

TOWN/UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 10, 2015
Council Chambers, Beck Municipal Building

Minutes

Present: J. Armstrong, P. Barry, J. Coite, M. Hart, M. Gilbert, S. Kegler, M. Kirk, A. Kuegler, E. Paterson, H. Rynhart, M. Sargeant, W. Wendt

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

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Kirk.

1. Meeting Minutes

a. Hart MOVED, Wendt seconded approval of the February 10, 2015 minutes as presented. The motion PASSED unanimously.

2. Presentation on Next Generation Connecticut Impact Study

Hart introduced Lee Huang and his team from eConsult Solutions. Huang provided an overview of the impact study project and the methodology being used by the consulting team to identify the economic benefits and fiscal impacts of UConn's growth on the town. The study will include a look back over the previous twenty years as well as projected impact of the NextGenCT initiative. A copy of the powerpoint presentation was distributed to members.

3. Updates:

a. *Mansfield Tomorrow*. Painter updated the committee on the public hearing process and advised the committee of the extension of the public comment period to April 6, 2015. Painter noted that she did presentations to both UConn staff and the USG External Affairs committee and is expecting written comments from the University.

b. *Mansfield Downtown Partnership*. van Zelm provided an update on recent activities including an upcoming zoning permit application for the final phase of development, Main Street Homes; leasing status for 2015-16; and fit-out of tenant spaces in the building at the the corner of Routes 195 and 275. van Zelm commended the Department of Public Works for all of their efforts to clear snow at Storrs Center. Work continues on completing the town square; the stage, trellises, light pylons and sculptures should be installed within the next several weeks and a ribbon cutting will be scheduled for May. The Partnership is also working with the Town to approve policies and amend an existing ordinance related to use of the Town Square; the goal is to have these adopted by summer 2015.

c. *USG*. Sargeant and Kuegler updated the committee on activities including an upcoming spring movie night on April 18th and ongoing efforts with regard to strategies to remove students from the voter rolls that no longer live in Mansfield. They have also been working with the state legislature on issues related to student representation on the Board of Trustees, state budget, SAFE NURSES and open source textbooks. The Huskython event this past weekend raised over \$560,000 for Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

d. *MCCP*. Armstrong updated members on activities including last week's housing fair that was attended by over 500 students. A fair housing workshop is scheduled for March 16th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Next meeting is Thursday, March 19th at 4:00 p.m.

e. *UConn Master Plan*. Kirk noted that the UConn Board of Trustees voted to accept the plan at their last meeting; they have approved the plan in concept; however, no final decisions have been made with regard to final location of the hockey rink, student recreation center, etc. Individual projects still need Board approval before proceeding. Bev Wood discussed plans for updating the plan over the 20-year horizon and noted that it incorporates a significant amount of flexibility to adapt to changing conditions and priorities.

4. Other Business

Coite updated the committee on the status of various projects:

- **North Hillside Road.** The major wetland crossing for North Hillside Road was completed this winter; it is anticipated to be open to be drivable November 2015 with landscaping completed Spring 2015.
- **South Campus Development.** Coite noted that they are currently scoping for the South Campus Development, which includes the new honors residence hall, an addition to the Fine Arts Building as well as changes to roadway and parking configuration. The scoping meeting is scheduled for March 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the Bishop Center. The EIE is expected to be completed in late spring at which time a public hearing will be held.
- **Water Supply Project.** A public hearing will be held by DEEP at Town Hall on March 25th.

Hart updated the committee on the following projects:

- **Four Corners Sanitary Sewer Project.** A scoping session is scheduled for 7:00 on March 18th at Town Hall to solicit comments from the public. DEEP will determine based on the feedback received whether an EIE is required for the project.
- **Depot Campus.** Hart would like to place the potential Depot Campus redevelopment on the April or May agenda for discussion.
- **UConn Intern.** Jay will be briefing the First Lady on his research in US/Iranian relations.

5. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Committee

None.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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