

TOWN/UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 12, 2010
Audrey Beck Municipal Building, Council Chambers

Minutes

Present: P. Barry, M. Beal, R. Ganim, T. Haggerty, M. Hart, J. Hintz, R. Hudd, E. Paterson, J. Saddlemire, S. Rhodes, N. Silander, W. Simpson

Staff: M. Capriola, J. Jackman, J. Kodzis, G. Padick
(UCONN) R. Miller, A. Rowe, I. Hart, Dean G. Weidemann

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm.

2. December 9, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Simpson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hintz to adopt the minutes of December 9, 2009 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Spring Weekend 2010 Planning Update

Chief Hudd provided an update. State, Town, and University agencies have met to discuss the recommendations from the Spring Weekend report. The agencies are exploring the feasibility and logistics of implementing the recommendations.

4. USDA/UCONN Project

Dean G. Weidemann (College of Agriculture and Natural Resources) provided an overview of the proposed Animal Health Research Center project. The \$30 million facility, a partnership between UCONN and the USDA, would be constructed at no cost to Connecticut taxpayers. The single story facility would be 35,000 sq. ft. and have office and lab space as well as an attached holding barn for up to 84 animals. The Depot campus was selected for the facility because of its space, utilities, bus service, parking, and proximity to campus. The facility would be a USDA facility operating on leased UCONN land. UCONN will provide animal feed and waste disposal that is consistent with its existing systems and practices.

The lab will conduct work to improve vaccines for animal health. This lab would be the 12th research lab for the USDA that deals with animal health; many similar labs are on other university campuses such as Penn State and the University of Georgia. The work will focus on how healthy animals react to experimental vaccinations. This will be a low biological safety level (BSL2). There will be no diseased animals at the facility nor will there be any disease causing organisms above BSL2 (limited to agents of moderate risk commonly found).

The facility will add research personnel, strengthen the partnership/collaboration on animal vaccine research between UCONN and the USDA, and will likely attract

additional funding and high-tech jobs. Connecticut's congressional delegation supports the project.

There will be an opportunity for public input as well as a public information session. The information session will be held in February. The USDA will drive this process since the lab will be their facility.

5. 2010 Meeting Schedule.

The Committee explored switching the day it meets for regular meetings. At this time, no decision was made to alter the 2010 regular meeting schedule (adopted in November). The Committee will next meet Tuesday, February 9th at 4pm.

6. Updates:

A. Mansfield Downtown Partnership (MDP). Mr. Rhodes provided an update.

Winter Fun Day activities are scheduled for February 13th from 11am-2pm at the Mansfield Community Center. An RFQ for intermodal garage 1 is being prepared. The Planning and Design Committee meets January 19th.

B. Mansfield Community Campus Partnership (MCCP). Mr. Hintz reported on the UMASS Amherst community campus partnership presentation held in December. MCCP meets Thursday January 14th and will discuss the ideas explored in the UMASS presentation.

C. Quality of Life Committee. Mr. Rhodes and Mayor Paterson provided an update. The Committee is researching/discussing the idea of a tenant registry. The Committee made a recommendation to Council to add site parking plans to the landlord registration process (parking ordinance). Council has scheduled a public hearing on the ordinance for January 25, 2010 at 7:30pm in Council Chambers.

7. Other Business/Announcements

None.

8. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Committee

None.

9. Meeting adjourned at 4:45pm

Next Meeting: February 9, 2010

Respectfully Submitted,
Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager