

TOWN/UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, December 13, 2011
Council Chambers, Audrey Beck Municipal Building

Minutes

Present: P. Barry, M. Hart, J. Hintz, R. Orr, C. Paulhus, N. Silander, W. Simpson, W. Wendt,

Staff: C. van Zelm (*MDP*); L. Painter, M. Capriola, K. Grunwald (*Town*); Sgt. R. Cournoyer (*CSP*); C. Lin (*UCONN*)

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm.

2. November 8, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Paulhus made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Silander. The minutes were approved unanimously as presented.

3. Updates:

a. *Storrs Center Construction Update*: Hart and van Zelm provided an update. OSHA is currently investigating the accident that occurred on the construction site. Despite some press coverage to the contrary, no state or federal agency has determined that undocumented workers have been at the construction site. The state Department of Labor issued a stop-work order to a sub-contractor because the agency could not find proof of their workers compensation insurance coverage on file. The sub-contractor did have workers compensation insurance coverage and is in the process of resolving this matter with the Department of Labor. The sub-contractor has completed their work on the project. Site work continues to proceed on the parking garage.

A public informational session on the project will be held on January 11, 2012 at 7pm at the Bishop Center on the UCONN campus. To date, apartment leasing is going well and the studios are sold out. The first four business tenants have signed leases; they are as follows: Dog Lane Café (associated with Vanilla Bean Café); Froyoworld; Select Physical

b. *Off-Campus Activity*: Sgt. Cournoyer provided an overview of fall off-campus activity. Sgt. Cournoyer and Hintz worked collaboratively to address negative off-campus behavior. A proactive educational approach was used in conjunction with enforcement activities. Examples included: educating off-campus students about community behavioral expectations via door-to-door visits; door-to-door visits with residents impacted by negative off-campus student behavior; working closely with landlords to assist them in developing similar policies; referring all students issued tickets for violating local ordinances to the Off-Campus Student Services Office and then to the Community Standards office (UCONN). Sgt Cournoyer discussed the implementation and use of the new nuisance ordinance. The ordinance has proven successful in changing negative off-campus behaviors.

c. *Town/UCONN Water Supply Update*: Painter and Hart provided an update regarding the environmental impact evaluation (EIE). The EIE is currently underway and a draft report is expected in February. Ultimately a public hearing will be held on the topic. It is estimated that the Town and University need between 500,000 and one million gallons of water per day. The Town and University are working jointly to identify potential water sources and testing of those sources. An update on Ponde Place was provided.

4. CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Grant

Hintz, Lin, Grunwald, and John Sobanik (guest) provided information on the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Grant. A sub-committee of the Mansfield Community Campus Partnership (MCCP) has been working to implement the grant. The focus is to reduce high risk alcohol and drug use around the UCONN campus with an emphasis on implementing effective strategies. The MCCP is developing strategies to create a normative environment and to strengthen policy development and implementation. The objectives are:

- To develop and implement student driven campaign to help reduce irresponsible party hosting behavior and underage drinking in a way that is still viewed as fun by students;
- Generate and implement a community based alcohol-policy enforcement strategy to improve enforcement effectiveness.

Celeron Square Apartments agreed to serve as the test site for the grant initiative. Grant activities have included: core survey, focus groups, landlord workshop, law enforcement workshop, law enforcement/landlord forum, and a student driven campaign. The student driven campaign will launch a website, www.rageonthesamepage.com, in the spring. If this collaborative is successful it could become a model for off-campus apartment complexes and improve the quality of life for students and other residents.

5. Other Business/Announcements

Painter provided an overview of the Shop Local First Mansfield campaign. The campaign is occurring this holiday season. The campaign promotes local businesses and encourages residents to buy local. 25-30 local businesses are participating. The campaign is being coordinated by the Mansfield Downtown Partnership and the Town of Mansfield Planning and Development Department.

Painter provided an overview of a recent grant award received by the Town. The Community Challenge Planning Grant (\$600,000+ over a three year period) was awarded by HUD; Mansfield was one of twenty-seven awards nationwide and only one of two in Connecticut. The Planning and Development Department will be administering the grant. The primary components will be as follows: sustainable design and green action plan; two year housing and economic development strategy; and re-writing the zoning and sub-division regulations of the Town.

Barry made the recommendation, and the Committee agreed by consensus, to have a standing agenda item of "Spring Weekend/Off-Campus Activity."

6. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Committee

None.

7. Adjournment

Silander made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Paulhus. Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maria Capriola, M.P.A.
Assistant to Town Manager, Town of Mansfield