

TOWN/UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, February 9, 2010  
Audrey Beck Municipal Building, Council Chambers

Minutes

Present: P. Barry, R. Ganim, M. Hart, J. Hintz, R. Hudd, S. Kremer (for J. Saddlemire), C. Paulhus, S. Rhodes, W. Simpson

Staff: M. Capriola, G. Padick, C. van Zelm  
(UCONN) R. Miller, J. Coite

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm.

2. January 12, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Barry made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hintz to adopt the minutes of January 12, 2010 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Updates

a. *Spring Weekend 2010 Planning Update.* Mr. Rhodes provided an update.

Planned initiatives include: increased traffic stops both in town and in neighboring communities and a central command post for all agencies.

b. *USDA/UCONN Project.* Mr. Rhodes provided an update. The public information session on the project will be conducted by the USDA and held some time in late February.

c. *Mansfield Downtown Partnership (MDP).* Ms. van Zelm provided an update. The MDP student reception for UCONN students was postponed due to weather; it will be rescheduled. Winter Fun Day will be held 2/13. Design plans for Storrs Road are approximately 30% complete. A rendering of the design concept is available online at the MDP's website. A public information session will be held to update citizens on Storrs Road plans.

d. *Mansfield Community Campus Partnership (MCCP).* Mr. Hintz provided an update. At its January meeting, MCCP discussed ideas/topics from the UMASS Amherst presentation. At its upcoming February meeting, MCCP will begin to discuss goal setting and action items for the group.

e. *Four Corners Sewer and Water Project.* Mr. Hart provided an update. The Council's "Four Corners" advisory committee is reviewing the feasibility and options for providing water and sewer infrastructure to the area. UCONN will be able to provide sewer service to the area. There are 3 possible water source options at this time, which do not include UCONN's system. The project would enhance the commercial viability of the area and remediate some environmental issues with the soils and water in that area.

4. Mirror Lake Project

Mr. Miller and Mr. Coite provided an overview of the Mirror Lake project. The overview included the history of the lake, current problems, solutions, dredging

methods, Smith College benchmark, sedimentation and water quality, and permits and schedule.

Mirror Lake was originally constructed for aesthetic and recreational purposes. Over time, the University has come to rely on Mirror Lake for stormwater management purposes. The Lake has not been dredged since 1968; sedimentation has built up and the average depth is 2.4 feet, maximum depth is 4.9 feet, and in some spots is as shallow as 1 foot. The University now cleans its catch basins more regularly and has reduced the amount of sand it uses during winter storms; these measures should help mitigate future sedimentation build-up.

The University has selected the hydraulic suction method to remove the sedimentation build-up; this project will help the University to regain functionality of the pond. This method is less disruptive to the Lake and Roberts Brook, the natural water level will be maintained, and the fish habitat and shoreline wetlands will be maintained. Sediment testing of the Lake has occurred. The contamination is non-hazardous but unsuitable for reuse. The removed sedimentation will be disposed off-site at an approved lined landfill. 17,100 cubic feet of sedimentation will be removed.

The permitting process is extensive and is underway. In Spring 2010, the University plans to hold public hearings, submit permits and hire contractors. In late May (after graduation) to early Fall the University will establish work areas, remove the sediment, dispose of the sediment, and re-establish landscaping at the site.

5. Other Business/Announcements

Mr. Rhodes provided an update on the classroom building construction that will replace Monteith and Arjona. West Classroom Building is still underway. However, the second building is on hold; the Governor has frozen bond authorization for the second building.

Mr. Hintz inquired and Ms. Capriola provided an update on the status of the Town's police services study RFQ.

6. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Committee  
None.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Barry made a motion, seconded by Mr. Simpson to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm

Next Meeting: March 9, 2010

Respectfully Submitted,  
Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager