

TOWN/UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, April 8, 2014  
Audrey Beck Municipal Building, Council Chambers

**Minutes**

**Present:** J. Armstrong, P. Barry, J. Coite, C. Devecchis, M. Gilbert, M. Hart, E. Paterson

**Staff:** M. Capriola, L. Painter (*Town*), C. van Zelm (*MDP*)

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

**1. Meeting Minutes**

The March meeting minutes were tabled due to lack of a quorum.

**2. Updates:**

a. *Mansfield Downtown Partnership:* van Zelm provided an update. The Storrs Center Phase II application has been submitted to Planning and Development; a public hearing will be held. Construction on Phase II is anticipated to begin in June, with the apartments and commercial space for that Phase opening in August 2015. Over 125 people attended an informational meeting on the planned owner-occupied housing units associated with Phase III of the project. Over 30 deposits have already been made by people interested in purchasing owner-occupied units. Town Square construction continues, with an anticipated completion date of May 2014. The grand opening of the Nash Zimmer Transportation Center is April 14, 2014.

b. *MCCP:* Armstrong provided an update. The off-campus housing fair was held today (April 8). Armstrong has been meeting with fraternity and sorority groups that are renting off-campus single family homes to talk about community expectations and responsibilities. The Office has seen a slight uptick in complaints, which are being addressed.

c. *USG:* Devecchis announced that the “Mansfield” event will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm. The event will likely include outdoor viewing of a family friendly movie. Devecchis also reported on off-campus and on-campus activity following the national championship basketball wins. The USG Executive Council is looking at re-establishing “core values.”

d. *Impact Study for NextGen CT:* Hart provided an update. An impact study will be conducted to analyze the benefits, economics, and demands on municipal and regional services related to the NextGen CT initiative. The study will be jointly funded by the University and the Town, with most of the funding coming from the University. The Town Manager’s Office is currently working on drafting a RFQ for a planning firm to conduct the study.

### **3. UCONN Spring Weekend**

Gilbert provided an overview. The University will not allow overnight guests in the residence halls during Spring Weekend. Parking lots and roads leading into campus will have limited access. A number of positive student activities are being planned for the weekend with the emphasis being on “UCONN Learns, Serves, Cares.” Sgt. Cournoyer and Armstrong are meeting with property managers. Town and University public safety officials have held planning meetings.

### **4. Other Business**

Hart provided information regarding work being done to (possibly) restore passenger rail service from Mansfield to Palmer, Massachusetts (with a connection to Amherst). The Massachusetts DOT has provided funding to conduct a feasibility study for the Mansfield-Palmer service with the connection to Amherst. Congressman Courtney and the Connecticut DOT are attempting to secure funding to improve capacity of the rail line.

Mayor Paterson announced CCM’s Task Force looking at the impact of drug use in communities. Town-Gown members with an interest or expertise on this topic should contact Mayor Paterson.

Painter provided an update on the Mansfield Tomorrow initiative. The Planning and Zoning Commission is currently reviewing the draft document. The goal is to have the draft document available for public viewing over the summer, with a public hearing held in September.

### **5. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Committee**

None.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

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