

**Narragansett - URI Coalition
Steering Committee Minutes
6/16/05
4:00-5:00 PM
Narragansett Town Hall**

Members present: Fran Cohen, Eileen DesForges, Nancy Devaney, Krista Garrett, Jim Hurton, Maury Loontjens, Toni O'Neill, Joseph Robenhymmer, Chief Smith, Carol Stuart, Leslie Williams (for Kristin Pedicone,) Coalition Coordinator, Paula Santos
Absent: David DeRouin, Colleen Lally, Rob Rossi, George Tracy, Pat Zito

The meeting began at 4:05pm.

1. Review/Approval of past meeting minutes

Minutes for the 5-12-05 Steering Committee and the 5-17-05 Coalition meeting were approved. They will be posted on the web site.

2. Moderator

Doug Wardwell, Joe Meister and Jon Fredrickson were the original three candidates. Jon completed his semester as moderator and Doug was next on the rotation. Given that Doug has been unable to attend meetings regularly, the Steering Committee directed that Joe be asked to serve next as he has been very active. Hopefully Doug will be able to attend meetings in the fall and serve as moderator in the winter/spring.

Action:

Paula will contact Doug and Joe.

3. Legislative Update

- State bills: RBS legislation was tabled. It appears that all "alcohol" related legislation is being reviewed. If it does not get passed by June 28th, in all likelihood, it will be suspended until the next legislative session which begins in August. (As of the submission of these minutes for review, 7/11, the RBS Legislation was adopted into law 7/8/05 and will go into effect 1-1-2006.)
- Discussion was held regarding the Coalition as a more pro-active coalition becoming engaged in supporting at the state house level. It was suggested that we might want to join forces with MADD and/or MHRH in promoting certain legislation. As always, recommendations for action can always come from the floor of the full Coalition.

Action:

Based on input from members, legislative sources and other interested parties, Paula will send out to the Steering Committee any notices of upcoming bills that the SC might want to endorse. She will collect their votes, inform the SC of their decision, and if there is a majority approval, she will notify the full Coalition that this is a bill supported by the SC and ask for membership support by contacting their legislators, sending e-mails, writing letters, etc.

- Local ordinances: Krista offered that the hearing by the Town Council on two bills relative to rental properties was postponed until the fall given Jim Durkin's need to get a response from the Ethics Committee.

- The question was raised whether or not the Coalition has a letter head. It does not.

Action:

Paula will draft a sample and present it to the SC at the next meeting.

4. September Coalition Meeting

Standard agenda as usual.

Action:

Paula asked that if there was someone they would like to invite as guest speaker for the September meeting to please send her names and she will share them with the Steering Committee for discussion at the next SC meeting.

5. Subcommittee Reports

A. Communications

Jim covered the following points:

- a. Information for upcoming events for media coverage in the fall
- b. Updated web site
- c. Goals and objectives from subcommittees
- d. Profiles of Steering Committee members
- e. Local newspapers are willing to print Coalition activity as long as content is meaningful.

B. Programming

Leslie informed all that an ad hoc committee had met to discuss the commuter orientation scheduled for the fall. It may take place at the end of October during parent weekend but this is still being discussed. The format will be similar to the Realtor's day with guest speakers and information booths.

C. Realtors/Neighborhood Associations – no report at this time

D. Common Ground – the subcommittee is continuing to meet throughout the summer

New Business

- Fran submitted a draft of an outline for the “Positive engagement of URI students in the Narragansett community.” She would like to see the Coalition adopt a series of repeatable and sustainable activities throughout the year that support good neighbor relations. Paula hopes to attend association meetings to better understand the local associations’ needs and to continue to improve the relations between the students and their neighbors.
- Paula announced that Krista Garrett has been officially appointed by the Town Council as their representative to the Steering Committee. Everyone welcomed Krista with a round of applause.
- Chief Smith mentioned the article in the *Providence Journal* stating the use of marijuana in Washington County as ranking 10th in the country. There were a lot of unanswered questions regarding the survey itself and who participated. The Chief did state that the Coalition has been looking at public issues of noise, underage drinking, unruly parties and alcohol but has not responded to drug use. This may be something to address in the future.

Old Business

- Paula asked the Steering Committee to review the draft of “guidelines” for final approval at the next meeting.
- The Steering Committee agreed to meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month from 4:00-5:00pm and the full Coalition meets on the third Tuesday from 7:00-8:00. The next Steering Committee meeting will be Tuesday, August 2, from 4:00-5:00pm in the Town Hall.
Action:
Paula will send out the revised calendar
- Chief Smith stated that the police partnership meeting went well although there was low attendance. Dr. Wood made a presentation about RBS and the chief brought everyone up to date on the revised noise ordinance. The stickers will be available soon and there is discussion as to where they should be posted on the property.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Santos
Coalition Coordinator