

**CITY OF MONTPELIER  
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

**City Manager's Weekly Report – 03/16/2018**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS...**

Monday, March 19	Design Review Committee, 5:30 P.M., Council Chambers
Monday March 19	Development Review Board, 7:30 P.M., Council Chambers
Tuesday, March 20	Parks Commission, 6:00 P.M., Police Dept. Community Room
Wednesday, March 21	Cemetery Commission, 12:00 P.M., Memorial Room
Wednesday, March 21	Complete Street Committee, 5:30 P.M., City Manager's Conference Room
Wednesday, March 21	Conservation Commission, 7:00 P.M., Council Chambers

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...**

**Capitol Plaza Project**

The Capitol Plaza was granted approval by the Design Review Committee on Monday for the hotel and parking garage proposal. This project now requires the approval of the Development Review Board.

**TIF**

We have submitted a non-binding letter of intent to the State (Vermont Economic Progress Council), indicating the City plans to apply for a TIF district. A proposed TIF map and plan should be ready for public review in April, and the City hopes to bring a District and Financing plan to the Council in May.

**Recreation Center**

In consultation with the CIP committee, the Senior Center and Recreation Center advisory boards authorized \$30,000 from their contingency funds to conduct a well-researched study of what Montpelier residents' desire from a recreation center, how such a center could be funded and financially maintained, whether the existing center at 55 Barre Street (which is not ADA compliant) could meet those needs, etc. The information obtained from this first-step inquiry is designed to guide the Council as members weigh the future of the aging Recreation Center. Pending any objections from the full Council, the City expects to choose a consultant and launch this work in the coming weeks. Council members are welcome to reach out to Assistant City Manager Sue Allen if you have any questions or concerns.

**Parklet Ordinance**

The City is finalizing an application form for businesses hoping to add a parklet for the coming

season. There has been interest expressed by some businesses.

### **One Taylor/Mowatt**

The Mowatt project is on the DRB agenda on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup>. If the project is approved, as expected, we will proceed with real estate closing. That will allow certification of all right of way for the entire One Taylor project. The housing portion of the project is awaiting final funding decisions. If all goes as expected, construction is expected to begin this summer.

### **Orientation Tours**

At our Thursday morning Management team meeting, the staff thought that planning facility tours to coincide with department updates on agendas was a good idea. It was our sense that seeing facilities in advance of the discussions made the most sense. If any of you feel that you'd rather talk with department head first, then visit the site please let me know. We are open to both approaches. We plan to line up the department sessions with other agenda items related to those departments.

We will attempt to schedule visits when the largest number of council members can attend. We will certainly accommodate additional tours for the others.

### **Strategic Planning**

I am reviewing proposals from consultants for the planning work. As a bit of good news, the preferred software vendor proposed a price which was 25% lower than the estimate I provide you.

### **Energy Efficiency**

We are moving forward with energy improvement projects on City buildings, proposed by MEAC after audits performed by Cx Associates in December. These are funded through a revolving loan fund; many leverage incentives from Efficiency VT.

### **Legal**

We continue to work on the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) appeal of the discharge permit renewal for the Montpelier Water Resource Recovery Facility (one of eight permits under appeal) as issued by the VT Agency of Natural Resources. Parties have exchanged discovery requests (interrogatories) and engaging in settlement discussions. City represented by Joseph McLean, Esq., Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, P.C.

## **WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...**

### **Planning**

The Planning Department is preparing to say good bye and good luck to Sarah McShane, Planning and Zoning Administrator, who just announced she will be stepping down. Sarah has accepted the Zoning Director position in the Town of Stowe. Sarah took over as a half time Zoning Administrator in 2015 and quickly improved how much time it takes to issue DRB decisions. Her role was later expanded to 0.8 FTE so the city could take advantage of her background in historic preservation to help the Historic Preservation Commission complete a number of projects. Her hard work and dedication will be missed but we are sure she will be doing great work in Stowe. The Department has already started posting for her replacement. Please see the city website under the jobs link for additional details.

### **Fire Department and Police Department**

Emergency officials and Assistant City Manager Sue Allen are meeting next week to prepare for the

March 24<sup>th</sup> March for Our Lives rally on the State House lawn.

## **Community Services**

### A Conversation with Nina Thompson, Pioneer in the End of Life, Death and Dying Field

Monday, March 26, 6:30-8:00pm

Nina founded the Wake up to Dying Project (WUTD) which was an awareness and action campaign encouraging people to think and talk about dying through stories, art and opportunities to engage. The mission of the organization was to help each of us prepare, practically and emotionally, to face this shared human experience. Join us for a chance to learn more about Nina's pioneering work in the field and to discuss what is happening in the growing end-of-life movement.

### Spring Egg Hunt: Candy, prizes, and fun in a free community event!

Saturday, March 31, 10-11am, at Hubbard Park

Kids ages 12 and under can collect chocolate eggs and look for the Gold and Silver Eggs to win prize baskets. Arrive at 9:45am for a 10am start. Event starts at the Winter Street gate to Hubbard Park. Parking is limited, so please consider walking! Please note that for the comfort and safety of everyone, the Egg Hunt is a dog free event. Please bring a non-perishable food item for admission. Thank you to our event sponsors National Life Group and Hunger Mountain Co-op!

### MSAC Spring Rummage Sale is Coming, and Volunteers/Donations are Needed!

Friday, April 6 and Saturday, April 7

Stop by the sale at 58 Barre Street! Friday, April 6 from 10am-5pm and Saturday, April 7 from 10am-2pm. On Saturday from 12-2pm, fill a bag for just \$4 and get half-off our boutique! Tons of great items for sale, ranging from clothes to books to toys and household items. All proceeds benefit the Senior Activity Center. Donations will be accepted on Monday, April 2 and Tuesday, April 3 from 10am-4pm. No upholstery, electronics, large furniture, or books. Clean items only, please! Volunteers are needed for a variety of roles and schedules. Contact Rebecca at 225-8694.

### Vermont Futbol Academy Free Clinic | Monday, April 23, 4-6pm;

Registration deadline March 30.

The Vermont Futbol Academy is offering a free clinic for ages 8-14. This is a great opportunity for young soccer players to play with and learn from members of the UVM Men's Soccer Team. Please register at [www.vermontfutbolacademy.org](http://www.vermontfutbolacademy.org).

### Two Women's Self Defense Classes this Spring

The Safety Team is offering two self-defense classes with Montpelier Recreation this spring. Level 1 will be held May 8, and Level 2 will be May 15 -- both at Montpelier Senior Activity Center from 6:00-8:15pm. For information about materials covered in each level please visit our brochure at [www.montpelierrec.org](http://www.montpelierrec.org). Pre-Registration is required by April 6. For information about The Safety Team please visit [www.thesafetyteam.org](http://www.thesafetyteam.org).

### April School Vacation Day Camp

Looking for child care for April Vacation Week? Montpelier Recreation is once again offering our week long camp Monday – Friday, 7:45-4:45 at MSMS. Sign up for the full week or individual days. We are a Vermont state licensed child care provider and can accept state subsidy. Our Camp will be taking a trip to Pizza Putt on Thursday, April 19! For more information please visit: [www.montpelierrec.org/847/School-Vacation-Day-Camps](http://www.montpelierrec.org/847/School-Vacation-Day-Camps).

**TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS...**

<b>Mar. 28</b>	Apartment inspections Army Corps update Complete Streets plan Audi Presentation Department Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Manager</li> <li>• Clerk</li> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• Assessor</li> </ul>	<b>April 4</b>	District 2 Councilor Appointment
<b>April 11</b>	Police Department Presentation Councilor Committee Appointments Committee Appointments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MTIC</li> <li>• Central VT Internet</li> <li>• Design Review Committee</li> <li>• Tree Board</li> </ul>	<b>April 25</b>	Water Resource Recovery Facility Public Works Presentation Capital Improvement Plan
<b>May 9</b>	Project Development Plan? TIF? Planning Presentation Community Development Presentation Planning Commission Presentation?	<b>May 23</b>	Community Services Presentation Tree Board Presentation
<b>June 13</b>	Department Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire</li> <li>• Cemetery</li> <li>• Community Justice Center</li> </ul>		



William Fraser  
 City Manager