

Narragansett - URI Coalition

"Building a community of mutual respect"

Meeting Minutes Tuesday – October 17, 2006 7:00PM Narragansett Town Hall

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

The following subcommittees met prior to the full Coalition meeting:

- Communications (Chair: Jim Hurton)
- Realtors/Neighborhood Association (Co-Chairs: Kim and Kara Churas)
- Programming (Chair: Leslie Williams)
- Common Ground (Chair: Nancy Devaney)

Co-Chairman Tom Dougan started the meeting at 7:00 PM with a moment of silence for recently deceased Town Manager, Maury Loontjens.

As moderator Ryan Battis had a university commitment, Dr. Dougan moderated the meeting. He also stated that Chief Smith was out of state and Community Officer Scott Vellone would be taking his place.

Steering Committee Report

Presentation in Bonnet Shores:

At the last meeting it was announced that the Coalition would be forming a team that would be available to go into the community. Steering Committee member Paul Haas informed the membership that the Bonnet Shores Fire District invited the presentation team to speak and it was a very successful evening. He discussed the format which encouraged a great deal of discussion and ensured the participants that all concerns would get an answer. Two significant items was the landlord's role in community-student renter relations and the chief asking what the Bonnet Shores community wants its neighborhood to look like and how he and his department can help them get there. Chairman Dougan thanked Paul and credited him with such a successful event.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMON GROUND – NANCY DEVANEY REPORTING:

- Ms. Devaney reported that the Town Council passed a motion to meet with University representatives. This will take place after the election on November 7.
 - Doug Wardwell again stated the need for community input. Student Senate President Neil Cavanaugh asked for student representation. Nancy responded that this meeting will more than likely be held during a regular Town Council meeting and open to all.
- Review of legislative updates regarding legislation that passed earlier in the year:
 - Social host law passed. Dept. of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals (MHRH) is distributing fliers statewide. Flier on table in back of room.
 - Breathalyzer refusal law passed that stiffened the penalties of refusing the breathalyzer
 - Law exempting establishments who sell only beer and wine from the RBS law did fail (Bill 2483)
 - Law regarding vaporizing devices was lost in committee (Bill 6953)
- Nancy reported she is still working on judicial representation
- Subcommittee goals for the upcoming year:
 1. Continue to explore environmental prevention options and support their implementation.
 - a. Increased enforcement that includes DUI, neighborhood parties and compliance checks with input from the Steering Committee.

- b. Local enforcement and local/statewide policy advocacy: For example, investigate new town ordinances to deal with parties and/or noise disturbances and continue to monitor and weigh in on pending state legislation.
 - c. Seek to re-invigorate the Narragansett Cooperating Tavern and Package Store Associations and to support South County Retailers toward their reform of penalties for those who violate minimum legal drinking age laws (e.g., misrepresentation of age).
2. Support the Narragansett Town Council in their efforts to dialogue with URI administration and researchers about ongoing problems related to student conduct in Narragansett.
 3. Work to increase membership/representation on our subcommittee by identifying and targeting groups who are not well represented.
 4. Continue providing Welcome Wagon information to new Narragansett alcohol retailers.

COMMUNICATIONS – CINDY CASTELLONE REPORTING:

- In January, the university will formalize the process of obtaining students addresses (cell phone numbers are easy to get) with the hope of communicating better with the students and providing them with essential information. Conduct code is in student handbook; not well read. It is read primarily to get course information. Plan is to get it out in a separate format
- The committee would like to seek more student involvement in the submission of letters to the editors
- Students would still like to invite the Coalition to meet on campus (possibly at a room in the Ryan Center due to ample parking)
- Volunteer help is sought to help with the website

PROGRAMMING – LESLIE WILLIAMS REPORTING

- Updated police reports on the table in the back.
- Off-Campus housing Fair to be held in the Memorial Union on October 26 from 11:00am to 2:00pm. All are welcome to attend.
- The fall food drive is December 9th. Student and resident volunteers are needed to collect food items at the local supermarkets from 10:00am to 2:00pm. If you are able to volunteer, please call Leslie at 874-5521 or send her an e-mail at lesliew@uri.edu.
- Community liaisons are looking for residents to volunteer for a holiday lights competition in local neighborhoods. Again, please contact Leslie Williams.

REALTORS/NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS – KIM CHURAS REPORTING

- Hope to increase landlord involvement in the coalition
- There was an incident where a neighborhood resident was arrested for filing a false noise /loud party disturbance with the police. This has now entered the judicial system.
- The SK's Community Partnership for Prevention has received a federal grant focusing on the 13-17 year old population. Valerie Maguire, Partnership Coordinator, clarified that the funding is just shy of \$500,000 to be distributed over five years.

OPEN FORUM

- Dr. Dougan relayed an incident that took place last weekend and warned that the police are vigilant in pursuing boisterous, uncontrolled parties and the municipal court judge is taking a harder stance on these incidents.
- A Bonnet resident said he would like student names and addresses so he can invite them to Bonnet-sponsored social events. Tom Dougan said he has researched many universities and most are in the same situation as URI. He does believe there is a way to gain local addresses while still allowing the students to have their important university information sent to their home address. As stated earlier, he hopes to formalize this information gathering process in January.
- Ben Matone, Student Senate external affairs chair, asked once again for the Coalition to consider having a meeting on campus.

CLOSURE/NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 11/28, 7:00pm at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Santos

Coalition Coordinator