

Bellingham-Western Washington University Campus Community Coalition

Friday, November 3, 2006
Fairhaven College Courtyard Meeting Room
Western Washington University

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Anna Carey, WWU New Student Programs	Kevin Majkut, WWU Viking Union Student Activities
April Markiewicz, Samish Neighborhood Assn	Kevin McClain, WWU Associated Students
Barbara Brandt, South Hill Neighborhood Assn	Kirsten Walker, Downtown Renaissance Network
Barbara Hudson, NW Rental Owners Assn	Kristi Coy, CLX Rentals
Barney Goltz, Cornwall Neighborhood Assn	Kristina Mader, WWU Associated Students Legal Information Center
Bianca Smith, WWU Police	Lara Welker, Campus Community Coalition
Brian Waller, The Beaver Inn	Lidia Tillman-McAdoo, Rental Property Owner
Buff Schoenfeld, WWU President's Office	Louise Bjornson, Bellingham City Council
Cara Black, WWU Student	Marie Sather, WWU Campus Recreation Services
Carmen Werder, WWU Communications; Teaching & Learning Academy	Mark Iozzi, WWU Associated Students
Christine Burkhart, Bellingham Police Department	Mark Young, Bellingham Police Department
Courtney Dundes, WWU Student	Mary Gamache, WWU Prevention & Wellness Services
David Albright, WWU Student	Michael Schardein, WWU Judicial Affairs
Sergeant David Garcia, WWU Police Department	Michael Sledge, WWU Residence Life
Devlin O'Donnell, WWU Prevention & Wellness Services	Michael "Zippo" Parzick, The Nightlight Lounge
Dick Conoboy, Samish Neighborhood	Nancy Davis, South Hill Neighborhood Assn.
Drew LaMonte, WWU Student	Nick Dunlap, WWU Student
Elliott Smith, York Neighborhood Assn	Pat Wentworth, St. Joseph's Hospital
Elva Giddings, WWU Prevention & Wellness Services	Paul Cocke, WWU Office of Communications
Erwin Lloyd, Puget Neighborhood Assn	Rafael Lucatero, WA State Liquor Control Board
Frank Ordway, Downtown Renaissance Network	Richard Maneval, Alabama Hill Neighborhood Assn
Heather Layton, WWU Student	Ryan Anderson, City of Bellingham Attorney's Office
Iain Davidson, Association of Bellingham Neighborhoods	Sandi Jones, Ebright-Wight Property Management
Joe Fuller, Whatcom County Health Department	Stefan Kalb, WWU Associated Students
John Hymas, Happy Valley Neighborhood Assn	Steve Felmley, Bellingham Police Department
John Martin, WA State Liquor Control Board	Sue Anderson, Whatcom Coalition for Healthy Communities
John Purdie, WWU Residence Life	Susan Adams, Campus Community Coalition
Josh Bergman, WWU Student	Tom Dixon, WA State Liquor Control Board
Kate Nichols, Happy Valley Neighborhood Association	Van Hudson, NW Rental Owners Assn
Kathryn Hanowell, City of Bellingham Mayor's Office	Wendy Henerlau, WWU Prevention & Wellness Services
Kent Dickerson, Dickerson Distributing	

Lara Welker welcomed the group, and members introduced themselves. Lara extended a special welcome to people attending a Coalition meeting for the first time.

CCC project updates

Lara gave a brief overview of the Coalition's programs to orient the newcomers. She noted that last year the work was focused on developing and implementing new programs and activities, and acknowledged the important role that the work groups played.

- The Off-Campus WWU website was launched
- The Neighborhood Service Alternative program was pilot tested and established
- Late Night at WWU was initiated
- Enforcement education was increased

Lara stated that this year the focus will be more on maintaining and nurturing the new programs, promoting them so they reach as many people as possible, and capitalizing on how the different efforts interface and inter-reinforce each other to create a synergistic effect where “the whole is greater than the sum of the parts”.

(Please see the attached “CCC Update” for more detail.)

LateNight@WWU

Marie Sather reported on the Late Night events that took place the first week of fall quarter. The emphasis was on providing students with alternative social events during their entry or re-entry to campus the first two weekends of the quarter. Event attendance was double that of last year, which was attributed to good publicity as well as the support and promotion by Residence Life staff.

LateNight@the Wade King Student Recreation Center took place the Monday night before classes started and was a huge success, attracting 3,000 students. The focus was on creating a space for students to engage in healthy, fun activities and meet friends or reconnect with other students. The Rec Center Late Night offered activities such as sports, games, inflatable jousting, a movie, a dance, and a \$2 taco bar. LateNight@the Viking Union took place the first Friday night of the quarter, and was also very successful, with about 1,800 students attending. Activities included a concert, speed dating, a hypnotist, a dance, poster sales, and a \$2 spaghetti feed. A consistent suggestion by the students who attended was to have free food, and the LateNight work group will continue to explore ways to offer free food at future events.

The discussion turned to how Late Night programming at the beginning of the year impacts students’ participation in campus activities during the rest of the year. Lara and Kevin Majkut observed that since this is only the second year that Late Night has been in place, it is difficult to determine its effect on students’ interest and behaviors later in the year. Anna Carey reported that student involvement in campus activities is up across the board this year, and John Purdie added that the increased emphasis on late night programs in Residence Halls has also contributed to late night options and students’ participation.

Neighborhoods Engaging with Students (NEST)

Let’s Talk Forum

Susan Adams reported on the Let’s Talk Forum that took place on October 18. The Let’s Talk Forum is based in the Communications Department and allows WWU students to discuss pertinent concerns. Last year, the Coalition partnered with the Communications Department to offer a forum on what it meant for students to be a community member. This fall’s forum grew out of the issues raised in last years’ discussions, and was entitled, “Living Together in Bellingham: Student Parties, Enforcement Practices, and Neighborly Relations.” It was held at the American Museum of Radio and Electricity, and drew about 60 students, community members, and law enforcement personnel. Participants discussed problems encountered between students, long-term residents and law enforcement personnel, and what steps could be taken to help alleviate them.

Susan invited comments from those who attended the forum. Dick Conoboy felt that more interaction with the panelists would have been informative, as well as hearing from students who had received noise or alcohol-related citations. Kathryn Hanowell felt that there was important and challenging exchange between students and law enforcement personnel. Lt. Steve Felmley said that the small group discussion provided an important face-to-face interaction.

WWU student Courtney Dundas felt it was valuable to hear the perspectives of the enforcement personnel, and was surprised to learn that officers are not generally eager to do party enforcement. Carmen Werder noted that her students commented that it was not all “making nice.” The different views and disagreement were difficult, and points to the fact that this can’t be a “drive-by dialogue.”

There was general agreement that the forum was effective in fostering one-on-one interaction for more effective communication, and that continuing this format would be valuable. Several people noted that the forum did not attract students who were disruptive in neighborhoods, and suggestions were made to make participation in a Let’s Talk Forum a community service requirement for those with party-related citations.

Susan announced that another forum with the same topic will be held during winter quarter, with an invitation going out to Coalition members.

Off-Campus WWU

Susan announced that since its May 2006 launching, there have been 3,395 visits to the Off-Campus WWU website. The site features four sections: Moving into Your Own Place, Be the Neighbor Everybody Loves, Partying in Bellingham, and Get Involved in Your Neighborhood. There are currently about 450 visits to the site each month, and the most frequently visited sections are Moving into Your Own Place and Partying in Bellingham.

Currently the focus is on promoting the website. For example, the logo and link are prominently displayed on WWU’s Student Life and Off-Campus Housing Registry websites, and the Legal Information Center will be linked soon. Off-Campus WWU magnets were attached to the 3,000 doorknockers distributed throughout the Sehome, York and Happy Valley neighborhoods before the start of the fall quarter. There will also be an Off-Campus WWU information table at the Viking Union at end of the quarter to show the website.

Think Locally - Act Neighborly Educational Doorknockers

The Coalition distributed 3,000 doorknockers throughout the Sehome, York and Happy Valley neighborhoods before the start of the fall quarter. The doorknockers were similar to last year’s with information about being a good neighbor and alcohol-related citations, and they also featured Off-Campus WWU magnets. This year 25 WWU students and long-term residents distributed the doorknockers together in teams and pairs.

Letter to Rental Property Owners

This fall the Coalition and the neighborhood associations in York, Sehome, and Happy Valley joined together to send letters to the 957 rental property owners in York, Sehome and Happy Valley. The letter emphasizes that rental owners have a unique role in setting clear expectations for their renters in encouraging them to be good neighbors. It reviews city ordinances regarding parking, litter, and noise and gives them information about the Block Watch program, Crime Free Multi-Housing training, and other resources.

Iain Davidson asked how many students live in those neighborhoods. Lara stated there was a map showing student residence distribution based on 2004 Registrar’s data, but that not all WWU students provide local addresses. She stated she would send the map out with the meeting minutes.

Enforcement

This fall the Bellingham Police Department continued its party enforcement, with University Police officers joining them for some patrols. The Liquor Control Board is also continuing its intensified compliance checks in the area within two miles of campus.

Lt. Steve Felmley reported that Party Patrol and Liquor Law Emphasis Patrols have been out every weekend for the first seven weeks of fall quarter. He shared some preliminary data on party and alcohol citations compared with the same period last year. Alcohol citations were about the same as last year. 911 calls reporting loud parties decreased, but there was an increase in noise violations, so the actual level of disturbance may be about the same. He explained that the Party Patrol is an overtime duty staffed on a voluntary basis, and it is a challenge getting officers to sign up for the shift.

It was asked whether or not it is known how many people attending these parties are WWU students. Lt. Felmley stated that officers try to gather that information to report to the Coalition, but it is just an estimate.

Lt. Felmley noted that the Police Department also continues to notify rental owners regarding citations issued at their properties. Officer Mark Young said that letters sent to rental property owners informing them of citations have dropped from 140 in 2005 to 98 this year. He also noted that some owners have evicted renters based on the citation notification, along with other problems.

Lara pointed out that there is a real interface between enforcement education and some of the NEST components. For example, one side of the doorknockers is devoted to enforcement, the Let's Talk Forum is a venue to discuss enforcement, and the Off-Campus WWU website's "Partying in Bellingham" is one of the most visited sections. In addition, the Coalition has placed weekly ads designed by student Zach Stevenson in the *Western Front*. The ads ask "Is it Worth It?" and show the cost of an MIP citation and what those dollars could have bought

(Please see the attached "Is It Worth It Ads".)

Work Groups

Lara explained that the Coalition is supported by work groups focusing on specific projects or emphasis. This year the function of most of the work groups will remain the same, but the Neighborhoods Engaging with Students groups will be restructured. Last year there were several Neighborhoods Engaging with Students (NEST) work groups, each focusing on specific projects; this year the neighborhood focus will be unified under a single "Neighborhood Engagement" work group. The Steering Committee will be reconvened this year after a two-year hiatus to look at new directions and strategies of the Coalition. Because this group is small, Lara will make any adjustments needed to make it a balanced mix of "member groups" or "stakeholders." She asked members to indicate their interest in continuing with or joining a work group before leaving the meeting.

Looking ahead: the future work of the CCC

Lara gave an update on the CCC funding. The Coalition is currently funded by a grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, part of the National Institutes of Health. This is the start of the third and final year of the grant, which will be over at the end of August 2007. New grant funding is being explored, but no grant opportunities have been identified or pursued. Lara said that there is also discussion regarding Western's financial support of the Coalition, and that there is definitely administrative commitment to continue the Coalition in

some capacity. However, there are many budget decisions to be made, and nothing definite has been determined in terms of institutional funding.

Despite the uncertainty of funding sources, Lara stated that most likely some version of the Coalition will continue. She asked for members' input on where to focus the Coalition's future work, specifically requesting members to write their suggestion on:

- 1) What aspects of the Coalition's current work should be continued? and
- 2) What NEW strategies should the Coalition pursue in the next 3-5 years?

Lara invited participants to share their ideas. The Let's Talk Forum was seen as important work and elicited a lot of response. Elliott Smith said that he felt the need to continue with the Let's Talk Forum and to bring it out to a broader audience. Cara Black concurred and wanted to see it offered more frequently than on a quarterly basis. Marie Sather suggested that Let's Talk be used as a form of community service for alcohol-related citations, with graduation contingent upon attendance. Ryan Anderson responded that it would be valuable for people cited to listen to how their actions impact others, along the lines of a "victims' impact panel".

Elliott Smith said that many students are of legal age to drink, and it is unrealistic to expect students to not drink. He felt that working to reduce harmful drinking and to minimize its negative impact on the community was a more realistic goal. Van Hudson stated that students know the Party Patrols focus on the first part of the fall quarter, and suggested random emphasis patrols later in the quarter.

Mark Young asked if there were some way to identify students who were moving off campus to provide them with a packet of information. John Purdie pointed out that LateNight events attract on-campus students, which are the minority population. He wondered if the money might be better spent sponsoring events that would attract off-campus students. Josh Bergman said that as an off-campus student he is not interested in returning to campus at night and felt that it was important to build relationships in the neighborhoods to encourage mutual respect. Kristie Coy suggested creating LateNight events off campus, such as a movie or barbecue. Mark Iozzi remarked that students find time to go to bars, so they could find time to attend an off-campus event, and that many go to the outdoor movies in Fairhaven. He did not feel that the ads in the Western Front promoting neighborhood associations were appealing to students. Zippo Parzick suggested integrated activities where residents, students and law enforcement personnel participated in off-campus social events like a barbecue, in order to foster increased understanding.

(For a complete summary of members' comment, please see the attached "CCC Future Work Comments.")

Lara thanked Coalition members for their comments and suggestions. She announced that the next quarterly meeting would be in February, and invited people to contact her with any questions, concerns or suggestions in the meantime.

Following the discussion, Susan Adams announced that Lara was the recipient of Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center's Peace Builder Awards for her work as the coordinator of the Campus Community Coalition. Lara thanked members for their commitment and expertise that makes the Coalition's work successful.