

Narragansett - URI Coalition Steering Committee

Tuesday – November 14, 2006

4:00PM

Narragansett Town Hall

Members present: Jeffry Ceasrine, Kim Churas, Nancy Devaney, Tom Dougan, Eileen Desforges for Doug Wardwell, Paul Haas, Ben Matone for Ryan Mitchell, Toni O'Neil, Chief J. David Smith, Carol Stuart, Leslie Williams, Coalition Coordinator, Paula Santos

Absent: Krista Garrett, Jim Hurton, George Tracy

Tom Dougan began the meeting at 4:00pm. Everyone introduced themselves and welcomed Jeffry Ceasrine, Interim Town Manager replacing Maury Loontjens.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Review of October 3 SC minutes**
All approved the October minutes.
- **Review of October 17 Coalition Minutes**
All approved the October Coalition minutes.
- **Debrief Presentation at Bonnet Shores – October 11**
Paul Haas stated that he has the accumulated data from the meeting and the Fire District has decided to go forward when they can have positive results. There is a meeting tomorrow night to discuss future plans. One area the group will pursue is the response to the question the Chief posed at the October 11 meeting: What do the residents of Bonnet shores want its community to look like and how can the police department help them? They have identified that landlords who do not properly manage their properties contribute to the rental problems. He has a copy of the Town's rental property registration list in Bonnet and will be working with the local realtors and the University commuter housing office to get their list of property owners who rent in Bonnet. They will compare this information and the plan is to contact those property owners who have not registered their property with the town. Tom asked Paul to provide an update on the progress of these efforts in Bonnet to the full coalition at the next meeting. Paul agreed.
- **Ombuds Team**
Carol asked what the plan was to implement this team. Paul explained that a gentleman who had inquired about becoming a member has withdrawn his name and that at this point he has not actively pursued establishing this team. Ben Matone stated that he has students who are interested. All have agreed conceptually in establishing this team but it needs to do a better job of communicating it to the membership. Paula will prepare a handout for distribution at the next Coalition meeting; post on the web site and send a mailing to the listserv. Tom will discuss with the Communications subcommittee. Relative to contacting someone about a neighborhood issue, Carol and Eileen questioned the effectiveness of the hotline. Leslie stated that the hotline is not for crisis intervention but a phone number people can call if they have an issue. Someone will get back to that person as soon as possible. If there is an emergency, people should know to call the police. If there is a complaint or concern that does not require police intervention then an individual should call the hotline.
- **Community Housing Officer**
The Chief reported that the Community Housing Officer position formerly, held by Ron Lepre, has been filled by Patrick Dwyer. During the process of hiring Mr. Dwyer, the Chief interviewed others and given that Henry's hours are limited, he is considering hiring another part-time employee in addition to both Henry and Patrick to assist.
- **Fire Safety Film**

Carol asked what the status of getting the video was (re: Joe Meister's request at the last Steering Committee meeting). It was suggested we may want to show this at a Coalition meeting. Paula will follow-up with Joe about the status of his efforts to secure the video.

- **Rental Properties**

The chief will be making a recommendation to the Town Council that if a house receives an orange sticker in the Spring semester, it will extend through the end of the semester and not expire in 60 days. Also, if there is a third violation in a house in 5 years or less, the landlord will be charged and have to go to court.

Nancy questioned about a clause in the lease if a house receives a sticker. In the common lease that members of the Coalition and realtors worked on there is a statement. Carol reported that the landlord makes money with every violation. The landlord sees this fine as a deterrent. With most parents paying students' rent, it is uncertain as to whether or not it is a deterrent.

NEW BUSINESS

- **November 28 Coalition Meeting**

All agreed to follow the standard agenda. In addition, Leslie informed the committee that the University is planning on offering a workshop for students currently living on-campus who are planning on living off-campus. This workshop will be offered in the Spring and there will be follow-up mailing to the students and parents in the summer. The University is requesting input from the Coalition and would like to have a facilitated discussion at the meeting on the 28th. All agreed. A notice will be sent to the listserv requesting attendance.

- **Website**

Eileen Desforges expressed her concern that one of the articles in the local newspaper about Doug Wardwell was posted on the website. Paula indicated that this was a mistake & she would correct it.

- **Fall orientation for commuter students**

Leslie reported that over 200 students participated. Kim Churas who exhibited for Lila Delman said it was well done and well attended. The Chief agreed

- **Food Drive**

Leslie passed around a flyer providing information about the upcoming food-drive on the 9th. Volunteers are needed to pick up bags in their neighborhoods and/or collect donated items at Stop & Shop or Roch's from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Please call the URI commuter housing office at 974-2828 for more information or to volunteer.

- **Holiday Lighting Contest**

Still in the works. More information to be provided at the November 28th meeting.

- **Keg Registration Signs**

Toni said that Robert Storm dropped the new sign at the store but questioned the wording. Does the sign represent the town's ordinance or state law or both and what action does she and others need to take. Nancy will look into this further.

The next Steering committee is scheduled for Tuesday, December 5th.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Santos
Coalition Coordinator