

Narragansett - URI Coalition Steering Committee

Tuesday – August 1, 2006

4:00PM

Narragansett Town Hall

Members present: Nancy Devaney, Tom Dougan, Eileen Desforges, Paul Haas, Maury Loontjens, Ben Matone, Toni O'Neil, Joseph Robenhymer, Chief J. David Smith, Carol Stuart, Leslie Williams, Coalition Coordinator, Paula Santos

Absent: Krista Garrett, Jim Hurton, George Tracy

Guests: Lieutenant Michael Gamma

1. Review of Minutes

Minutes of past meetings need to be sent to the Steering Committee on a more timely basis. Paula apologized to the Steering Committee and assured everyone this would be corrected. May minutes had been sent earlier but were inadvertently left off the agenda.

2. Review of Membership

Paula will call everyone to determine their interest in continuing to serve on the Steering Committee for the academic year. If Eileen is unable to commit to serving on the Steering Committee or continue as co-chair of the Neighborhood association/realtors subcommittee, she was asked to find a replacement. Chief Smith will send a letter to Chief Justice DeRobbio asking him to appoint a judge to the Steering Committee. Judge Hawkins was mentioned as a possibility.

3. 06-07 Calendar

Steering Committee		Full Coalition	
		2006	
September	5	19	(Classes begin 9/6)
October	3	17	
October	31*	11/14	Thanksgiving 11/ 23
December	5	19	final exams 12/14-22
		2007	
January	9 (2nd Tues)	23	4th Tues
February	6	20	
March	6	27**	4th Tues due to Spring break
April	3	17	
May	1	15	Commencement is 5/20

* As there are 5 Tuesdays in October and November 7th is voting day, rather than pushing the meeting ahead one week further into November, it may be better to have the Steering Committee meeting on October 31st and have the November meeting on the 14th. Although it is the 2nd Tuesday of the month, it is still four weeks from the previous meeting and will not interfere with Thanksgiving week.

** Spring break is the 20th; therefore the Coalition meeting is pushed ahead 1 week to March 26.

4. Goals for 06-07

Paula presented the Coalition's **3 key areas of focus**:

- To improve the quality of life in all neighborhoods for permanent residents and URI student renters
- To develop and implement environmental methods that impact college student drinking and reduce the harmful consequences within the Narragansett community (change from "To reduce underage drinking and harmful consequences of substance abuse.) No objections made.

- To increase the awareness, community involvement and support of the Coalition's work

Consistent with the above, the following three goals were suggested for the 06-07 academic year:

- **Explore, improve and articulate the application of the student code of conduct to off-campus students.**
- **Increase the participation of residents in the coalition**
- **Increase the participation of students in the subcommittees**

The Chief stated that the PD is studying those areas where a significant number of complaints originate and attack those. From a public safety perspective, where there is a repetitiveness of a problem, it is important to monitor those streets. Lt. Gamma commented that often the complaints made regarding the behavior of students do not rise to the level of criminal conduct. He asked the question of what is the judicial process at the University for non-criminal Conduct for off-campus behavior. Tom will be pursuing this relative to the student code of conduct goal.

It was suggested that a small group of coalition members including a student and, in cooperation with the neighborhood associations, make a standardized presentation to the Narragansett community. To bring the Coalition to the people, Joe offered the idea of making the presentations in three locations: North End, Central and South End. A script would be created that would highlight the progress of the university, police department, realtors and property owners in their quest to improve the quality of life throughout Narragansett neighborhoods especially those where there is a high concentration of URI students. Lt. Gamma suggested that the public could be better educated as to what is a reasonable complain, what is a nuisance violation, etc.

Paul Haas introduced the idea of the coalition establishing an "ombudsman group" who would meet with a complainant to determine the nature of the complaint, seek and recommend resolutions. It was also suggested that maybe there could be a "welcoming" team that would visit those student household especially in those neighborhoods where there was a high concentration of students and/or where the chief was referring to as receiving a high number of complaints.

5. Other

Neighborhood Day

Leslie asked if any neighborhood association was celebrating Neighborhood Day as the university would like to support this effort. Carol reported that Steve Ferrandi, Karen Ferrandi and Mary Fell are trying to organize an event in Eastward Look. Leslie should contact them directly. Paula mentioned that Jim Hurton, who was unable to attend today, informed her that the Chamber will be distributing "welcome bags" to the students through the rental agencies. This can be an opportunity to include information to encourage students to participate in Neighborhood Day.

Transportation Services

Paula mentioned that a small group of interested parties was meeting to pursue improve public transportation between URI and Narragansett. The initial focus is for the day time commuting student. If anyone would like to participate, please call her.

Next meeting

September 5.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Santos

Paula Santos
Coalition Coordinator