

Narragansett - URI Coalition

Steering Committee Minutes

March 24, 2009 Meeting

Coalition Attendees

Town: Susan Cicilline-Buonanno; Robert Briar
NPD: Chief Joseph Little; Robert Storme
URI Admin.: Leslie Williams; Katrina Dorsey; Dan Graney
URI Students: Phil Bowers; Kerri Koppenaal; Andy O'Brien
Real Estate: Joe Robenhymer
Neighborhoods: Gerry McCarthy; Bob Shields; Carol Stuart, Sue Bush
Business & Liquor: absent

Meeting called to order by McCarthy, co-Chair at 4:00pm.

Agenda items:

Item 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Feb. 4, 2009)

Officer Storme said that there were a few errors in the NPD's tabulated statistics in the minutes of the February 4th meeting. The minutes were approved as corrected.

(Secretary's note: These revisions were made to February's minutes and resent to all members on April 1, 2009, labeled "(as corrected)". The revised data are therefore not included in these minutes.)

Item 3. Public Forum

A resident living on Hollywood Ave. mentioned that recent disturbances on her street were an annoyance to her & other neighborhood residents.

Item 4. a) Co-Chair's Report

McCarthy suggested that we should create a general set of goals to guide the Coalition that would provide a basis for study and specific action by the Steering Committee. The goals & plans of action would be updated annually & responsibilities delegated to specific Committee members.

Shields moved that an Ad-Hoc Goals Subcommittee be appointed to draft specific goals for next year; Dorsey seconded the motion. Several members suggested issues that the Coalition should consider or advocate. Briar would like to see 1)more emphasis placed on neighborhood issues, 2)more effort & publicity given to neighborhood cleanups. Storme & Dorsey both suggested that a facilitator would be helpful. Bush said that each neighborhood should have student representation on the Coalition. After much discussion, McCarthy called for a vote on Shields' motion. The motion did not carry.

Item 4. b) Community Housing Inspector's Report

Briar said RAs in every neighborhood could provide a useful liaison between students & residents. He would like to see more cooperation by students in neighborhood cleanup effort, especially in Eastward Look & Bonnet Shores. He also recommended a great need for recycling by both landlords & students. Robenhymer further suggested that all landlords should encourage landlords to build & maintain a "coral" to store garbage in sealed cans, have mandatory recycling and stipulate collection by haulers from these corals, not at street-side.

Item 4. c) Student Life Report

Discussion of next Open Forum Coalition meeting at URI: Dorsey said that April is a bad time, near the end of the semester, for the students. O'Brien volunteered to find a date & location for it. Dr. Dougan & Joe Trainor, the new football coach, were suggested as possible speakers. Storme said the agenda could include a discussion of the responsibilities students

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need to anticipate when renting in Narragansett. Robenhymer suggested that we should help identify & promote service projects for students living in Narragansett.

Dorsey said the Coalition web page on the URI web site was now being reworked. Spring Cleanup Day has been scheduled for April 25th. She suggested that RAs need to include more specific information on off-campus life (in Narragansett?) as part of Living Large orientation; also that copies of town ordinances related to disruptive social behavior be distributed to all student renters. A member said that all students living in town should be required to register with the town (since URI does not keep that information).

Item 4. d) Police Department Report

Little informed us the next step in the Student/ACLU suit against the town will be a court hearing scheduled for April. Storme updated the police statistics: total noise complaints are now 375, issued stickers are 34 since September '08. McCarthy asked if the NPD could send to all committee members a final summary of statistics through the end of May; Chief Little agreed to do that.

Storme also commented that there's clearly been a decline in student rentals this year. Dorsey added that student rentals in South Kingstown have increased.

No additional business was brought to the floor on the remaining agenda items. Meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.

Next meeting

The Spring Open Forum Meeting.
The third week in April on the URI campus
O'Brien will arrange for specific date & location.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Shields, secretary