

TOWN/UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Audrey Beck Municipal Building

Council Chambers

4:00 pm

Minutes

Present: P. Barry, M. Beal, B. Clouette, J. Elkins, B. Feldman, M. Hart, J. Hintz, Chief Hudd, R. Miller, S. Rhodes

Staff: M. Capriola, G. Padick, C. van Zelm

1. Opportunity for Public to Address the Committee
None.

2. March 11, 2008 Meeting Minutes
The minutes of March 11, 2008 were passed unanimously.

3. UCONN Compost Facility
Mr. Miller provided an update on the project. The budget estimate has been revised; additional funding will need to be secured in order to proceed. The group discussed next steps for moving forward such as a presentation to Town Council (after funding has been secured) and sending letters to abutters. It was noted that this project is not subject to Town planning and zoning regulations, but that communication about the project is critical once a site has been selected.

4. Mansfield Downtown Partnership (MDP)
Ms. van Zelm updated the Committee on the MDP. MDP was not awarded funding through its recent STEAP grant application for interior road infrastructure. MDP continues working on securing state funding for the parking garages. Two events are upcoming: Earth Day celebration on April 26th from 11am to 2pm at the Community Center and the 5th Annual Festival on the Green celebration on September 14th.

5. Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision
Mr. Hart and Ms. Capriola provided an update on Mansfield 2020, the Town's strategic planning process. They noted a change in the timeline with a target completion date of June 30th for the plan. More time is needed to flush out the search conference action plans because some are incomplete. Mr. Feldman inquired about trends that have emerged from the process. Mr. Clouette indicated that consensus emerged on the Town working together with the university and moving forward. Overall there was a sense of quality of life (issues) such as the environment and schools. Sustainability and regionalism also emerged as trends. No items have had a price tag placed on them yet, and

Mr. Hart indicated that some tensions may arise when deciding on allocating resources to implement the action plans.

6. Community Campus Relations/Spring Weekend

Ms. Elkins discussed Community Campus Partnership (MCCP) activities and plans for Spring Weekend. MCCP meetings have been averaging 25 people. Members are currently working on a number of projects. Mike Nintean's recent presentation on the Housing Code was well done. Two grants are currently in process; one held a recent event that had over 200 parents in attendance. The other grant is researching marketing and media impact on Spring Weekend. The "Be a Wiser Bud" campaign is currently underway. Oozeball is celebrating its 25th anniversary and Sports Illustrated will be on site for the event. Tom Zigethy is leaving UCONN for a position at Duke; the university is currently searching for a replacement. Mr. Hintz informed the Committee that he and others will be conducting visits to apartments along Hunting Lodge Road and some single family homes (inhabited by students) as a preventative measure for Spring Weekend. Chief Hudd stated that he feels confident with the policing arrangements for Spring Weekend.

7. Other Business

Mr. Feldman informed the group of events being held during President Hogan's upcoming inauguration weekend. Events will include, for example, fireworks, a reception, a festival and a student dance so there may be some noise and/or traffic. Mr. Hart stated that the Town will be sending out a press release to notify the public on these events.

Mr. Clouette inquired about a paint spill in the stormwater system. Mr. Miller noted that training is normally held annually on this issue and that staff is meeting with athletics/ice rink staff to remedy the situation from occurring in the future.

Mr. Hintz announced a new initiative for his office. He will be hiring students to represent his office in off-campus areas. The initiative hopes to improve communications with students living off-campus, serve as a resource to students and build community. The initiative will fund eight positions starting in the fall.

Mr. Miller announced UCONN's Earth Day celebration which will be held on April 22nd at Fairfield Way. All are welcome. The food will be locally produced and organic. There will be concerts and an eco-friendly fashion show.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria E. Capriola
Assistant to Town Manager