Mansfield Community Campus Partnership
October 3, 2008
Mansfield Community Center
3PM-4:35PM


1. Meeting Minutes
Minutes from the September meeting were not ratified today. Instead, they will be ratified in the November meeting or via e-mail.

2. UConn’s Board of Trustees’ Review of Spring Weekend
The Board of Trustees (BOT) will hold a review of Spring Weekend to gather information before making recommendations regarding this event. The review will occur on October 9 in room 320 of the UConn Student Union and on October 15 in room 410 of the UConn Student Union. During these meetings, there will also be open forums on both days from 6:30PM-7:30PM. The MCCP will be invited to the BOT review on Thursday, October 9 at 4:30 PM.

Concerns were raised that participation would be limited since October 9 is Yom Kippur and because of the small size of the meeting rooms chosen. Any community member who cannot attend the meeting on the 9th is encouraged to submit a written statement through BOT member Louise Bailey.

Julie Elkins asked that MCCP members to divide into their constituency groups to determine what messages they would provide to the BOT.

Elkins then asked the MCCP members in attendance to break into subgroups by their affiliations to discuss what issues they wanted to bring to the BOT. The partnership reassembled—subgroups reported back to the larger group.

A. Matt Hart responded for the Town of Mansfield, and said that his group would like to address the following with the BOT:
   - History of MCCP
   - That the Town of Mansfield is glad that the University is taking joint ownership over the problems created by Spring Weekend.
   - Whether additional emergency services during Spring Weekend enable risky behavior by creating a false sense of security for students or protect students’ well-being.
   - The impact of Spring Weekend is most significant to Mansfield Residents and creates collateral damage in the forms of safety risks, neighborhood problems, overflow at hospitals, and individual injuries.
Although none have occurred, there is fear of larger issues appearing like homicide or death by overdose.

Can UConn continue to improve on-campus programming and start holding off-campus programming?

The cost to the state created by Spring Weekend is over $300k per year.

The promotion of Celeron and Carriage House as off-campus party sites, creates a feeling of these locations being “party central” and will draw large parties all year long.

Landlords pay extra because of Spring Weekend.

Acknowledge the partnership between the University and Town of Mansfield and such steps as the creation of the MCCP and Off-Campus Student Services office, but also question whether the Spring Weekend event should continue.

B. Jim Hintz and John Sobanik responded for Off-Campus Student Services and Celeron Apartment management respectively:

- The BOT should create a unified and informed group of stakeholders to coordinate efforts by the town, university, students, property managers/owners, and police.
- Property managers put a significant amount of money into trash removal and repairs during and after Spring Weekend. This is considered an “unwilling cost.”
- Managers are concerned about liability. They have been “marvelously lucky” that nothing serious has happened during Spring Weekend so far.
- The use of Town and State emergency resources makes the event seem sanctioned.
- Spring Weekend gives off-campus properties party reputations, and property managers are thus forced to deal with party situations throughout the year.

C. Seamus Keating responded for UConn undergraduates and the Undergraduate Student Government:

- Property managers trying to create policies to limit partying.
- Describing Spring Weekend as students’ “last hurrah” before finals and graduation.
- The number of students who do not participate in Spring Weekend.
- Those people taking part in Spring Weekend who have no relation to UConn have no sense of ownership.
- Creating mass on campus towings for cars on campus without UConn ID stickers.
- Possibly putting the Spring Weekend concert in X-Lot and fencing that area off to regulate entrances to X-Lot and possibly eliminate the unsanctioned X-Lot event.
- Whether or not having less police presence would cause more student destruction.
- Students need to be informed of the many costs of Spring Weekend in terms of money, manpower and prevention efforts.
• A return to the positive 1950s roots of Spring Weekend focused around the carnival, night events on campus, and (added by Liz Prince) fund raising.

D. Aliza Makuch, Liz Prince, and Tom Ryba responded for prevention services.
• Spring Weekend cannot be out-programmed because students who want to drink will drink regardless of other events.
• The amount of money and effort that goes into prevention programming creates a mild success at best. These resources could be better used elsewhere.
• Resources are pulled from across CT to address Spring Weekend: a whole 25 companies.
• Emergency personnel are put into danger by Spring Weekend.
• Shutting down unsanctioned Spring Weekend events will cause issues in the short term, but this technique can be positively effective in the long term.
• Just because prevention efforts are being made does not mean that a riot will not occur regardless. Large scale parties can cause similar problems throughout the rest of the year as well.

Julie Elkins summarized themes addressed by all these groups as follows:
• Concern for the safety of students, neighbors, and the state.
• Outsiders without an affiliation with UConn lack a sense of ownership, increase numbers of participants, and foster a sense of UConn as “party central.” Elkins added that there may be gang involvement as well.
• Cost for property owners, safety personnel, programming, and area colleges.

3. Mansfield Downtown Partnership Project
The MCCP viewed a presentation by the Mansfield Downtown Partnership detailing the project scope, timeline, and providing some time for question and answers.