Mansfield Community-Campus Partnership (MCCP) Meeting
March 24th, 2011 4:00pm-5:30pm

Present: Mayor Betsy Paterson, Jim Hintz, John Jackman, Tina Hadley, John Sobanik, Kevin Grunwald, Nancy Silander, Ashley Hudd-Trotter, Christine McGrath, Morgan Miller, Fran Raiola, Amanda Albert, Maria Capriola, Derek Debus, Thomas Ryba

1) Welcome

2) Minutes - Any changes in the minutes from February 11th, 2011 can be sent to Jim Hintz.

3) Updates
   a.) Town-University Relations Committee: Matt Heart gave an update on the police study and commended the MCCP on the Healthy Campus Initiative Grant that was awarded. The Mansfield Downtown Festival will take place on Saturday, September 25th at the E.O. Smith High School because of construction. The Downtown is partnering with UConn’s School of Fine Arts to celebrate their 50th year.
   b.) Quality of Life Committee: Two initiatives are still developing. The Nuisance Ordinance is still at the Attorney General’s Office. The Large Gathering Ordinance has not been recommended to the council and is not out of committee yet. The next meeting is on April 7th at 7pm. The group invited Chief Dagon as well as a representative from the State Police to the next meeting.

4) Spring Weekend Visits and Cookouts
   “Spring Weekend” this year falls on Easter weekend. The Spring Weekend Taskforce gave recommendations which were approved. It is still unclear if students will plan to go home this weekend, move it to the weekend before, or continue like in previous years. The town and university are preparing for all scenarios.

   Mayor Paterson- Town Manager of Mansfield, Matt Heart and Mayor Paterson both served as town representatives on the Spring Weekend Taskforce. They joined the committee in late September when about 90% of the decisions were already made. Mayor Paterson does not believe that canceling University events that weekend was a good idea because they were the only activities that provided students something to do rather than drink all day. Mayor Paterson is not 100% behind every aspect of the taskforce’s recommendations.

   John Jackman- Easter has never fallen on Spring Weekend before so this is a new challenge to everyone. Things are starting to come together and it seems as though information will be provided to the parties involved by the end of next week. The recent
meeting with off-campus stakeholders, including landlords shows that plans are in the process and people understand the complexities and uncertainties.

Mayor Paterson- Everyone has the same goal which is to keep students safe and informed. It is the responsibility of the officials to make sure of this. The town and university are on the same page and dealing with issues together, in the same direction to make it a student celebration of accomplishments.

Jim Hintz- A promising recommendation from the landlords was to provide the same expectations and information to all residents in a general and consistent message. The spring MCCP visits will take place at Clubhouse Apartments at 4pm on April 5th, Celeron Square Apartments at 4pm on April 7th and Carriage House Apartments at 11am on April 8th. We will have a cookout at both Celeron and Carriage. Jim will send out information in an email later on today and also reach out to property managers to get specific messages for residents. These visits are two weeks before the typical “Spring Weekend” would take place and the message will be kept simple.

Fran Raiola- Does the MCCP give information out about fires, safety, etc?

John Jackman- During the spring visits the MCCP gives out welcome bags to off-campus residents and these bags contain all of that information and much more.

Christine McGrath- Anything that goes out to the students should be short and to the point. The Student Affairs committee is working on getting information together and out to students. Connor from USG will be in contact with Jim Hintz.

John Jackman- There has been a campaign in the past to work with package store owners to refrain from selling glass bottles however they are still in the business to sell. They also avoid selling kegs.

3) Healthy Campus Initiative Grant Update
The Subcommittee is working on a mandated CORE survey which is a national survey that measures students, faculty and staff on alcohol use and education from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Another part of the grant is to do activities around awareness. Carolyn Lin and John Sobanik are working on specifics. These activities will be hosted with the tenants of Celeron Square Apartments. It will also provide educational training for all landlords in the area on responsible party hosting while measuring the effectiveness of different strategies.

Kevin Grunwald- Carolyn Lin is working to get the IRB all set and to develop a potential model to educate residents of safe party hosting, laws, and lease information. Hopefully it will end with a model that can be used on other areas of the community.
Jim Hintz - The intention is to pilot the program at Celeron Square and the key aspect it to make sure to use strategies that are effective but that also don’t drive away tenants and to develop reasonable expectations that are adaptable at other locations.

6.) End of Year Celebration
Jim Hintz - In all of the work that has been done over the past few years, the MCCP has not taken the time to celebrate all of its accomplishments. This year the MCCP will host an end of the year celebration on April 28th from 4-5:30pm.