

Mansfield Community-Campus Partnership  
Minutes September 7, 2007

Members Present:

Betsy Paterson, John Saddlemire, Frank Christison-Lagay, Tom Szigethy, Mike Ninteau, Kevin Grunwald, Tom, Cathy Downs, Jim Hintz, Jane Freid, Julie Elkins, Ryan McHardy, Colin Brennan, Meghan Perrone, Jeanine Clark , Mathew Grilli, New England Management, Justin Carriage House resident.

Minutes Approved with one correction to the spelling of Mike Ninteau.

2) Off-campus Outreach Visits- On September 4,5,and 6<sup>th</sup> a group of individuals assembled each day to share information to Mansfield Student residents. Each day a mixed group of town officials, university officials, and students who talked with residents and provided handouts on the following: The MCCP, Town ordinances, Student Code Extend off-campus, NACSA discount (which include signs of ETOH poisoning), coupon books, contact sheet town and university offices. We also invited students to participate in the three town events of Know Your Town, Fireworks, and Festival on the Green.

Students were open and responsive. Officials responded to a number of several on the spot questions and received many thank you's for coming by. Tom Ryba, stressed the change he had observed in the culture at Celeron. Ryba gave the residents strategies on how to work with Police when individual crash their parties.

There were a number of Carriage House residents that were very concerned about not being able to get back into Carriage on the weekends, and suggested ID cards for entry.

Kevin Grunwald was part of the group that visited a number of single-family homes. He said that they talked to resident a lot about the rental housing code. Many students shared how their homes had been upgraded through this program and were very appreciative.

Unfortunately there are several areas where there have been problems in houses due to large loud parties on Birch Road and Gurlyville Road. Jim Hitz and the Town have been following up with these students regarding these behaviors. For the second year, Silver Falls resident Lori Riley and her 2 children joined the group in reaching out to students living on Birch Road to help them understand how their behavior might impact their two children.

The group talked about the importance of these outreach efforts and strongly recommended that we continue this type of outreach to students.

### **Open Discussion on Issues and Strategies for Off-Campus Housing**

Meghan Perrone talked about the important of distinguishing between 1<sup>st</sup> and upper-class students. Perhaps residents should keep their doors shut, and keep track of who is at your own party. She suggested coining a phrase like take back Celeron, to encourage students to use new strategies to deter 1<sup>st</sup> year students from visiting parties they are not invited to.

Jane Fried talked about the overwhelming numbers of people, an estimated 7,000 people, at carriage house. She cautioned that if we just shut it down one place it would just move to another place. Jane thought that it was important the we look at a more comprehensive educational campaign, and the opportunities for education.

Justin, a resident of Carriage said that it is hard to keep it small and keep the kids out. He said that it is hard to know who is a freshman and who is not. Justin was very unhappy that the Chicken wire fence had been installed without any involvement of the residents and limited notification. He said he came home one day and saw it. Justin stated that last year his apartment was broken into and that he would like to live somewhere that is safer but that putting up a fence without at least notifying the residents was not the way to go. Justin thought that it was important to get the students involved. Justin shared that he had received an ID card for Carriage. The group asked to see the card, and thought that the cards were very easy to duplicate. Justin talked about the re-occurring problem of not being able to get to his own apartment due to the Carriage being shut down.

Justin emphasized that he really like the Police efforts into staffing DUI Check Points. He said that he liked the police presence. It communicated that it is not the place to try to do things. However, Carriage has a long reputation it is crazy. Justin stressed that having open communication with the town, and Aspen Management was critical.

Matt Hart, Town Manager talked about his discussions with the University and Aspen Management. There are supposed to be plans to install a fence that is permanent, not the current style that it is now. The fence does allow police to control and manage activity. It streamlines the visitors and manages crowds all in the interest of public safety.

Ryan McHardy emphasized the importance of communicating with student's p prior to the implementation of plans. He stated that it was critical to develop, steps to communicate with students, even if it felt like you were over communicating.

It was suggested that Off-Campus office provide leadership for convening students to be involved in creating solutions.

There were three main issues that Julie Elkins heard from Carriage House students during the outreach visits.

- 1) How do I get unwanted guests out of my apartment?
- 2) How do I get back to my apartment?
- 3) How can we increase safety at Carriage House?

The group posed the question "How do we get more students to table to talk about these issues together with management?"

Colin Brennan through that it was important to share information about the Police protocol to assist students in alleviated uninvited guests. Colin suggested an educational campaign on this topic.

Kevin Grunwald stated that it was important that we identify shared and common interest. He thought that safety is the common issue. Kevin talked about how Carriage House is a target for predators, escalation of violence and gang activity.

John Saddlemire stated that he was disappointed in the Aspen management. He hoped that they would make specific efforts to inform students in the future of any changes or issues.

The group talked about the importance of helping students moving off-campus so they can learn their right and responsibilities. One example is providing information on how to throw a party without it being a problem. The group looked to the Off-Campus Student Services Office to provide this in the future.

Ryan McHardy stated that from a student perspective there is often a feeling there is not a problem it is not broken. This applies to Carriage House and spring weekend. It is important to share empirical facts and information with students so they can see that there is a problem.

Betsy Paterson talked about how we had learned how to manage and contain spring weekend but this was at the expense staff, 250 officers in addition to many other University staff. Betsy talked about this was why it was important that we continue to work on the "White Paper" for spring weekend. Betsy is also

concerned with the weapons and gang activity that have been seen the past couple of years. Ryan McHardy stated that this was the first time he had heard of the weapons and gangs and thought it was important information to share broadly with students so they can see that there is a problem.

Julie Elkins suggested that we try non-traditional methods of assembling students in addition to traditional meetings such as creating a Facebook group or a blog to talk about issues at Carriage House.

Meghan Perrone talked about other outreach efforts She felt that panels are not helpful but it would be good to get out a survey but we would need to seek out the students.

It was suggested that Off-Campus Students service host an apartment meeting with pizza and for students to host the meeting. It was also suggested that a survey be constructed using survey monkey, an updated website and a blog. It was suggested that the meeting be held at 10pm at night when more students are around. The group felt that it was important to have a 2-prong approach, technologically and face-to-face.

The New England property is looking at putting a community center in one of their 15 properties at Hunting Lodge Apartments. This would be a place were students at that property could meet and have on-going programming. Community centers on site at New England property,

The group discussed the fact that at the beginning of each school year about ¼ of the 1<sup>st</sup> year class has not turned 18 yet which brings on a whole new level of legal concerns. One of the current issues in the alleged hit and run DUI case of 1<sup>st</sup> year student Carly Wines now involves the students who hosted the driver. They claim that they did not invite the driver to the party, he just showed up. Even if you don't invite a guest, you could still be held accountable for their actions based on the alcohol they consumed at your residence.

The group also talked about how Carriage and Celeron are victims of geography. They are poorly designed facility, they are close to campus and there are only so many places folks can go to. It is very concentrated.

Betsy Paterson talked about how the Town of Mansfield is 13,000, so the students are actually larger in population... Bottom line, there are a number of financial considerations that over tax town resources. However, it is critical that we find ways to keep all residents safe, students and fulltime residents.

### **Updates on Off-Campus Certifications**

They are right on schedule for completing certifications with over 600 units completed. Mike stated that they had an increase in complaints from full time

residents about a house on Gurlyville Road. Both the Off-Campus Office, and the Town followed up with the residents and the owner. The rental had not been registered or inspected. There was some question about whether the rental was owner occupied that would be outside the current regulations and therefore would not require registration or inspection. This type of exemption may need to be revisited by Town Council.

The office has begun systematic patrols of Mansfield to address the issue of blight. They have divided the area into 6 sections and assigned staff to do drive by observance of properties, 1 section per week to monitor the situation. They are also responding to complaint calls and investigating reports. It was suggested that a new link be featured on the MCCP site to call Mike regarding complaints. They are currently in the process of printing tickets that can be used for issuing citations to non-compliant residents.

#### **Grant Update**

The Prevention of Underage Drinking Grant that reports directly to the MCCP continues to meet on a monthly basis and is busy collecting data and assessing the needs of the area. They are moving into the next phase of the grant process to begin planning interventions based on the identified needs. A permittee from Villa has been attending the meetings and has already made a donation to the group. Julie Elkins has had conversations with the owner and has ordered a set of educational point of sale materials that can be used in area package stores. Villa has agreed to post them.

#### **Town Events**

The annual "Know Your Town Fair" will be held tomorrow, Saturday September 8, at the Community Center. On September 15, fireworks will be held along with a band and a picnic to kick off the Celebrate Mansfield weekend. The following day, Sunday September 16, 2007 will be the annual Festival on the Green.

**Next meeting will be Friday, October 5, 2007, 3pm Mansfield Community Center.**