

Bellingham-Western Washington University Campus Community Coalition Meeting

February 24, 2006

Fairhaven College Courtyard Room, Western Washington University

Attendees:

Susan Adams, Campus Community Coalition
Sue Anderson, Whatcom Coalition for Health Families
Olof Anderson, WWU Student
Britta Baca, WWU Student
Judy Bachman, York Neighborhood Association
Kristen Beck, WWU Prevention & Wellness Services
Chris Berry, Shalom Center
Louise Bjornson, Bellingham City Council
Bonnie Breecher, WWU Center for Service Learning
Officer Christine Burkhart, Bellingham Police Department
Anna Carey, WWU New Student Services
Chief Randy Carroll, Bellingham Police Department
Casey Clark, WWU Student
Paul Cocke, WWU Office of Communications
Renee Collins, WWU Office of Student Affairs
Dick Conoboy, Samish Neighborhood Association
Kristi Coy, CLX Rentals
Pam Darby, DSHS/Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse
Iain Davidson, Association of Bellingham Neighborhoods
Tom Dixon, Washington State Liquor Control Board
Leslee Douglas, WWU New Student Services
Marie Eschenfelder, WWU Center for Service Learning
Emily Farnon, STAR Task Force
Maggie Feeney, WWU Prevention & Wellness Services
Officer Tara Fleetwood, Bellingham Police Department
Wesley Foreman, WWU Student
Joe Fuller, Whatcom County Health Department
Katy Gomes, WWU Student
Robert Hand, WWU Student
Kathryn Hanowell, City of Bellingham Mayor's Office
Tiffany Hayes, WWU Student
Bob Hofstetter, WWU Campus Recreation
Barbara Hudson, NW Rental Owners Association
Van Hudson, NW Rental Owners Association
Shannon Hutchinson, Associated Students President
Debbie Kent, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office
Steve Kirkelie, City of Bellingham Attorney's Office
Andrea Kramer, WWU Student
Erwin Lloyd, Puget Neighborhood Association
Anne Mackie, York Neighborhood Association
Kelly Maher, WWU Student
Kevin Majkut, Viking Union Student Activities
Richard Maneval, Alabama Hill Neighborhood Assn
April Markiewicz, Samish Neighborhood Association
Tony Masias, Washington State Liquor Control Board
Allen Matsumoto, Sehome Neighborhood Association
James Monrean, WWU Student
Dale Monroe, Puget Neighborhood Association
Kent Nelson, ACE Beverage
Chris Neumann, community member
Leigh Newman-Bell, WWU Student
Kate Nichols, Happy Valley Neighborhood Assn
Matt Noren, WWU Student
Joe Olmstead, WWU Student
Nate Panelo, Associated Students VP for Activities
Zippo Parzick, The Nightlight Lounge
Ted Pratt, WWU Student Affairs
Sarah Rankin, WWU Prevention & Wellness Services
Tony Russo, WWU Student
Chase Schmitz, WWU Student
Shannon Schulz, WWU Student
Jim Schuster, Viking Union Student Activities
Jason Sharp, WWU Student
Michael Sledge, WWU Residence Life
Elliott Smith, WWU Student, York Neighborhood Assn
Brian Tines, The Royal/Fairhaven Pub & Martini Bar
Brian Waller, The Beaver Inn
Lara Welker, Campus Community Coalition
Anna Wiesenbach, WWU Student
Officer Mark Young, Bellingham Police Department

Welcome, Introductions, and Acknowledgements

Lara welcomed everyone and members introduced themselves. New members were welcomed individually, and Kristen Beck, the new Office Assistant with the Campus Community Coalition, was introduced. Lara also thanked the WWU students for coming and for being involved with the CCC.

Lara presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Tony Masias, Washington State Liquor Control Board, who is leaving the Bellingham area for a new position as Alcohol Awareness Manager with the Liquor Control Board in Olympia. His new position will involve designing and implementing statewide alcohol education campaigns for middle school and high school students. Tony has been working with the CCC since 2002, and we have greatly appreciated his contributions. We will miss him but wish him luck in his new position.

Late Night @ WWU Update

Susan Adams gave an update on Winter quarter late night events.

The Viking Union has organized two large Late Night events this quarter; one on January 6th, and one February 24th. The February 24 event will feature a mechanical bull, laser tag, live cooking show, speed dating, and an all-you-can-eat spaghetti feed.

The Coalition has also been working to extend the hours of two popular campus venues: the Underground Coffeehouse and Associated Students Films.

Thanks to WWU Dining Services, the Underground Coffeehouse agreed to pilot extended hours, and stay open until 12:00 or 1:00 a.m. four nights (two Thursdays and two Fridays) this quarter. Activities at the Underground Coffeehouse included an ambient DJ, low-cost chair massages, non-alcoholic drink specials, and door prizes.

Associated Student Films will be running two late night movies – *Walk the Line*, and *The Chronicles of Narnia* - during the last two weekends of the quarter. These movies will have showings at 8:00 pm and 11:00 pm.

The Late Night Workgroup met in February to begin planning events for Fall 2006. They discussed the need for increasing the consistency of Late Night events by offering extended hours and special events on a more regular basis.

Fall Enforcement Data Presentation (see Power Point)

Lara presented a summary of enforcement data that has been collected by the Bellingham Police Department, University Police Department, Washington State Liquor Control Board, WWU Prevention and Wellness Services, and WWU Residence Life. The data for Fall 2005 were compared with Fall 2004. Thank you to workgroup members for their work in compiling this information. In summary, the data indicated:

- Fewer 911 calls reporting loud parties in fall 2005 than in fall 2004
- Party Patrol responded to more parties in fall 2005 than in fall 2004
- Party response was more equally distributed in York, Sehome, and Happy Valley neighborhoods in fall 2005 than in fall 2004
- Party activity appears highest during 1st week of quarter and mid-quarter (weeks 4-6)
- Liquor law emphasis patrols made an important contribution to total alcohol citations in fall 2005
- High student density neighborhoods continue to have the highest number of 911 calls and alcohol citations
- Liquor Control Board compliance checks indicated a rate of noncompliance of 24.3%, which is higher than the state average of 17%. There was a slightly higher rate of noncompliance within a 2 mile radius of campus than outside the 2 mile radius.
- WWU Residence Halls have consistent high level of alcohol policy enforcement

Lara emphasized that while these data give us a picture of student alcohol use in fall 2004 and fall 2005, we should be cautious about drawing conclusions regarding what is causing any of the observed changes.

Chief Carroll explained that Liquor Law Emphasis (LLE) Patrols are random patrols where officers look for individuals (not specifically students) in violation of liquor laws. These citations are often drinking in public (DIP) or minor in possession of alcohol (MIP). LLE patrols are random, whereas Party Patrol

responds to complaints about a party at a specific location. Chief Carroll also clarified that disorderly conduct citations are given to a noisy house or individual who is disturbing the peace.

Tom Dixon explained that Liquor Control Board compliance checks are used to identify establishments that are selling alcohol to minors. They use an 18-or 19-year-old undercover operative who attempts to buy alcohol.

Michael Sledge explained the residence halls alcohol policies, and gave an example of how they are stricter than the law. Students in violation of the alcohol policies are referred to WWU's Alcohol and Drug Consultation and Assessment Services, and repeated violations can result in eviction from the residence halls.

“Rental Owner Accountability” Update

Kathryn Hanowell reported from the Mayor's Office. She recounted that in 2004 an ordinance was proposed that would have required rental owners to license their properties, in an effort to hold rental owners responsible for problems at their properties. A large meeting was held in the fall of 2004 at which many property owners expressed their concerns, and so far no further action has been taken on the ordinance.

Kathryn described some of the City's current efforts to address “problem properties:”

- When a citation is issued at a rental property, the Bellingham Police Department notifies the property owner of the citation and gives them suggestions on prevention and enforcement.
- The BPD offers a landlord training program on how to reduce problems at their properties. At the end of the training, the property owner is issued a certification.
- BPD officers attend Neighborhood Association meetings to address neighborhood concerns and providing information on block watch.
- The City has been working more closely with the Campus Community Coalition.
- The City Attorney's Office is participating in a pilot project where people who are receive minor in possession (MIP) citations are required to complete some of their community service in their neighborhood.

Lara clarified that so far only Happy Valley neighborhood has participated in the pilot, and the resulted will be shared at the next CCC meeting.

Van Hudson from the NW Rental Owners Association discussed their recent activities regarding rental owner accountability. They obtained the fall 2005 Party Patrol reports from the BPD and contacted the owners of the properties where the Party Patrol issued citations. They asked the owners whether they had received notification of the citations, and what they do in response. They also made suggestions to the property owners on ways to respond, such as post a notice to inspect within 48 hours, and then go in and look for property damage, which is common with big parties. If there is damage, they can give the resident a 10 day notice to comply or quit, which is a pre-eviction step. Or they can give the resident a noise complaint. Van pointed out that unlawful activity is a breach of lease in most cases.

Van reported that the calls have been well received by the property owners. Of the 12 owners they were able to contact, approximately 50% seemed to be out-of-town owners and 9 were handled by property management companies. Of those 12 owners, 9 were property management companies.

Property management companies may not receive notices sent to the property owner. For that reason the NROA recommends that the property management companies get to know the neighbors near their rentals. They also suggested that WWU should apply the student conduct code to off-campus situations.

Van reported that of the 15 properties visited by the Party Patrol in fall 2005, all but one had WWU students. The visited each of the properties and observed that most of them were newer and in good shape.

Neighborhoods Engaging with Students (NEST) Project Highlights

Susan updated the coalition on several NEST projects, and other projects will be discussed at the Spring coalition meeting.

- **Off Campus U**

The CCC is creating a website to help students positively integrate into and be accountable to the neighborhoods in which they live. The website is being created by Rusty George Design, which has two WWU graduates on staff. Susan unveiled the home page and an inside page on “Partying in Bellingham” to show what the look of the website will be. It utilizes a bulletin board theme, and will contain several short film clips. The website is expected to go live on March 20th. Stay tuned! After it is live, you can access the website at www.offcampusu.com. We also own www.offcampusyou.com, which will redirect visitors to the former address.

- **Let’s Talk Forum**

Fall quarter, the first Let’s Talk Forum was held, and was so successful they decided to make it a quarterly event. About 75 people attended this event, including a few police officers and a handful of community members. Attendees divided into small groups and discussed the topic what it means to be part of a community.

Anne Mackie of the York Neighborhood Association reported on her experience there. She said they had discussions on who should have jurisdiction on campus, loud parties, assault, and other topics. She was happy with honesty of the students, and said they were bright and enthusiastic. She said she understands that students are very busy, and want to have fun and socialize during their free time. Her Neighborhood Association recently elected a student to the board.

Robert Hand was the student elected to the York board, and he reported on his experience at the Let’s Talk Forum. He said all of the small groups had student facilitators. He liked the small group format and felt more discussion occurred in smaller groups. Students appreciated the community members being there. He say he has lived here for about a year, and feels there is a disconnect between students and community members. There are not many opportunities for dialogue in a non-threatening environment, so the forum is important.

- **Urban Sociology Class**

Dr. Crowder’s Urban Sociology Class adopted the Sehome neighborhood this quarter and did a windshield survey, attended neighborhood association meetings and did 12 hours of neighborhood mediation training. They learned about the different styles of communication, how to communicate constructively, and how to communicate effectively with each of the different communication styles.

Upcoming Event

Joe Fuller from the Whatcom County Health Department announced that there will be a Town Hall Meeting on underage drinking at St. Joseph Hospital's Health Education Center on March 28th, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Please call 671-6154 or 676-6724 for more information. It is not necessary to RSVP.

Lara thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.