

# Mansfield Community Campus Partnership

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## Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2006

Present: Mayor Elizabeth Paterson, Dr. Julie Bell-Elkins, Matt Abbate, Master Sergeant Linda Killarney, Liz Prince, Michael Sarra, Officer Sandy Smith, Tom Szigethy

The meeting began at 3:30.

Mayor Paterson provided an update on the new Rental Housing office.

- The Town has created positions for 2.5 inspectors, and ½ clerical staff.

Julie Bell-Elkins provided an update on the new UConn Off-Campus Services Office.

- The OCSS Budget was approved by the University Board of Trustees.
- E. Paterson asked about staffing of the office. J. Bell-Elkins said there will be a national search for a director, and support staff.
- E. Paterson asked if the University legal department could provide legal services to students. J. Bell-Elkins said this is not possible, as it could potentially create a conflict of interest.

J. Bell-Elkins introduced new Partnership members, Liz Prince, UConn Assistant Director of Alcohol and Other Drug Services, and Sandy Smith, UConn Community Police Officer.

Linda Killarney reported that the property manager at Celeron Square has recently changed. Corporate management is looking to hire new staff soon.

J. Bell-Elkins asked the Partnership to identify important issues for the new year and to prioritize future Partnership efforts. Legislative Issues (ordinances, happy hours, etc), License Holder Relations, Celeron-Carriage House Apartments intervention, Off-Campus Issues, and DUI Prevention were discussed.

- E. Paterson said aggressive DUI enforcement efforts have been paying off.
- Tom Szigethy noted that DUI is still a serious problem. He is concerned that the campus Safe Rides program will not be funded for academic year 2006-2007. The AOD Department is working with students to look at alternative funding, estimated at \$22,000 per year.
- T. Szigethy and J. Bell-Elkins discussed the USG Guard Dog program proposal.
- T. Szigethy said DUI prevention requires effective marketing.
- L. Prince said the Partnership should also focus on what is happening inside of off-campus houses, especially things that the Partnership may not know about.



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- The Partnership discussed the benefits of knowing where individuals arrested for DUI are coming from, allowing problem areas to be targeted with prevention and enforcement.
- Michael Sarra will look into the possibility of developing a database that can track problem activity.
- The group discussed the importance of
  - Identifying rental properties
  - Identifying the owners of those properties
  - Identifying and communicating with the lessees of the properties.
  - It may be possible to identify some by utilizing the UConn Off-Campus Housing Message board.
- M. Sarra will work with Matt Hart to establish a rental property database.

E. Paterson suggested the Partnership establish a meeting to discuss legislation, potentially inviting State legislators to attend.

- J. Bell-Elkins suggested also including officials from the National Educational Center on Drugs and Violence, based in Newton, Mass.
- E. Paterson can also tap resources from the National League of Cities
- The Partnership also discussed importance of bringing State liquor control agencies into the discussion

The Partnership reviewed new marketing and outreach materials prepared by the Outreach and Publicity subgroup. A new brochure, web site, and posters were displayed.

J. Bell-Elkins and M. Sarra displayed Geographic Information System mock-ups for area apartment communities. The system can be used to track tenant issues, criminal activity, and population density.

E. Paterson suggested the Partnership also work to develop a database of alcohol license holders.

- J. Bell-Elkins and L. Killarney suggested Partnership subgroups meet with license holders.
- T. Szigethy said it would be helpful for the Partnership to have something to offer in terms of assistance.
- E. Paterson suggested the subgroup to meet with area license holders again.
- T. Szigethy suggested that the NECASA Card is one way to help both businesses and the efforts of the Town and University.
- J. Bell-Elkins suggested meeting at the businesses.
- Matt Abbate said businesses are adapting their strategies (no cover charge, etc.) to meet the demand of students



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J. Bell-Elkins said the Partnership needs to focus on planning between now and October. Priority areas identified by the group were: Off-Campus rentals [Sept, Oct.], DUI [Oct.], and legislative [December].

J. Bell-Elkins discussed upcoming partnership visits to area apartment communities. Todd Sullivan and Lauren Elliot of the UConn Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will be joining us.

T. Szigethy provided an update on future AOD events; several programs for athletics, Greek organizations, and other student organizations. AOD will be purchasing a drunk-driving simulation vehicle.

The Partnership discussed UConn's opening weekend and weekends in the fall semester.

- L. Killarney said student behavior on these weekends needs to be taken as seriously as that on Spring Weekend.
- Partnership discussed fall weekends becoming increasingly problematic.
- E. Paterson will set up a meeting with University and Town officials to discuss this phenomenon.
- Partnership will discuss this issue in future meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45



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