

Common Ground Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Present: Anne Fairlie, Joseph Meister, Anne Marie Silviera, Danielle Tancredi, George Tracy, and Mark Wood

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from 4/25/06 were approved with the following addition: Joseph Meister expressed uncertainty regarding whether the definition of “single family dwelling” as stated by Jonathon Smith during the April 25th Coalition meeting coincides with that in the Narragansett ordinance.

UPDATE ON WELCOME WAGON PACKETS

Anne Marie Silviera and Joe Meister are scheduled to deliver the Welcome Wagon packets to Café Newport and JP’s Bar on Thursday, May 18. The new owners of Caterina’s Italian Village will need a copy of the Welcome Wagon packet when the establishment opens.

UPDATE ON LEGISLATION

1. Bills 2189 and 7071: Social Host/Procurement
 - a. Nancy Devaney sent notification prior to the meeting that the Social Host/Procurement Bill passed in the full House and Senate.
 - b. Clarify our understanding of the social host bill regarding the implications and rationale for changing from felony status to a misdemeanor. A felony stays on the record while a misdemeanor does not.
 - c. Gerald Willis from Salve Regina, who is the coordinator of statewide consortium, emphasized in email correspondence with Mark Wood that the bill no longer requires proof of purchase in order to be held liable. College students can also be held liable.
2. Breathalyzer refusal: Clarify the status of the breathalyzer refusal legislation and the alcohol vaporizer bill, which was discussed at a previous subcommittee meeting. An issue would arise if the bill were watered down such that it would be ineffective.
3. Bill 2483, which would exempt license holders who only sell beer and wine from having to meet requirements related to server training, was held for further study. Nancy had indicated at the April collation meeting that she would send a letter indicating the subcommittee’s opposition.
4. Bill 6953, which would prohibit the sale, possession or use of alcohol vaporizing devices, passed the House and was referred to Senate Constitutional and Gaming

UPDATE ON MINIMUM MANDATORY FINES

- Joe Meister reports that Scott Vellone has some data that he can put together regarding the minimum mandatory fines. The aim is to revalidate the current ordinances. Expect a report on this in September. Mark suggested that he and his staff could also work with the data as necessary.
- The taverns involved in the South Kingstown Cooperating Tavern Program are interested in minimum mandatory fines with regard to penalties for those who use fake IDs.

RHODY RIDES UPDATE

- Implemented Feb. 10, 2006 and operated for about 10 weeks
- Approximately 235 students used the program
- Rhody Rides had 75 student volunteers over the course of the semester
- Students are working on establishing a strong organizational structure, including an executive board focusing on operations management and administrative leadership
- Over the summer, student volunteers will concentrate on fundraising for the 2006-2007 academic school year
- Fundraising with local and statewide businesses as well as private foundations

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

- If Rhody Rides does not continue next year, we should pursue alternative strategies, such as taxi services extending their hours, busses to pick kids up when police break up parties

SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS

- Mark Wood will present data at the May coalition meeting on the number of DUI arrests in Narragansett, recognizing that the minority of DUI arrests involves individuals under the age of 23.
- Checkpoints, which are used in other states to identify individuals who are driving while intoxicated and used as a deterrent, are not allowed in Rhode Island. AAA has tried to implement checkpoints.
- We can gather data support the use of checkpoints. Coordinate our efforts with the chief and other cities and towns in RI to form a resolution from other cities and towns.
- Anne Marie will look into this over the summer to continue work on this next year.

SOUTH KINGSTOWN

- Media efforts
 - Joe Meister commented on the effectiveness of the South Kingstown ad published in the *Providence Journal* on May 3 concerning increased enforcement published by the South Kingstown Community Partnership for Prevention.
 - He suggested that we should have a similar emphasis in the media materials for Narragansett and South Kingstown in order to portray a consistent message.
 - Mark Wood reported that they are planning on incorporating similar ads in the media campaign next year.
- Tavern Summit
 - Retailers meeting between tavern and liquor store owners in Narragansett and South Kingstown is now scheduled for September 19 from 11am to 3pm. We had previously reported a tentative date of September 5th but this was changed after a discussion with tavern owners in SK.
 - We plan to host legislators, hospitality representatives, and experts on responsible beverage service.
- We discussed the policy at The Wheelhouse to take pictures of IDs for future use to determine whether patrons are coming in with different IDs on various occasions.
- Mark Wood mentioned an article in the *Providence Journal* from February 10th on a \$15 million judgment handed down against a drunk driver and the tavern in Washington County that had served him. We can bring copies of the article to the next subcommittee meeting.

NUISANCE HOUSES

- Verify whether parents are notified when their child's house is put on the nuisance house list.
- Also we want to be sure that students are not afraid to call the police on their own house if a party is getting out-of-hand.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will not be until August. Details to be announced.