

**Narragansett - URI Coalition
Steering Committee Minutes
8/02/05
4:00-5:00 PM
Narragansett Town Hall**

Members present: Tom Dougan, Eileen DesForges, Nancy Devaney, Krista Garrett, Jim Hurton, Maury Loontjens, Toni O'Neill, Joseph Robenhymer, Chief Smith, Carol Stuart, George Tracy, Coalition Coordinator, Paula Santos
Absent: David DeRouin, Colleen Lally, Rob Rossi, Pat Zito

The meeting began at 4:00pm.

1. Review/Approval of past meeting minutes and Operating Guidelines

Minutes for the 6-16-05 Steering Committee were approved as is and the Operating Guidelines approved as amended. The process of disseminating information to the media will be reviewed at a future meeting.

Action:

- They will be posted on the web site.

2. Goal Setting

Chief Smith stated that he believes this is a break through year for the Coalition and after meeting with Co-chair Tom Dougan, is asking the Steering Committee to adopt goals for the upcoming school year, 2005-2006. These goals will provide guidance to the subcommittees in the development of their actions plans for the year. The Steering Committee approved the following four goals for all subcommittees to work on for 2005-2006.

- **To increase student participation on the Coalition by 50%**
- **To reduce the number of events that result in community complaints to the Narragansett Police Department regarding URI students**
- **To receive final approval for the application of the student code of conduct to off-campus conduct**
- **To develop a comprehensive media/publicity campaign to educate the South County community about the work of the Coalition**

Discussion on each goal:

- **To increase student participation in the Coalition by 50%**
 - It was agreed that student participation would be defined by those students actively engaged in the subcommittees.
 - George was concerned about how students would become involved. Paula spoke of one effort to positively engage students in the community which involves students in URI 101 who are required to participate in community service. It is hoped that by getting them involved in the community as a freshman, it will better prepare them to be more responsible neighbors when they rent properties in their sophomore or junior years. She also mentioned about the Coalition sponsoring a scholarship for a student(s) making outstanding contributions to the Coalition.
- **To reduce the number of events that result in community complaints to the Narragansett Police Department regarding URI students**
 - Current statistics will be provided to make comparisons for school year ending 2006.
- **To receive final approval for the application of the student code of conduct to off-campus conduct**
 - Eileen expressed that this is what so many have been waiting for and working towards.

- **To develop a comprehensive media/publicity campaign to educate the South County Community about the work of the Coalition.**
 - On the part of the Common Ground Project (not sub-committee) Nancy asked for the Coalition's support for their endeavors. All agreed that it is important to support Common Ground's efforts, and the recognition the Coalition will get in its public advertisements is greatly appreciated.
 - Chief Smith reported that he has spoken to Chief Vespia, SK Police Department, and Major Stephen Baker, URI Security, about the Coalition and has encouraged them to attend future Coalition meetings.

Action:

- The subcommittee chairs should meet with their members and/or have discussion via phone or e-mail to create an action plan for meeting these goals and then send Paula their plans which she will then be forwarded to the Steering Committee for review at the 9-6 Steering Committee meeting.
- Jim asked that Paula send the list of proposed activities, which includes those mentioned above - under increasing student involvement - to all Steering Committee Members.
- As communications chair, Jim will be invited to participate in a Common Ground media campaign meeting.
- Paula will send the revised calendar of meetings.

3. September Coalition Meeting

Paula suggested that the Coalition have an "open house" during its September meeting.

Action:

- It was decided that the best time to hold a Coalition Open House would be in October. The agenda for the Coalition September meeting and the Open House will be discussed at the next Steering Committee meeting on 9-6.

4. Moderator

Joe Meister is unavailable for the fall and Doug has agreed to serve in January.

Action:

- Tom will recommend a student for the fall prior to the next Steering Committee meeting. If Tom is unsuccessful, he and the Chief will moderate the meeting until a moderator is found.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held September 6, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Santos
Coalition Coordinator