

Narragansett - URI Coalition Steering Committee

Tuesday – March 6, 2007

4:00PM

Narragansett Town Hall

Members present: Nancy Devaney Tom Dougan, Paul Haas, John Lauterio, Ben Matone (for Ryan Mitchell), Mary Eustace (for Mary Kate McKenna,) Lt. Michael Gama (for Chief J. David Smith), Carol Stuart, George Tracy, Leslie Williams, Coalition Coordinator, Paula Santos

Absent: Jeffry Ceasrine, Kim Churas, Krista Garrett, Jim Hurton, Toni O'Neil, Doug Wardwell

OLD BUSINESS

▪ **Review/Approval of minutes:**

1-09-07 & 2-06-07 Steering Committee meeting: Moved by N. Devaney, second by P. Haas, all approved

1-23-07 & 2-20-07 Coalition meeting: moved by P. Haas, second by G. Tracy, all approved

Spring 06 minutes: moved by P. Haas, seconded by L. Williams, all approved

* Prior to the meeting, member Kim Churas had called Coordinator Santos to indicate she could not attend but approved all minutes as well as supporting the legislative proposals.

▪ **Misrepresentation of Age law:**

Nancy Devaney moved that the Steering Committee support the revisions to the misrepresentation of age law, S- , to strengthen penalties against the underage violator of the law. Seconded by C. Stuart, all approved. Tom offered that a hearing was being held on tomorrow, the 7th on this bill. Paula was directed to draft a letter from the Chairs to judiciary legislators and House leaders (It is assumed that Representative Lally will be submitting the bill to the House.) In addition, Paula will send an e-mail to the listserv notifying the membership of the Steering Committee's support and encouraging members to voice their support with the legislators as well. After discussion, all approved

▪ **Providing alcohol to a minor–death resulting: strengthening the penalties**

Nancy Devaney moved that the Steering Committee support the revisions to the procurement bill also know as "Social Host." Seconded by P. Haas. Nancy explained that the law was revised and passed last summer and received widespread support. However, the violation of the law with death resulting was not considered. This law will strengthen the penalties from a misdemeanor to a felony for the violator who provides alcohol to an underage person with death or serious injury resulting. Paula will follow the same process outlined above. After discussion, all approved. Nancy announced that tomorrow there is an all day training for police officers at Salve Regina focusing on underage alcohol issues and the safe disbursement of underage drinking parties.

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

Paula had e-mailed the SC to define the "purpose" of the Coalition which would serve to refine the mission. It has been two years since the vision, mission, aims and procedures discussion was held. The timing is right for review. The following was drafted: *The Narragansett URI-Coalition is a community-university partnership committed to addressing issues of mutual concern by developing strategies and initiatives that improve supportive living communities in Narragansett.* There was some initial discussion about goals focusing on quality of life and what might be supportive strategies. An approach to the overall focus of the coalition was offered to extend beyond enforcement and emphasizes education and community involvement. Discussion ensued. Is it necessary for the coalition to continue? Can the university be an effective partner by continuing to work with the police, being available to the community and neighborhood associations but not in a formal organization like the coalition? Is the current coalition working like a true partnership or is it disparate groups who meet once per month? Are students, as an example, truly engaged in decision making such as the orange sticker policy? Has the Coalition outlived its usefulness? Should the Coalition be addressing the Town Council in a more formal manner? Some expressed concern that it would be unfortunate to disband and others understand the need to change. All have been questioning the effectiveness of the Coalition which is why this is a priority agenda item. The SC will continue to review the

restructuring of the Coalition and all have agreed to set up additional meetings in April to finalize their ideas. Tom asked Paula to present some dates and times when the Steering Committee could meet. It was also agreed, that the Coalition would continue meeting for the remainder of the academic year as planned.

NEW BUSINESS

- **March Coalition Meeting**

To be held in Atrium 1 of the Memorial Union at the University. Parking will be made available in the lot directly behind the Union. Paula will notify everyone on the listserv and place a notification on the web site. Ads will be placed in the Cigar to encourage student attendance. Other media efforts to encourage community attendance will be pursued.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20pm.

The next Steering Committee meeting date and location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Santos
Coalition Coordinator