

Narragansett - URI Coalition Steering Committee

**Tuesday – May 2, 2006
4:00PM
Narragansett Town Hall**

Members present: Fran Cohen (representing P. Santos), Nancy Devaney, Tom Dougan, Jim Hurton, Eileen Desforges, Maury Loontjens, Joseph Robenhymer, Chief J. David Smith, Mary Kate, Jill

Absent: Krista Garrett, Toni O'Neil, Carol Stuart, George Tracy, Leslie Williams, Coalition Coordinator, Paula Santos,

Guests: Dorie Lawson

1. Moderator

It was unanimously decided that we continue to have a student as moderator and that a thank you note be sent to Ben Matone for the good job he did in the past year.

2. Subcommittee chair replacements

Eileen and Joe briefly discussed the possibility of having new chairs for their committee as they have done the job for two years.

3. May Coalition meeting

Mark Wood will report on 2005 student survey.

4. Goals for 06-07

- The group decided not to tackle goals at the May meeting but to work on them through the summer and at the August Steering and Coalition meetings.
- It was decided that subcommittees would be asked to prepare their '06-'07 goals in August after the Steering Committee has decided some general directions. By email, Jim Hurton suggested that a general direction might be how each subcommittee contributes towards the Coalition overarching mission of building a community of mutual respect.
- Those present agreed that next year's goal should be improving the neighborhood quality of life.
- Chief Smith began a discussion about how to educate students new to a coastal community on safety. That evolved into a discussion of how useful it would be to have a URI 201 course for the sophomore year.

5. Publicity

Communications Committee would like to have the year's events scheduled by September for ease of publicizing

6. Survey feedback – Dorie Lawson for Kristen Quinlan

Kristen has completed her doctorate and has accepted a position at the RI State Department of MHRH. Everyone wished her well. Dorie delivered the second part of Kristin's review of the Coalition member survey. It was agreed that repeating the survey next year would provide useful, concrete data.

7. Food Drive

Reminder, food drive is Tuesday May 9. Door tags will be distributed

8. Reactions to the format of the April meeting

- There was too much control in requesting questions ahead of time and restricting discussion to 4 subject areas.
- Student contributions were overwhelming and their participation would have been more welcome if they were on subcommittees.
- Students were treated shamefully.
- Carol and Scott's remarks were particularly helpful.
- Better to do an open forum at the beginning of the year than at the end.

Next meeting

It was decided that the next Steering Committee meeting would be in August on Tuesday 8/1, 4-5 pm (no June or July meetings). It was suggested (but not decided) that the August meeting might need to be a 90 minute meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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