

and Main streets in Montpelier Saturday, part participants scattered to avoid a downpour.

Sanders Wants Advisory Board To Take Over Youth Activities

By JEFF GOOD

Free Press Staff Writer

Work has begun on many of the activities recommended by Mayor Bernard Sanders' youth task force.

Task force members presented Sanders with a report May 13 which they had spent nine weeks developing. Since then, Sanders said, he has started the ball rolling on a two-acre youth garden in the Intervale, a "make a circus" project sponsored by Two Penny Circus and the Vermont Council on the Arts July 25 and 26, youth media activities and a youth art display in City Hall.

He made it clear at a meeting last week, however, that the activities are the responsibility of a now-forming youth advisory board, youth coordinator and community groups.

Task Force chairman Gregory Packan, a Burlington attorney, said he is "not surprised at all" by Sanders' support, considering his emphasis on youth during the election campaign and "the times we're going through."

The group of 22 voted to present aldermen a request for office space and a telephone at the board's June 15 meeting. Sanders supported the idea, saying aldermen probably would be receptive.

Jerry Mintz, headmaster of Shaker Mountain School, suggested inviting some "particularly

articulate youth" to talk to aldermen. "It's important they realize they are dealing with real people," he said.

At the heart of the task force's proposal is a youth coordinator who would organize activities. Some members had wondered where the money would come from to hire such a person.

Jane Driscoll of the King Street Youth Organization said her group has learned it will receive a \$13,400 grant from the Vermont Commission for the Administration of Justice, some of which will be used to hire a youth council coordinator.

Ms. Driscoll and Sanders said the King Street coordinator might be able to play a double role and work in city-sponsored activities as well.

Jon Svitavsky, director of a Youth Outreach Ministries teen action center, warned against including only "B-plus students and upper-class kids."

"It's important not to exclude the very kids we're trying to help," he said.

The mayor, who shed his tie 30 minutes into the meeting, said he supports establishment of a youth drop-in center, concerts in municipal parks, films and bicycle repair cooperatives, but warned against trying to do too much at one time.

Packan agreed, saying such projects often "take on the world and end up doing nothing."