

TOWN/UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, November 8, 2011  
Council Chambers, Audrey Beck Municipal Building

**Minutes**

Present: R. Orr, C. Paulhus, J. Hintz, N. Silander, W. Wendt, J. Saddlemire, B. Paterson, Phil Barry, L. Chiappa, Matthew Hart

Staff: C. van Zelm (*MDP*), L. Painter, F. Raiola (*Town of Mansfield*)

1. Call To Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm. Members reintroduced themselves.

2. October 11, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Orr made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Hintz. Approval of schedule was unanimous.

3. Co-Chair Reports

No Reports

4. Updates:

Due to a schedule conflict for Hart, the Committee first reviewed items 4d, 4e, and 5. Hart departed the meeting during the Mansfield Downtown Partnership update.

a. *Mansfield Downtown Partnership*: van Zelm provided a Storrs Center construction update. The first residential and commercial leases have been signed. Leyland Alliance continues to work on converting letters of intent from businesses to leases. Parking steering committee is continuing work on a cooperative management agreement. The next public update will be scheduled for January 2012. Van Zelm confirmed that condominium development is still planned for later phase in response to question from Silander.

b. *MCCP*: Silander provided an update regarding the last meeting which featured two guests, Donna Korb, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, who discussed the healthy campus initiative and Sergeant Richard Cornoyer, the Mansfield Resident Trooper, who gave an update on enforcement of the nuisance ordinance to date. Silander was impressed with the impact of the new community policing approach employed by Sergeant Cornoyer. As mentioned at the previous meeting, the Fall Welcome was not as successful due to fewer volunteers; Paterson will work on increasing volunteers from town staff for spring effort.

c. *Town/UCONN Water Supply Project*: Painter provided an update regarding the joint Town/UCONN water study. The consultant is continuing to work on data collection and is meeting with Connecticut Water and Windham Water Works as they investigate potential interconnections. They have ranked the nine potential groundwater sites based on hydrogeologic and sanitary issues; the next step will involve further evaluation for environmental issues. The Town will be drilling a test well at the top-ranked site later this week to gather additional data.

d. *Fall Semester Off-Campus Activity*. Hart provided an update on levels of off-campus activity to date. There has been a marked decrease in the frequency and size of large gatherings in the Carriage House area, which is attributed to several factors, including the town's nuisance ordinance, the community policing approach taken by the Resident Trooper, and improved cooperation and communication between the Town and UConn. The decrease in large crowds has resulted in more house parties in surrounding neighborhoods, something that was anticipated as a potential outcome. Hart noted that the police study currently under review shows that an increase in resources may be needed, particularly during busy periods. Additionally, the Town and University will continue to work on education and prevention activities with a goal of building relationships with the students living off-campus. Hintz and Saddle mire both echoed Hart's assessment of the impacts of improved communication and new community policing approach. In particular, it was noted that UConn is now more aware of serious offenses that occur off-campus. Paterson noted that University sanctions may serve as a larger deterrent to student misbehavior than fines, emphasizing the importance of continued cooperation. The community policing efforts of Sergeant Cornoyer were commended by several members, leading Orr to suggest that the Town express its appreciation of this approach and its value to the Sergeant's supervisors. Hart and Hintz will bring data to the next meeting, including comparisons to previous years.

e. *New England Rail Coalition*. Hart noted that towns from Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont came together last week to sign an MOA with the goal of restoring passenger rail service along the New England Central railroad. A working group meeting is being scheduled for early December to work toward development of a feasibility study. Hart mentioned that another next step may be to work with the administration of both UConn and UMass to start building support from university administrators for the project.

## 5. Storm Alfred Recovery Operations

Hart provided an update on the Town's recovery operations from Storm Alfred, noting that we were fortunate to have a much quicker restoration than with Storm Irene. He commended the University, particularly the dining services staff, for their assistance and support for the regional shelter established at the Mansfield Community Center. The shelter served residents of Mansfield, Ashford, Willington and Coventry, with a high of 50 overnight guests and a daily average of 300-400 non-member residents taking showers during the peak of outages. EO Smith served over 700 people at community dinners over six nights. Raiola noted benefit of UConn Dining Services-other towns

were forced to rely on MREs for their shelter operations. Hintz reviewed outreach to off-campus students, noting multiple layers of communication to students informing them of available assistance. UConn also provided student services at the field house and student union to minimize impact on regional shelter. Hintz, Hart and Raiola confirmed that good communication between Town and UConn was key to successful efforts. Hart also noted benefits of having a CLP liaison familiar with area and able to direct crews, as well as ability of mid-level managers filling in for department heads in town recovery efforts.

#### 6. 2012 Regular Meeting Dates

Paulus made the motion to approve the schedule as presented, seconded by Wendt. Orr noted that the March meeting is during spring break and questioned whether the town had any conflicts with the September date. Paterson advised that dates can be changed if needed. Chiappa noted that she will be requesting the USG president appoint someone else for the spring semester due to a class schedule conflict.

Approval of schedule was unanimous.

#### 7. Other Business/Announcements

Paulus, Paterson and Silander reminded people to vote.

#### 8. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Committee

None

#### 9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda M. Painter, AICP  
Director of Planning and Development, Town of Mansfield