Mansfield Community-Campus Partnership (MCCP)
Mansfield Town Hall, Council Chambers
September 8, 2011 4pm-5:30pm

Present: Mayor Betsy Paterson, Jim Hintz, John Jackman, Kevin Grunwald, Ashley Trotter, Carolyn Lin, Adam Fountaine, Thomas Ryba, Derek Debus, Morgan Miller, Matt Hart, John Sobanik, Maria Capriola

1) Welcome

2) Minutes- Approved by Kevin Grunwald and Jim Hintz

3) Updates
   a. Town-University Relations Committee- An update was given on the status of the Mansfield Police Study and the Storrs Center Project.

   b. Quality of Life Committee- The next meeting is today, September 8th at 7pm.

   c. Healthy Campus Initiative Grant Update- Next week a survey will go out to the property managers and police officers who attended the workshops that were provided over the summer. Carolyn Lin put together and developed an original set of questions around underage party hosting and responsibilities. Carolyn is waiting on the Institutional Review Board before moving forward. Adam Fountaine is pulling together all of the Off-Campus Community Leaders to help distribute surveys in Celeron Square Apartments.

4) Irene Storm Issues/Response
   Mayor Paterson- Town staff and personnel did and excellent job in responding. The Town of Mansfield provided shelter, charging stations, internet and showers at the Mansfield Community Center. UConn’s Dining Services worked with E.O. Smith High School to provide free meals to town residents. A special thanks to Dennis Pierce who went above and beyond with his assistance and dedication to the town in providing food and beverages.
   Matt Hart- Public Works engaged in tree removal and worked closely with CL&P. Mansfield had the same frustrations as many town with the communication and restoration efforts being made by CL&P. Mayor Paterson asked Congressman Courtney’s office for a review and to see how to do things better in the future.
   Kevin Grunwald- The staff and volunteers really pulled together in this difficult time. Almost 300 people a day came to shower at the Community Center. Residents really appreciated what was being provided.
   Jim Hintz- Off-Campus Student Services (OCSS) provided information to students by going door-to-door and handing out safety information on how to prepare before the storm. After the storm, the OCSS staff again went to each residence to provide information on showering, charging electronics, water, safety, food removal and more. After assessing what was needed, OCSS brought in a water tanker to provide water for flushing purposes.
Mayor Paterson- What was the rush to have students move in right before the storm? Why wasn’t this move in date changed?

Jim Hintz- The thoughts were that since UConn houses 80% of its students, that UConn would be ok.

5) **Fall Weekend Issues**- There are efforts in looking to address weekend concerns. Matt Hart called a meeting with the State Police and the UConn Police to address last weekend’s activities.

Matt Hart- Move in weekend provided one busy night, Friday and then the hurricane hit. On Labor Day weekend, the State Police used the No Trespassing Ordinance to restrict entry to only tenants and guests. Police and landlords were met with resistance from party goers at Celeron and Carriage House Apartments, and students later congregated down the street to Hunting Lodge Apartments and various homes. It is important to now determine goals and strategies to employ. In past years containment and litigation have been the methods used while still trying to provide available resources to the remainder of the town.

Mayor Paterson- Did Carriage House provide the same efforts as Celeron this year as far as working with the town, university and police? Many complexes have stepped up and implemented policies to keep things under control. Carriage House needs to step up and do something if they are going to continue to tolerate this behavior.

Matt Hart- Carriage House hired two State Police to patrol the area however no management was present. They noted financial issues as a reason for the lack of response.

Jim Hintz- Jim met with the new Resident Trooper who was very supportive of helping and providing information to Off-Campus Student Services. There have been calls from the Willimantic Police as well as the Coventry Police about students living off-campus in those areas. Citations and information from local police departments helps UConn address issues of violating the Student Code of Conduct.

6) **Mansfield Downtown Partnership**- On September 23rd-25th the Town of Mansfield will celebrate its 5th Annual Festival on the Green. Friday there will be a wine tasting at the Altmaveigh Inn & Restaurant. Saturday will be Picnicpalooza behind E.O. Smith High School and Sunday will be the Parade and Festival. It is a great way to get to know the community and take a tour of the new downtown. MCCP will have a tent and volunteers are welcome. An email requesting volunteers will be sent out via the ListServ.

7) **Mansfield Police Study**- Maria Capriola hosted a conversation with the MCCP around the proposed suggestions from the Mansfield Police Study. The summary of alternative costs as well as the various options can be found on page 43 of the review.

**Alternative One- Town of Mansfield Police Department**

- Substantial costs associated with this alternative.
- Seems unrealistic and impractical. If resources were no object, it would be a great option, but that is not the case.
- More control is needed over direction and priorities.
Alternative Two- Enhance the Resident Trooper Program

- Adding 4 troopers seems cost effective by only paying 70% of costs except overtime.
- This option would fill all three shifts 24/7 365 days a year with a minimum of two troopers on at all time.
- Direct access to Connecticut State Police resources at little to no extra cost.
- Most cost effective model and builds capacity.
- Model gives flexibility to make staffing increase and decrease based on community need and willingness to pay.

Alternative Three- Contracting with UConn

- Mansfield Town contracts with Uconn PD for added services.
- This depends on UConn’s willingness and it seems so far that in conversations, it does not look like UConn will be participating or willing to work with this option.
- With new management at the UConn PD, things could change.
- You could do a hybrid of options one and three and hire two Resident Troopers and have two UConn PD officers work to cover the town and surrounding areas.
- There are jurisdictional issues when overlapping these two departments. One needs to be the primary responder.
- Enforcement of local town ordinances could provide a challenge.

Alternative Four- Regional Policing

- This is a joint department model, joining with local departments such as Coventry PD, Tolland PD, etc.
- This model is comparing to Coventry costs
- Coventry and Mansfield’s busy seasons are on opposite schedules. Coventry is busy in the summer and Mansfield September-May.
- There needs to be a deeper discussion on the budget adoption process.

Alternative Five- Hybrid Model

- Over time, this model works towards a standalone PD for Mansfield, replacing Resident Troopers with Town Officers.
- Capital costs under option one would have to be factored in.
- This model replaces four troopers with four town officers.
- Initially, all Mansfield officers would report to the senior town officer while that senior officer would then report to the junior State Police Officer. Success would depend on personalities.
Alternative Six- No Change

- Not an option, the purpose of this study was to make changes.
- Resources are needed, they cannot be ignored.
- Don’t expect changes in problems without changes in resources.

The Mansfield Town Council requested firm recommendations by late fall. With any model it is possible to phase in troopers over time. Jim Hintz will identify a list of active MCCP members to participate in this study.

8) **Fall Welcome Visits/Neighborhood Cookouts**- Jim Hintz has mailed out all of the MCCP welcome visit dates and times. The rain caused initial cancelations however visits will resume next week on September 14th at Renwood. Volunteers are still needed and talking points will be given to all volunteers at the beginning of each visit.

9) **New Issues/Ideas for Future Meeting Presentations**-
   - John Sobanik- There should be better advertisement for the MCCP on the Mansfield Town Webpage.
   - Maria Capriola- Will look into a press release for the off-campus visits and at adding a link to the homepage under announcements.

   Contact Jim Hintz with any suggestions for upcoming meeting ideas.