

Narragansett - URI Coalition Steering Committee

Tuesday – February 6, 2007

4:00PM

Narragansett Town Hall

Members present:, Kim Churas, Tom Dougan, Paul Haas, John Lauterio, Ben Matone (for Ryan Mitchell), Chief J. David Smith, Carol Stuart, George Tracy, Doug Wardwell, Leslie Williams, Coalition Coordinator, Paula Santos

Absent: Jeffry Ceasrine, Nancy Devaney, Krista Garrett, Jim Hurton Toni O'Neil,

Tom introduced Jessica Haley a Senior Communications major who is conducting research on the Coalition. Elizabeth Koenig joined her this afternoon. She will be video taping this meeting, the full coalition meeting, meeting with police and hope to participate on the party patrols on Thursday, Friday or Saturday nights. Those details will be worked out but we should be seeing her periodically.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Review/Approval of minutes:**

As there was not a quorum present at the time of the reading of the minutes, they were deferred. Paula will e-mail the SC asking for a vote so the minutes can be posted on the web site.

- **"Course/seminar" required for student violators cited in neighborhoods – clarification**

Paula clarified that the university's course called "Social Host Training" is given to students who have violations that warrant judicial intervention. Carol was unsure of the design of this class and was thinking along the lines of the restorative justice program in Burlington, VT in which University of Vermont students participate when they are charged with violating local ordinances. The programs are very different.

- **Update on off-campus preparation workshop scheduled for Spring**

The program is in the design phase and should be ready for delivery within the next three weeks. Paul Haas asked Dr. Dougan if he would remind Dean Cohen of his request for someone from the community, possibly even someone from the police force, to participate in the program. Tom will get that request to her.

- **Update by Paul Haas and George Tracy on status of "nuisance sticker" ordinance and possible amendment**

Paul has not had the opportunity to meet with or discuss the situation with the Town Solicitor. George Tracy did share the SC's request to let the Town Council know that it is interested in improvements to the nuisance ordinance with Jeff Ceasrine, interim Town Manager, who stated he would do his best to speak with Mark McSally, Town Solicitor. If information is available, it will be presented at the Coalition meeting on February 20th. If not, it will be placed back on the March 6 Steering Committee agenda.

- **06-07 goals/ Restructuring of Coalition and procedures**

Each goal was reviewed:

Clarify jurisdiction policy: Tom asked if students are aware of the orange sticker process and its implications. John and Ben stated that yes they were but not necessarily the university's involvement. They know the university can get involved, but not to the degree. The chief asked if the university had a discipline matrix. Tom said no but could look into creating one that indicated typical penalties associated with certain violations being careful not to connect the two so as to inadvertently reveal who the students are that made the infractions. Something like this could be added to the Off-Campus Living Guide.

Increase participation of residents: Participation seems to have diminished and the SC would like to advocate for increased involvement. Carol said that in the coalition of neighborhood association there are diverse agendas and one isn't always able to accomplish what is hoped. Tom recognizes that the communication sub committee really needs to regroup.

Increase student involvement on subcommittees: Carol stated there is limited interaction with students as they often leave the meeting as soon as it is over. No students currently attend the neighborhood associations/realtors subcommittee. Other committees do have students. How involved are they however? The March Coalition meeting will be held on campus and this may attract students to become more involved; also, continuing to place ads in the Cigar and maybe submitting articles of interest.

General discussion ensued:

Tom asked Paula her thought on the goals. She offered that maybe the Steering Committee needs to look at its goals more broadly and possibly issues based. Given that "decreasing student incidents leading to complaints reported to the police" is a key goal, she asked how the goal might be met other than through enforcement. Education and increased community involvement were mentioned. She stated that she had been reorganizing the approach to the goals and Tom asked that she prepare something for the SC to review at its next meeting. She will include Paul's list of ideas as well.

The chief added that we should start thinking out of the box about the Coalition. Are the right people leading it? Are we more of a contributor to the problems than to solutions? Are the views of the neighborhood associations being adequately represented? Are we the victim of our own process? Are we running short on energy and is it time for a new guard? George asked how we get these new people.

Kim shared her observation that the Coalition has been around now for more than 6 years and that when people are happy in general they don't speak up. When they are upset, and they want to find out what's going on, they will take the initiative to do so. The members of the Steering Committee are very busy people and she wants to use her time wisely feeling like she's accomplishing something and not ending up frustrated.

Carol stated that the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations is a somewhat loosely knit organization with often diverse agendas. The coalition's neighborhood associations stay in touch regularly via e-mail and telephone and meet on an ad hoc basis, usually every other month. Although there is no joint newsletter, communication takes place as mentioned. The group is committed to common goals.

Tom asked everyone to think about the Coalition how it is structured from the SC to subcommittees to goals statements to decision making and to come prepared to the next Steering Committee meeting to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

- **February Coalition Meeting**
Standard format to be followed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.

The next Steering committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 6th.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Santos
Coalition Coordinator