

## DRAFT MINUTES

**Present:** A. Moran, C. Workman, P. Aho, J. Armstrong, R. Aylesworth, D. Freudmann, M. Gilbert, E. Holinko, S. Vasington

**Staff:**

**Guests:** Sgt. S. King

**Absent:** V. Lorenz, L. Painter, C. van Zelm

The meeting was called to order by Chair C. Workman at 1:02 PM

### 1. Public Comment

No public comment.

### 2. Meeting Minutes

D. Freudmann moved the draft minutes for June 8 be amended, seconded by E. Holinko, and accepted a friendly amendment change by J. Armstrong. The amendment was approved. A. Moran moved, P. Aho seconded, to approve June 8, 2021 minutes as amended. Minutes approved.

### 3. Updates

- a. *Introduce Sgt. King.* R. Aylesworth introduced Sgt. King who started as Resident State Trooper in Mansfield on July 12.
- b. *Economic Development (see c.)*
- c. *Opportunity Zone.* C. Workman shared that the Four-Town Vitality committee progress is still moving forward. State Economic Development Department officials will attend the next staff-to-staff meeting to brainstorm what is the best customer for us relative to development; what we have available in our area and region that meets prospect needs.
- d. *Mansfield Downtown Partnership.* Street Sense, a consulting firm, has provided preliminary input on strategic planning work, and open meetings will be held for the public and local businesses to hear Street Sense's recommendations. Moonlight Movies and a live concert are scheduled this month. Applications for activity booths and welcome booths at the Celebrate Mansfield Festival are still

being accepted through August 20. Fresh Fork Café, a new restaurant business, has opened downtown. The Graduate Hotel has reopened. Kyle Muncie began as MDP President on July 1. E. Holinko inquired whether MDP could assist with helping to generate interest in vacant downtown store fronts. A. Moran pointed out that the new owners of the downtown properties have not been forthcoming with their marketing outreach efforts and plans

e. *Planning and Development.* No report

f. *CT Murals-MLK Mural Project.* R. Aylesworth summarized a working group has been established to coordinate this project. The mural will be mounted at Mansfield Community Center and an artist has been identified. Completion is still targeted for October. S. Vasington suggested that lighting be considered to optimize the mural's impact at night.

g. *Determine October meeting venue.* The committee plans to continue to meet virtually in October.

**4. UConn Construction Updates.** S. Vasington reported that Hillside Rd. reopened August 6 and features the first roundabout on campus. Construction will continue on Science facility through the year, and the hockey arena also continues. Separatist Road and Hunting Lodge Road may see some truck traffic, but Mansfield's Department of Public Works will be notified in advance. Sidewalks are opening and landscaping is being installed as projects are completed. E. Holinko inquired about the next steps on cleanup following the demolition of the former prison at the Depot Campus. S. Vasington responded that the Department of Administrative Services is managing that location, and he will inquire about plans there to update the committee.

**5. UConn Fall Plans/Vaccinations Update.** C. Workman reported that supervisors in each department can oversee employees' return to work with a hybrid model of in-person and at-home work, so there may not be increased impact until after Labor Day. Approximately 11,000 students will return to campus for the fall, close to 97% capacity. August 24 is early move-in for 1500 students with the balance returning August 27-29.

Vaccinations are required for students participating in in-person classes. About 92% are vaccinated with 500 students requesting an exemption. Dean of Students Eleanor JB Daugherty presented further details about data at the Mansfield Town Council meeting on August 9. About 91% of classes will be held in-person. Masks will be required indoors on campus for all staff and students. The UConn COVID dashboard reflects vaccination rates, and a color-coded report of the COVID status of campus. Parking enforcement is now being handled through a virtual system.

J. Armstrong shared plans and dates scheduled to welcome off-campus residential students and commuters and communication with property managers.

D. Freudmann asked what total capacity is on campus for residents. M. Gilbert shared that housing 12,500 students is possible, but it is not optimal. D. Freudmann clarified

that 11,000 students represent about 88% capacity. P. Aho expressed concern about the number of students returning who have received non-medical exemptions. M. Gilbert responded that the vaccines are still approved only on an emergency-use basis and UConn is respectful of that issue as expressed by some families. He expressed confidence that the vaccination numbers will increase.

6. **Town COVID 19 Update.** R. Aylesworth reported that the Town of Mansfield has begun requiring face masks in all town buildings, regardless of vaccination status, out of concern for increasing spread of the DELTA variant. The Town Council voted August 9 to authorize the Town Manager to implement an Emergency Order to put a mask mandate in place in Mansfield in advance of the significant increase in population with the return of students and staff. S. Vasington inquired if signs will be placed on business doors. J. Armstrong offered to assist with mask mandate communication to off-campus students.

7. **Other Business.**

- a. *How to engage students to frequent Downtown Storrs.* C. Workman reported that a student government representative will be joining the committee for the October meeting, and requested this topic be tabled until October.

8. **Future Agenda Items.**

- a. P. Aho requested a future agenda item to discuss whether the university will support apartment complexes at Four Corners. A. Moran reported that she spoke before the Board of Trustees, and town officials have also met with UConn's interim president, state economic development officials and Governor Lamont's office about this matter. E. Holinko and D. Freudmann added that they are disappointed about the role of UConn in affairs impacting the Town.
- b. P. Aho also requested discussion about a loud air conditioning compressor installed at the hotel that disturbs residents living nearby.

- T. Moran motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:21 PM, seconded by P. Aho/J. Armstrong. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheri Baczanski/Margaret Chatey  
Administrator to the Committee

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 12 2021 at 1:00 PM**