

Narragansett - URI Coalition
Steering Committee Minutes
1/10/06
4:00-5:00 PM
Narragansett Town Hall

Members present: Tom Dougan, Nancy Devaney, Eileen Desforjes, Krista Garrett, Jim Hurton, Maury Loontjens, Toni O'Neil, Joseph Robenhymer, Chief J. David Smith, Carol Stuart, Leslie Williams, Coalition Coordinator, Paula Santos

Absent: Kate Bashwiner, David DeRouin, Britney Gannon, Rob Rossi, George Tracy, Pat Zito

The meeting began at 4:00pm.

New Business

1. Review/Approval of past meeting minutes

Minutes for the 12-06-05 Steering Committee were approved with a date correction to the Food Drive.

Action:

➤ They will be posted on the web site.

2. January Coalition Meeting

- Status report on the accomplishments of the Coalition, including police statistics on complaints, nuisance houses, etc. If available, the Neighborhood Day representative may speak or we may wait until February.
- Welcome new members into the Cooperating Tavern Agreement program if available.

3. Survey Feedback – Kristen Quinlan

Kristen Quinlan, representing the URI Common Ground Project, provided feedback to the SC on the survey the members took early last year. The purpose of this discussion was to look at where we've come in the past year and to help the Steering Committee plan for the future.

Mobilization

What changes have we seen in sector representation? – the steering committee agreed that student membership has increased, realtor representation has increased, and alcohol retailers have increased (with the cooperating tavern efforts). Members felt that representation from the neighborhood associations has dropped, because many association members feel as if their needs are no longer being met at the full coalition meeting.

Steering committee members felt that the judicial system was missing in our membership. Judge Patricia Moore had resigned from the steering committee, and steering committee members brainstormed ideas on gaining representation from this sector. Chief Smith said that he would talk to the chief justice about having someone assigned.

Establishing Structure

What action steps could we take to ensure that everyone feels included in the decision-making process of the coalition? - members discussed improvements in communication between subcommittees. The following ideas were generated:

- Neighborhood/Realtor group decided to meet for 1 hour so that their agenda could be more fully covered.
- Eileen suggested allowing 5-10 minutes between subcommittee meetings and full coalition meetings to allow subcommittee leaders time to gather their notes.
- Neighborhood/Realtor group is still seeking a note taker, which would allow subcommittee leaders to run the meeting and still have accurate notes on decisions that were made.
- Neighborhood/Realtor group requested a new room for meetings, because an incoming group usually interrupts the end of their meetings. Extending their meeting time may allow them to leave earlier so as to not be bothered by the incoming group.
- 14 recommended policies were distributed. The steering committee decided that many of the subcommittees already had most of the policies in action, although they were not recorded. Paula will work to record steering committee and subcommittee policy in one location

Building Capacity

Kristen pointed out that although coalition members had reported an increase in their awareness of resources and in their knowledge of alcohol-related policies, fewer members reported increases in their ability to implement alcohol-related initiatives. Steering Committee members felt as if the average coalition member should know whom to call to implement initiatives, but not necessarily need to feel they can implement initiatives themselves. They requested that Dan Graney do a presentation to provide more information about URI's initiatives.

Due to time constraints, discussion of the survey was tabled until the next meeting. Everyone thanked Kristen for her well written report and guided discussion.

4. Subcommittee Goals – mid- year status report

Given the amount of information presented by each subcommittee, it was decided to review these and then discuss at the next meeting.

5. Narragansett Youth TASC Force

Nancy informed the members that due to a snafu between the feds and the state for the state incentive grant, the state may lose \$3m in funding. Narragansett would lose its funding it receives through this grant. Nancy has asked for a letter of support from the Coalition. All agreed.

Action:

Nancy and Paula will draft a letter from the Coalition. Paula will send to the co-chairs for approval then to the Steering Committee.

Old Business

- **Judiciary appointee**

Paula reported that she had spoken to Judge DeCubellis who stated that it would be difficult for a judge who serves in Narragansett to actively serve on the Coalition as there is a potential for a conflict of interest. He suggested we may want to ask a retired judge who still has an active law practice. Nancy stated she would like to have a practicing judge join the group.

Action:

Chief Smith stated he would be attending a meeting on January 18th with a group of Chief Judges on "Law Day" and will ask for a judge to serve on the Coalition.

- **Food drive**

Held on the 10th and was very successful. There was a complimentary article in the 12/15/05 edition of the *South County Independent*. (attached.)

- **Recruitment of additional realtors**

Deferred to next meeting.

- **Police Incident Reports**

Tom wants to know if there has been a decrease in student related incidences in the last year. His sense is that he has been receiving fewer reports than last year at this time. The Chief stated that arrests have decreased by a small percentage and DUI arrests are also down.

Action:

Paula has the 04 and 05 student incident data and will run a comparison.

- **Door tags**

Leslie spoke with Carol and Eileen (at the closure of the meeting) about the distribution of door tags.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00pm. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held February 7, 2006 at 4:00pm in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Santos
Coalition Coordinator