Mansfield Community-Campus Partnership (MCCP) Meeting
October 14, 2010 4:00pm-5:30pm

Present: Jim Hintz, Mayor Betsy Paterson, Maria Capriola, John Jackman, Ashley Trotter, John Sobanik, Kevin Grunwald, Derek Debus, Morgan Miller, Beth DeRicco, Tina Hadley, Liz Austin, Gina DeVivo Brassaw

1. Welcome:
   Minutes were approved.

2. Presentations: Gina DeVivo Brassaw from UConn’s Community Outreach.
   As a part of the Department of Student Activities, Community Outreach offers students opportunities to engage in service related activities that enhance the quality of life of others in the community while enriching their own learning experience at the University of Connecticut. Community Outreach’s mission is to enrich learning at the University of Connecticut through preparing students to be active global citizens by engaging them in service activities that enhance the quality of life for both others and themselves.
   Community Outreach offers the following services:

   - One-time and regular service programs that meet self-identified community needs.
   - Volunteer and federal work-study positions in local human service agencies and schools.
   - Professional and leadership development for participants and coordinators.
   - Advising for individual students, student organizations, faculty and staff who desire assistance in developing a service-related project.
   - A point of access for community partners wishing to engage the UConn student body in public and community service initiatives.

   There are three ways that students can become involved:

   1. Semester Long Programs- These programs are with 30/40 community partners and local agencies. Students will volunteer on a weekly basis. Approximately 700 students are involved in this program each year. To find a listing of these agencies visit:
      http://www.studentactivities.uconn.edu/co_semester_long_programs.html
   2. Community Service Days- These Service days are coordinated through Mansfield Parks and Rec. along with the Mansfield Recycling Department. These days fall on the Saturday’s of each semester offering students about 2-4 hours of community service. Tasks include painting, raking leaves, playing Bingo games and more!
   3. Alternative Breaks- Alternative Break and Immersion Programs are service-learning experiences designed to heighten participants’ awareness of critical
social issues, enhance their individual growth, and prepare them for lifelong social action. Each weekend or weeklong trip integrates service, reflection and education and focus on topics as varied as poverty, hunger, housing, healthcare, and disaster relief. Trips are offered throughout the year in local and national destinations. Alternative Breaks give students an opportunity to meet new people, gain new experiences and to step away from traditional learning and living. Groups of 12 students are selected along with one group leader. Over 2,000 students participated last year alone.

One program in particular had a large impact on the community last year was the Give & Go Project. Give and Go encourages students to donate furniture, clothing, school supplies and food, as they move-out at the end of the semester, instead of throwing it away. Volunteers will help organize and sort donations, as well as motivate students to be more environmentally minded and recycle things they’re not taking home for the summer. With over 14 locations, volunteers collected 15,000 pounds of materials.

Mayor Paterson- Student Activities should come in front of the Town Council to express what students are doing in more detail. It would be beneficial for the Town to hear other ways in which the Town and University are collaborating to make a better community. It will help spread the message about the good that students are doing.

Beth DeRicco- Is there data that shows the savings for the town based on these efforts?

Gina DeVivo Brassaw- The cost measurements for tutoring for example might be hard to gauge but other numbers can be provided to show savings.

Jim Hintz- One group action item was to look at outreach opportunities as an organization to help promote positive interactions. This might be a way to connect to other organizations.

Gina DeVivo Brassaw- Lots of requests come through from non-profits. Developing new relationships can be difficult but referrals are always being accepted.

3. Updates: Jim Hintz

- **Town University Relations Committee**- The Spring Weekend (SW) discussion continues. Former UConn President, Michael Hogan, appointed members of the community to a task force to look at SW. Since the task force was created, the Mansfield Town Manager, Matt Hart and Mayor Betsy Paterson have joined. A recommendation that have been announced thus far is that the University will not offer any events or programs on SW.

Mayor Patterson- The most important thing that this task force is looking at is how this event happens and how it evolves. Students see SW as a ritual and a right as a member/student of the UConn community. Currently information is being collected to give an accurate understanding as to how much money is being spent.
Jim Hintz- Conversations around fall off-campus behavior and how to addresses these issues continue to evolve.
John Jackman- Staff members from the University, Town and property managers meet four times a year. Plans, goals, objectives and challenges are discussed. Today’s meeting (10/14) was to discuss the experiences around fall move in and the parties that seem to becoming larger each year. The consensus amongst this group is that students have been less compliant this year which resulted in more arrests and citations.

- **Quality of Life Committee:** Two main areas of interest that are currently being discusses is the Nuisance House Ordinance and the Model Lease Language for landlords.
The Nuisance House Ordinance- this ordinance would allow police to cite individuals who are causing disruptive behavior with a fine of $250. The Mansfield Town attorney is looking into the accountability of this ordinance. A draft will be moving forward and shared with the MCCP committee.
Beth DeRicco- Different language around nuisance policies has been used at other institutions. Looking at models such as St. Cloud, MN will help differentiate house parties vs. apartment complex parties. St. Cloud, MN won a federal grant because of their work.

4. **Fall Outreach Feedback:** A summary of the survey results for the MCCP Door-to-Door visits will be provided. Off-Campus Community Leaders will be visiting students in the various complexes and houses that the MCCP volunteers visited to ask them a series of brief questions. When this survey is finalized the results will be shared with the group.
The Off-Campus Cookouts were successful. People enjoyed the Bingo game as well as the prizes. There was a good interaction between residents and students. Next year one goal is to get more students to attend the event at Phil Barry’s house and more residents to attend the event at Hunting Lodge Apartments.
Kevin Grunwald- there was more interaction/mixing among students and residents at Phil Barry’s house then there was last year.
Mayor Paterson- Many good conversations amongst residents and student took place. It was overall a great experience and beneficial. Hopefully next year there will be an even greater presence.
Know Your Towns Fair & Festival on the Green- the Know Your Towns Fair and Festival on the Green were staffed by Off-Campus Student Services staff members who are paid to attend. Volunteers for future events would be appreciated. The Plinko Game was a huge hit at both events.
Beth DeRicco- Maybe next year student staff can help manage these events and just adjust their work hours for that week so that they are available on the weekend(s). Derek Debus- Department heads can also request their staff to work these events, even if it is only for an hour.
5. **Town of Mansfield Police Study:** The Town of Mansfield is participating in a police study to look at their resident trooper program. Currently the program has a small number of officers. This survey will look at ways to better provide police services to the community. On October 28th at 5pm there will be an opportunity for the MCCP and the Quality of Life Committee to participate in an open discussion. Student transportation to this can be provided.

Maria Capriola- There are two major components that the consultants are looking at. One is to analyze the data that is provided and the second is to try and get a sense on what the community expects and what services they are willing to pay for. An online survey will also be sent out to the community to get additional information. Next week a press release will include a link to the survey as well as upcoming public information sessions. For additional information email Maria at CapriolaME@mansfieldct.org.

6. **Subcommittees:**
   a. **Legislative Agenda-** This committee would be working to take action items that the MCCP have agreed upon (an example would be Mandatory Server Training) to present as a legislative agenda. Volunteers for this subcommittee: Beth DeRicco, Kevin Grunwald, John Sobanik and Mayor Paterson.
   b. **Healthy Initiative Grant-** This grant is being provided through the Department of Mental Health and Addictions Services (DMHAS). DMHAS is rebuilding their collation work with grant money that towns can apply for in late November/early December. One area of this grant is a “30 Day Drinking Rate” which is a $20,000 federal grant and is potentially renewable for 3 years. Preliminary conversations about what to apply for to make meaningful to the MCCP can be around host responsibility and addressing access to alcohol. This subcommittee can look at ideas and input of all. It is a short term commitment.

Beth DeRicco- DMHAS is looking at certain bodies of literature. If the MCCP chooses things on that list and possibly works together with other institutions such as ECSU, it would be more of a compelling argument and proposal for this grant money.

Volunteers for this subcommittee: Kevin Grunwald, Beth DeRicco and Mayor Paterson.

7. **November Meeting Date Change:** The next MCCP meeting would be scheduled for November 11th, 2010. Since this meeting is on Veteran’s day the group will meet the following Thursday, November 18th from 4-5:30pm in the Town Council Chambers. Linda Major from the University of Nebraska will be speaking her effort to address alcohol related problems in the community. Jim Hintz will invite others to attend.

8. **New Issues/ Ideas for Future Meetings:** Kevin Grunwald- Officer Christopher Bartolotta from the Connecticut State Police not able to attend the October MCCP meeting but would like to attend the December meeting. The MCCP will extend the invite for this meeting to ECSU staff.
The Tri-Town Collation to Reduce Underage Drinking is discussing core measures having to do with 30 day use and prescription drugs. Discussions with the community will follow.

Maria Capriola- An updated report on blight reduction measures the concept of litter. UConn students will now have a Monday morning trash pickup which is a huge improvement from Friday morning pickups. Jim Hintz is working on getting trash cans for Hunting Lodge Road. The University is currently looking at vendors.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm