

Narragansett - URI Coalition

“Building a community of mutual respect”

**Meeting Minutes
Tuesday – November 15, 2005
7:00PM
Narragansett Town Hall**

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

The following subcommittees met prior to the full Coalition meeting:

- Communications (Chair: Jim Hurton - Dorie Lawson subbing for Mr. Hurton)
- Realtors/Neighborhood Association (Co-Chairs: Eileen Desforges and Joe Robenhymer)
- Programming (Chair: Leslie Williams/Pat Zito)
- Common Ground (Chair: Nancy Devaney)

Moderator Ben Matone started the meeting at 7:00 PM.

COOPERATING TAVERN AGREEMENTS

Moderator Matone asked Fran Cohen to recognize the most recent establishments to sign the Cooperating Tavern Agreement. She acknowledged Basil's Restaurant and Arturo Joe's. Representatives signed the town-wide constitution and received their certificate of participation and store signs. Dean Cohen stated she continues to be encouraged by the response that the RhodeMap to Safety campaign has received and that the community is fortunate to have business joining the campaign and abiding by these (RBS) principles. Coordinator Paula Santos explained that the goal is to have every liquor licensee become a cooperating business and as they join, they will be invited to the monthly Coalition meetings for a public signing. (Due to an earlier conflict, Brian Handrigan from Champlin's Seafood Deck arrived during the Open Forum and signed on at the closure of the meeting.)

GUEST INTRODUCTION

Chief Smith introduced retired Cranston police chief Michael Chalek. Lieutenant Chalek who has an outstanding reputation will be working for the URI Police Department on the evening shift.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The moderator called for reports from the subcommittee chairs.

- Communications Committee (Lauren Fink, reporting)
 - a. The committee continues to get the Coalition message out to the community; ads have been placed in the Cigar, meetings are listed in the community events sections of the local papers but we may put in paid ads; tables tents as have been used for the RhodeMap to Safety campaign may be used through the campus and Emporium; articles will be forthcoming in the local papers with profiles of members and possibly comparisons between off campus houses profiling positive and nuisance houses and the impact on the community.
- Realtor/Neighborhood Association Committee (Eileen Desforges, reporting)
 - a. Discussion focused on parking in the neighborhoods. Students who participated in the subcommittee meeting agreed that they don't want to park on the lawns. Landlords need to be responsible for providing adequate parking to their renters.

- b. Rental properties need to be registered with the building inspector's office.
 - c. Eastward Look Association is looking to have a function in December and would like the help of students. They will coordinate with the programming committee.
- Common Ground (Nancy Devaney, reporting)
 - a. In conjunction with URI's common ground project, Nancy reported that she continues to visit with taverns and the response continues to be positive. There are requests for more in-depth ID checking training as provided by the NPD.
 - b. She stated there was concern about SK's participation in curbing underage drinking. She assured those in attendance that SK is very proactive in their initiatives to tackle this problem although they have not necessarily been funded by the Common Ground grant. SK has received additional funds through a state grant and extra enforcement has been provided by the SKPD.
 - c. A resolution was introduced to restrict Narragansett liquor licensees from renting their facilities for 18+ parties. This matter has been referred to the Town Solicitor for proper wording.
 - d. Some establishments stated they held alcohol free fraternity events. Common Ground hopes to see more alcohol free nights where 18+ parties can be held and students can enjoy a safe night of dancing and listening to a band or DJ.
 - e. Request for a member of the judicial system to join the Coalition was made.
 - Programming Committee (Leslie Williams, reporting)
 - a. Leslie Williams stated there are 45 houses on the party list. As customary, reports were located on the table in the back of the assembly hall.
 - b. The December food drive is scheduled for December 10th at Roch's and Stop and Shop. However, pick up at homes can be arranged. Donations will be made to the Johnny Cake Center. Leslie asked the Communications committee to help get out the word and encouraged both students and neighborhood association members to join in.
 - c. The town is looking for volunteers to help at the upcoming "Festival of Lights" to be held on Sunday, December 11th. For further information or to volunteer, please call 782-0658. The Chamber is holding its annual "Jingle Bell Beach Run" at 3:30 on the 11th and is open to all ages. A portion of the proceeds from this event will fund the Narragansett Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund. Also the Lions Club is holding its annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday morning the 10th and help with the children is always appreciated.
 - d. Eileen Desforges volunteered to look into the lighting and planting of live trees as has been done in the past.

OPEN FORUM

- Moderator Matone reviewed guidelines for the Open forum. He asked that the person wishing to address the Coalition raise their hand and wait to be recognized by the moderator. He asked the speaker to state his/her name and the issue to be addressed. Out of respect for time, individuals are asked to limit their comments to three minutes. Such time may be extended at the discretion of the moderator. The moderator will defer to the appropriate steering committee member to respond to the issue on the floor. He stated he will remain neutral and thanked everyone for abiding by these procedures to help ensure a positive experience for all.
- A. Fran Cohen related a conversation she had with a "sleep deprived angry resident" from Providence who had called her relative to problems she was having with Brown students in her neighborhood. She was thrilled to learn about the tremendous progress this Coalition has made and hopes that Providence/Brown can follow this model.

- B. The chief added that "If any college community wants a model of success, they should just take a snapshot of tonight." (There were 75+ in attendance; the majority being URI students.)
- C. Carol Stuart recognized the neighborhood associations that continue to actively participate on the Coalition since its inception and through the joint efforts of the many groups of the Coalition, barriers can break down.
- D. Ms. Stuart also expressed gratitude that the bags delivered by the Boy Scouts for their food collection were gone from the mail boxes after the drive was completed. In the past they had blown all over the neighborhood. Not this time.

CLOSURE/NEXT MEETING

There being no further business, the Moderator closed the meeting at 8:00pm. There was discussion as to whether or not the Coalition would meet in December and/or January. Coordinator Santos reminded everyone of the turnout this evening and student Neil Cavanaugh stated he did not want to see the momentum slow and suggested the meeting be moved up a week to December 7th. Dr. Dougan thanked everyone for their input and offered that the Steering Committee would take it under review and the membership will be notified via the listserv.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Santos
Coalition Coordinator