suite #202
Winooski, VT 05404

ATTENDEES: Amjed Almulla, Lydia Diamond, Ralph Perkins, Elaine Wang, Deeana Hartog, Madafar Jassim, Ragab Mohamed, Jaeda Spradley-Gavin, Omar Derzi, Urmila Chhetri, Melissa Heitkamp, Jules Wetchi, Mark Hughes, Zoraya Hightower (CEAC Members); Mona Tolba (Arabic Interpreter); Anne Nelson Stoner, Charlie Baker, Sarah Muskin (CCRPC Staff); Stella Jordan (Guest, City of Burlington)

AGENDA

1. **Welcome & Introductions**

AN.Stoner facilitated introductions

2. **PlanBTV 2050 Presentation & Community Engagement Strategy Discussion – City of Burlington**

AN.Stoner introduced S.Jordan. S.Jordan began to present on Burlington's next Comprehensive Plan BTV 2050. She shared that it is the first time the plan has coordinated between four departments: Office of City Planning, Department of Public Works, Parks, Recreation and Waterfront, and Community & Economic Development Office. She shared that combining these plans will increase coordination between interconnected efforts.

She shared the project timeline and what has been completed already and future events and opportunities to get involved. Currently the city is about halfway through the project. She shared some metrics of community engagement thus far: 30 events, 600 participants, a survey with 671 responses. R.Mohamed asked about how long each stage of the project lasted. S.Jordan shared that the vision has been worked on for the past year.

She shared key themes of what has been heard during engagement: people love parks, the lake, the community, city amenities and people are concerned about the cost of housing, crime and safety, and transportation. She shared some successful efforts: partnerships, pop-ups at events, interpretation, and a variety of materials and activities. She added that the planning process began with a power mapping exercise. She also shared that college students, youth, low-income community members, and unhoused community members have been hard to reach. The city wants to continue to make an effort to reach these communities as well as BIPOC and New American community members. She shared that City staff are trying to get into classrooms to reach students and are partnering with CVOEO and other entities to address some of these gaps. She asked if the CEAC has suggestion on how the City could address these gaps or structure the next wave of engagement.

M.Heitkamp asked if the main takeaways will be edited once the gaps have filled in. She offered a representative for youth participation. She added that youth need third spaces. U.Chhetri made a suggested about hosting a focus group with AALV youth where 123 youth are served. She emphasized that this event should be in person.

AN.Stoner suggested potentially working with youth at ISVT. She also asked if Jaeda had any opinions. Jaeda shared that a lot of high schoolers are looking for volunteer hours. M.Hughes asked if City staff have interacted with CHT. S.Jordan shared that CHT representatives have met with City staff and come to some focus groups, but staff have not gotten a chance to connect with CHT residents. M.Tolba pointed out the Richard Kemp Center Youth group might be a good group. M.Hughes shared that the Land Access and Opportunity Board might be a good group to connect with. He also pointed out that the disabilities community does not appear to be represented. M.Heitkamp suggested Outright Vermont. M.Tolba pointed out VT has an aging population. S.Jordan shared that they are well represented in community engagement. E.Wang asked if City staff have reached out to VT Association of Independent Living. Developmental Disabilities Council was another suggestion. D.Hartog suggested reaching out to Pathways. AN.Stoner suggested reaching out to King Street Laundry during free laundry days. M.Hughes suggested Food Not Bombs and The People's Kitchen as orgs to reach out to.

E.Wang shared that Winooski went to every classroom in the school district to get input on how to spend ARPA money. D.Hartog also suggested the King Street Center.

AN.Stoner suggested a structured debate between two different futures with engagement participants. Z.Hightower expressed support for this idea to help get more specific instead of being too high level to have a lot of meaning. CEAC members shared that food and stipends are important. D.Hartog shared that it is important to partner with safe spaces especially for unhoused community members. E.Wang suggested reaching out to Burlington Housing Authorities.

J.Wetchi asked if Swahili speakers or French speakers have participated. S.Jordan shared J.Wetchi was out of town for the event when these populations partciiipated. J.Wetchi said he could organize a Kibembe and Lingala language focus group. J.Wetchi added that there is concern about aging familiy member moving here (especially for New American populations) and PlanBTV 2050 should account for these people.

AN.Stoner said she would share contact information with S.Jordan and vice versa.

3. *Draft* CCRPC Public Participation Plan (PPP) Update

AN.Stoner reminded CEAC members about the status of the PPP process. Many CEAC members have already provided feedback and there is still opportunity to. AN.Stoner added that the CEAC will hold its first official vote in October about whether or not to send the PPP to the Board for organizational adoption.

4. Closing

E.Wang shared that the City of Winooski is about to finish its equitable housing needs assessment.

AN.Stoner ended the meeting at 6:24 pm.