

Bellingham-Western Washington University Campus Community Coalition

Friday, May 4, 2007
Fairhaven College Chart Room Meeting Room
Western Washington University

Meeting Minutes

Present:

April Markiewicz, Samish Neighborhood Association
Barbara Brandt, South Hill Neighborhood Association
Barbara Hudson, NW Rental Owners Association
Barney Goltz, Cornwall Neighborhood Association
Ben Gilmer, State Street Depot Bar and Grill
Brian Tines, The Royal / Fairhaven Pub & Martini Bar
Chris Berry, The Shalom Center
Darren Sandstrom, Bellingham Police Department
Dave Doll, Bellingham Police Department
David Garcia, University Police Department
Devlin O'Donnell, WWU Prevention & Wellness Services
Dick Conoboy, Samish Neighborhood
Doug Dahl, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office
Elliott Smith, WWU Student/York Neighborhood Association
Elva Giddings, WWU Prevention & Wellness Services
Emily Farnon, STAR Task Force
Erik Lowe, WWU Associated Students Board
Erwin Lloyd, Puget Neighborhood Association
Gayle Shipley, WWU Environmental Health & Safety
Gus Zadra, WWU Student
Iain Davidson, Whatcom Falls Neighborhood Association/Association of Bellingham Neighborhoods
Jackie Stein, WWU Prevention and Wellness Services
Jim DeGolier, STAR Task Force
Jim Schuster, WWU VU Facilities, Student Activities
John Purdie, WWU University Residences
Karen Klebs, WWU Student
Kathryn Hanowell, City of Bellingham Mayor's Office
Kent Nelson, ACE Beverage

Kevin Majkut, WWU Student Activities
Kevin McClain, WWU Associated Students Board
Kunle Ojikutu, WWU Office of Student Affairs
Lara Welker, Campus Community Coalition
Lidia Tillman-McAdoo, Rental Property Owner
Lisa North, WWU University Dining Services
Louise Bjornson, Bellingham City Council
Luke Loeffler, Congressman Rick Larsen's Office
Malcolm Fleming, City of Bellingham Mayor's Office
Margaret Vlahos, Whatcom Community College
Marie Sather, WWU Campus Recreation Services
Mark Young, Bellingham Police Department
Michael Sledge, WWU Residence Life
Moshé Quinn, City of Bellingham Planning Division
Nina Lau, WWU Associated Students Board
Patty Relay, World Famous Up & Up Tavern
Paul Cocke, WWU Office of University Communications
Rafael Lucatero, WA State Liquor Control Board
Renee Collins, WWU Office of Student Life
Richard Sullivan, Happy Valley Neighborhood Association
Ryan Anderson, City of Bellingham Attorney's Office
Sara Radoff, WWU Center for Service Learning
Seth Vidaña, WWU Office of Sustainability
Steve Felmley, Bellingham Police Department
Ted Pratt, WWU Office of Student Life
Van Hudson, NW Rental Owners Association
Wendy Henerlau, WWU Prevention & Wellness Services

Welcome and introductions

Lara welcomed Coalition members and members introduced themselves. Lara recognized and welcomed new members to the Coalition. Attending for the first time were Seth Vidaña, WWU Office of Sustainability; Sara Radoff, WWU Center for Service Learning; and new Associated Students Board members, Nina Lau, Vice President for Campus Affairs, and Erik Lowe, Vice President for Governmental and Community Affairs.

Acknowledgments and appreciations

Lara acknowledged students who would be graduating this year and thanked them for their many contributions to the Coalition. They included Elliott Smith, board member of the York Neighborhood Association and committee member of the York Historic Preservation Committee; Gus Zadra, who came to the Coalition through Carmen Werder's Civil Discourse Class, and assisted greatly with the

development of the Off-Campus WWU website; and Kevin McClain, Associated Students Vice President for Campus and Community Affairs, who was very active in Coalition activities. Certificates of appreciation were presented to these students.

Other students who were not present were also recognized: Zach Stevenson, student graphic designer for Prevention and Wellness Services who created the posters and ads for various Coalition programs; Nate Panelo, Associate Students Vice President for Activities and an advocate for Late Night programming; Mark Iozzi, Associated Students President, who served on the Coalition Steering Committee; and David Westbrook, Director of Associated Students Productions who was instrumental in producing late night events. In addition, Associated Students Productions staff, Monira Buntha, Colin Laursen, Hunter Motto, and Ben Paplow all played key roles in organizing late night activities throughout the year, including forging new ground with the late night movies at the Underground Coffeehouse.

Following the recognition of students, Lara thanked several longstanding Coalition members for their dedication and contributions.

Jim DeGolier and Emily Farnon of the Straight Talk About Responsibility (STAR) Task Force have been key players in alcohol and drug prevention efforts in Whatcom County. STAR will no longer be operating as an organization, though some of its programs will be taken on by the Whatcom County Community Network.

Ian and Patty Relay, longtime owners of the World Famous Up and Up Tavern recently sold the tavern. They were instrumental in the formation of the local Hospitality Resource Alliance, founding members of the Coalition, and advocates of shared responsibility in the community.

Jim Shaw, WWU Chief of Police will be retiring this summer and has been a key player on the Coalition, serving on the Steering Committee and Enforcement work group, and fostering collaboration between the University Police and Bellingham Police Departments.

Dr. Carmen Werder has taught the Civil Discourse course for the last three years. Her class creatively involved students in neighborhood activities and discussions, including neighborhood association meetings and the Let's Talk Forum series "Living Together in Bellingham."

CCC Project Updates

Late Night @ WWU

There are a few late night events happening on campus Spring quarter, including a Cinco de Mayo event at the Student Recreation Center. However, the focus is already turning to future plans—both for this coming fall, and increasingly the bigger question of how to make late night programming a fully integrated part of campus life. The work group will be meeting again before the end of the academic year to discuss these plans and issues.

Neighborhoods Engaging with Students (NEST)

Earth Day Service Project

About 160 students participated in the annual Earth Day service project at parks and trails in eight neighborhoods. Alumni and other community members joined in at some sites. Sara Radoff from

WWU's Center for Service Learning was excited by the turnout. The Center supports three annual events: Make a Difference Day in October, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January, and Earth Day in April. Louise Bjornson encouraged students to contact the Volunteer Center for other volunteer opportunities, including participating in the Human Race in June.

Let's Talk Forum

The spring Let's Talk Forum, held on May 2 at Sehome High School, drew about 50 people. Similar to previous forums, participants were mostly students but enough law enforcement personnel and non-student community members were there to ensure a mix of people in each of the small groups.

Lara invited comments from Coalition members who had attended the forum. Elliott Smith said the venue was a valuable one, as it brought students, long-term residents and police together in a neutral environment, where "everyone is sober" and "we can agree to disagree." Moshé Quinn enjoyed the evening and said that he always learns something from participating. Richard Sullivan brought up the recent shooting on 22nd Street, and while the incident did not involve Western students nor was it party related, it still did concern Happy Valley neighborhood residents. Lidia Tillman-McAdoo stated that she thought Sehome High School was a good venue for the Let's Talk Forum. She noted that high school students were also prone to disruptive behavior in the neighborhood and suggested that they be invited to the forum, especially since it was held at their school. Dick Conoboy asked Coalition members to spread the word about the forum and encourage more neighborhood residents to attend, noting that it is important to have their perspectives there. Kathryn Hanowell suggested having neighborhood-specific Let's Talk Forums, which might encourage more participation by long-term residents.

Barbara Hudson asked if Carmen Werder's Civil Discourse class might continue with a different professor. Barbara Brandt supported the continuation of the Let's Talk Forums, which she saw as being very beneficial, and suggested working with neighborhood associations to co-organize neighborhood Let's Talk forums.

Off-Campus WWU

Wendy Henerlau reported on the promotions currently in place for informing students about the Off-Campus WWU website. Since spring is the time when students are thinking of moving off campus, there is a concerted effort to promote the website by a variety of means, including campus and downtown posters, email announcements, information tables in the Viking Union, and posters in the WTA buses. Visits to the site have increased this past month due to the increased promotion.

Enforcement

Lt. Steve Felmley reported on the Spring Party Patrol. He said that as the school year winds down, the parties wind up. Party Patrol is scheduled for several weekends during spring quarter, partly supported by funding from the Coalition. Liquor Control Board and WWU Police Department will also be providing officers to work with the Bellingham Police Department for the upcoming Party Patrol days.

Associated Students Alternative Transportation Fee

Kevin McClain, Associated Students Vice President for Campus and Community Affairs, reported that last week WWU students voted in favor of a fee that would support alternative transportation. The issue will be brought before WWU's Board of Trustees for approval in June. The fee would provide every Western student with an academic year bus pass and provide late night bus service for

students between campus and downtown every half hour until 2:00 or 3:00 am. The new bus service will probably be contracted out to Bellair Charters, and will replace the late night shuttle bus currently provided by Residence Life. Louise Bjornson congratulated WWU students for passing the Alternative Transportation Fee, and hoped that students would take advantage of the bus passes to help reduce parking congestion in the neighborhoods.

Looking back: Reflecting on the last three years of the CCC

Lara explained that the Coalition is approaching the end of a three-year period of grant funding from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. As this “chapter” of the Coalition is ending, she felt it was valuable to pause and reflect on the Coalition’s activities and accomplishments over the past three years. Instead of paper handouts and speeches, she introduced a visual Power Point presentation of photos “telling the story” of the past three years.

Following the presentation, Lara extended her thanks to the previous director of Prevention and Wellness, Pat Fabiano. Pat’s efforts were paramount in securing the NIAAA grant and creating the vision of what the grant would support, especially the neighborhood work which was a very new undertaking for the Coalition. Kunle Ojikutu also thanked Pat, and acknowledged the hard work of the current Prevention and Wellness team members who are a part of the Coalition: Elva Giddings, Acting Director; Lara Welker, Coalition Coordinator; Maggie Feeney, Grants Coordinator; and Wendy Henerlau, Program Assistant.

Lara pointed out that not all Coalition projects were successful. She expressed disappointment in some of the Coalition efforts that did not develop as hoped; for example, the Neighborhood Mediation Program was well intentioned, but did not get off the ground as it had been envisioned. She also regretted that in the process of bringing focus and energy to new areas—like the Neighborhoods Engaging with Students (NEST) Project—other work was neglected. The most significant example of this is the Hospitality Resource Alliance and partnerships with local bar and tavern owners. She expressed hope that the Coalition would be able to re-activate these partnerships, and gave her appreciation to the bar owners and beverage distributors who have “hung in there” during this time.

Dave Doll from the Bellingham Police Department remarked on the excellent reputation of the Coalition. He stated that the Coalition serves as a model for others in the state to follow. He was made quite aware of this in a recent Reducing Under Age Drinking conference, where he met people involved in similar efforts, and shared with them the strategies and accomplishments of the Coalition.

Jim DeGolier commented that he was recently researching social norms model programs around the country and found that Pat Fabiano and WWU’s work in this area is nationally recognized, so there are positive impacts that extend far beyond the local level.

Kathryn Hallowell asked if the future of the Coalition was secure through other funding. Lara replied that there is carryover funding from the current grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism which will extend beyond the end of the original funding period (August 2007), but it will only be enough to help with staffing and won’t sustain programs. She explained that a Department of Education grant application is currently pending, and if awarded, will provide funding through June 2009. The awards are expected to be announced in June. Lara said that while currently Coalition funding is a bit tenuous, she remains confident that the work will continue in some fashion.

Richard Sullivan announced that Happy Valley Neighborhood Association would like a student board member, since so many Happy Valley residents are students. He said that Happy Valley has the highest population density and the lowest average income because of the student base, and that having a student representative would be very valuable.

Elliott Smith encouraged students to serve on neighborhood boards, and wondered if the university could institutionalize such an involvement through the Associated Students or campus clubs. He suggested that the new Associated Students board could help with this goal.

Iain Davidson said that his disappointment regarding the Coalition's work over the last several years is that it has only focused on a few neighborhoods, and that there were not resources to expand the efforts into other neighborhoods.

Gayle Shipley said that participating in the Coalition left her feeling very hopeful about cooperation and communication, and that there could be civil discourse despite differences of opinion.

Steve Felmley pointed out that the Coalition was effective because all the members shared the load. "We're all in this together," he said, and valued the personal and professional contacts made through the Coalition.

Barbara Hudson stated that the Coalition may have a national reputation and be a renowned organization, but she was not sure it is well-known in Bellingham. She said many neighborhood associations don't know about it and she would like to see the Coalition interact more with them and create more public awareness about the work it is doing.

Gus Zadra commented that he joined the Coalition because he was in Carmen Werder's Civil Discourse class, which required him to attend a neighborhood association meeting. He also became involved in the community as a result of doing community service after receiving an MIP (minor in possession) citation his first year at WWU. Through being directly involved in the neighborhood he started to care about it. He said he thinks there is value in students being "forced" to get involved in their neighborhood or community, and would like to see more service requirements for students, such as for-credit courses.

Sara Radoff said that the Center for Service Learning's mission is to engage students, and there are numerous courses that include service projects. She expressed interest in learning more about the neighborhood project in Carmen's civil discourse class, and possibly finding ways to integrate similar projects into other classes.

Lara then asked members to complete the survey in their packets. She noted that members have been asked for input on future Coalition projects, and it seemed important to also assess how the Coalition is operating. The survey responses will help evaluate this aspect of the Coalition and identify ways to improve the Coalition and how members work together. Members who were not present will be sent the survey so that they can give their input.

Lara thanked Coalition members for their participation and announced that there would be no general Coalition meeting in the summer, though some of the work groups will convene. She invited members to contact her or Wendy at any time with any questions, concerns, or suggestions.