

Narragansett - URI Coalition Steering Committee

Tuesday – December 5, 2006

4:00PM

Narragansett Town Hall

Members present: Jeffry Ceasrine, Kim Churas, Nancy Devaney, Tom Dougan, Krista Garrett, Paul Haas, Toni O'Neil, Chief J. David Smith, Carol Stuart, Doug Wardwell, Leslie Williams, Coalition Coordinator, Paula Santos

Absent: Jim Hurton, Ryan Mitchell, George Tracy

OLD BUSINESS

- **Review of November 14 SC minutes**

All approved the November minutes.

- **Update on Safety Video**

Paula reported that she and her students were having difficulty locating the news clip. She has a request into the university news bureau for assistance. She will also contact Dr. Mark Wood as Tom seems to think he saw it also.

- **Ombuds Team**

Paula passed around a flyer and a sign-up sheet that a student made encouraging coalition members to sign up to be a member of the ombuds team. These will be available at the next coalition meeting. Information will also be sent on the listserv. Carol asked how community members will know this service exists. Suggestions: a coalition press release; articles in the neighborhood associations' newsletters. Tom will discuss with the communications subcommittee. Paul will have flyers available for Bonnet. He is hopeful that after one or two successful interventions, the word will get around.

- **December Coalition Meeting**

In addition to the regular agenda:

- Fran will facilitate discussion regarding the upcoming workshop for on-campus students moving off-campus;
- Krista will report on the meeting between the University and Town Council on December 11, 2006.
- Paul will provide an update on the progress in Bonnet Shores since the meeting in October.

- **University and Town Council Meeting**

- The meeting has been officially approved for Monday, December 11th at 7:00pm.
- It was reported in the local papers that questions for the town council should be submitted by Thursday to Carol Robbins in the town Clerk's office. Krista Garrett will also accept questions; her e-mail address is on the Town of Narragansett's web site.
- The chief indicated that he (and LT. Gamma) would be available as a resource.
- Carol stated that this upcoming meeting's format has both its advantages and disadvantages. She was hopeful that the meeting was just going to be between the Council and Dr. Carothers. She was concerned about the community concerns being diluted by others present referring to the initiatives of Common Ground.
- Paul Haas described a meeting he had envisioned earlier this summer where the President would host a workshop with the local residents and significant stakeholders. This upcoming meeting is not what he had in mind. The Chief responded that President Carothers did meet with the Coalition and is very empathetic with the concerns of the towns people.
- Krista Garret added that the student party problem has been going on for years. She was subject to it as a young parent 24 years ago when she lived on Durkin Drive. She hopes we can find resolutions that work for the entire town, not just isolated neighborhoods.
- Paul believes and all agreed that this meeting on the 11th needs to take place and that hopefully this meeting will provide the format for a continued exchange.

- **Keg Registration Clarification**

The Chief reported that the information on the signs is taken verbatim from the State law and should not be changes.

- **Food Drive**

Leslie informed members that notification was sent to the listserv about the event on the 9th given the cancellation of the November 28 Coalition meeting. 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. All food goes to the Johnny Cake Center.

- **Holiday Lighting Contest**

Information was also sent via the listserv.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Community Housing Officer**

The Chief reported that a very fruitful meeting was held with Pat Dwyer, himself, Jeff Cesarine, the community police team and Tony Santilli, building inspector. They discussed the expectations of this position and he is very encouraged about Pat's addition to the town. He has gone on patrol with community police officers Scott Vellone and Rob Stone.

- **Narragansett Police-Alcohol Retailers Partnership Meeting**

The Chief announced that a meeting between will be held December 18th just between the police department and the establishments. They have their own issues to discuss.

- **Coalition Meeting Location**

At the request of students, Tom asked if the Steering Committee would approve an upcoming Coalition meeting be held at the University. All approved. Tom will work out the details on campus and get back to the committee.

- **Transportation of Alcohol**

The Chief explained that an individual who was under 21 and found to be transporting alcohol was charged with breaking statute 3.8.9 and was sent to the Traffic Tribunal. The chief judge of the Traffic Tribunal decided that this citation should be heard by Operator Control who has said no, it belongs in Traffic Tribunal. Given that neither entity is currently hearing this charge, this leaves the police department's hands tied in their ability to cite someone who has broken this law. He believes with the introduction of new legislation, this problem will be resolved; it will be clarified which body will hear this citation and the police will once again be able to cite drivers who have broken this law.

- **Traffic Study in Bonnet**

Traffic tubes have been set up in Bonnet to determine traffic flow, speeds, etc.

- **Other Communities Seek Assistance**

The Chief received a call from a liquor store owner in Warren that they could use some help regarding law enforcement practices such as occurs in Narragansett. His department will offer its help similar to what it has done in providence, Newport and Bristol.

Help of URI Counseling Department

On behalf of the community, Nancy Devaney expressed her gratitude for the assistance of Jim Campbell and his staff from the URI Counseling Department after the tragic death of

- **Update on Bonnet Shores Fire District**
 - Paul reported that at the recent FD council meeting, attended by 50 to 60 members, the chief attended and discussion was held regarding the Council defining what it wants its community to look like, and the police will help them get there. In addition, a number of items were discussed:
 - No parking - no time, anywhere
 - URI – assign penalties for ordinance violations including community service
 - Study traffic in area
 - Increased patrols in conjunction with campus security
 - More communication back to community about punitive actions taken and outcomes of arrests
 - More information on Ombuds' proposal
 - Continuing work on landlord registration process; thanked Kim Churas for her help
 - Resident expressed concern about threats of retribution. Both the Chief and university will investigate further. It is not necessarily helpful to bring this issue to the Coalition. Normal protocol should be followed whereby the complainant should have called the police.

- **Steering Committee Structure and Process**

Paul expressed his concerns that the SC needs a more systematic process for discussing issues, voting on them and then reporting back on results. He stated his opinion may not necessarily reflect what others in the Coalition may think, but he believes that there needs to be a clear position or an action taken on issues brought by the Coalition. Another group needed the room and discussion could not continue.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.

The next Steering committee is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9th.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Santos
Coalition Coordinator