



ATTENDING

Councillor David Mangle, Mayor Jeff Cantwell, Acadia Director Safety and Security Patrick Difford, Acadia Senior Director Student Affairs James Sanford, ASU President Suzanne Gray, ASU VP Communications Ted Higa, RCMP Sgt. Stephen Power, Chief Administrative Officer Erin Beaudin, and Recording Secretary Dan Stovel

ALSO ATTENDING

Deputy Mayor Wendy Donovan, Councillor Carl Oldham, Sarah Morris, Saint Mary's University – Assistant Director of Student Services, Director Community Development Chrystal Fuller and interested members of the public

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Councillor Mangle, called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Amendment: Debrief of Cheaton Cup was added to the Roundtable Discussion.
The agenda was approved as amended.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 23, 2016

The minutes were approved as drafted

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

a. Committee Priorities – Action Plan

- The Priorities have been incorporated into the 2016/17 Operational Plan that will be presented to Town Council at the March 22nd meeting.
 - Any feedback from Council will be brought back to the Town & Gown Committee at the next meeting

12:08pm James Sanford, Acadia Senior Director Student Affairs arrived

b. Bylaws Review

- The Prevention of Excessive of Noise Bylaw and the Vendor Bylaw will go to Committee of the Whole at the April 5, 2016 meeting
 - There has been a wide collaborative effort in working on the Bylaw
 - There will be a Public Hearing for the Prevention of Excessive Noise Bylaw in May before the Bylaw goes before Council gives consideration of second reading.
- The next Bylaw that will be brought before the Town & Gown Committee will be the Community Standards Bylaw
- The Dog Bylaw will also undergo revision and has been identified by Acadia of particular interest

c. Partnership Agreement – Facilities Access: Way-Ahead

- There will be a requirement for a more in-depth conversation regarding this issue, and look at getting different players from Acadia at the meeting

- The Town of Wolfville is actively working on a Partnership Agreement with Acadia for Facilities Access – this will be a major piece of work and important for the Town & Gown Committee to make sure that the community and University are working together
- At either the next Town & Gown Committee meeting in April or May, there will be further discussions regarding this issue

d. Next Steps – Relationship Development

- A positive Council to Council meeting was held on February 2nd where common challenges and initiatives were discussed
- Out of that meeting there were a couple of good initiatives identified such as the pairing of Council-to-Council members in order to build that one-to-one relationship
 - This pairing will be re-visited now that there is a new ASU Council in place
- A lot of positive issues have been raised
- A good discussion on how to engage the student population through social media with follow-up training provided to Town of Wolfville staff and Council by ASU VP Communications
 - Looking at how to structure the Town's and Acadia's social media accounts to be more interactive between the two
- Next steps will be to look at having another Council-to-Council meeting in May

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. SMU Discussion Session – Sarah Morris, Assistant Director of Student Services

- Focus of effort is working with communities and key stakeholders
- Background: About 10 years ago there was an incident with a party in the community of Saint Mary's University. At that time, there were no committees established and very little relationship with the community. What came out of that incident was a committee that looks at student and neighbourhood relationships - seek to be a good neighbour to your neighbour
- There is an understanding that when things go off the rail, the community members know to call Sarah Morris with any issues
- If the neighbours think highly of the students, the students are more apt to stay in the community and work in the community
- Some things that have worked:
 - A basic newsletter (twice per year) is sent out to the Community to share issues that might impact the community (i.e., testing of emergency alert system). Accompanying the newsletter is Sarah Morris' business card with contact details
 - In delivering the newsletter, questions are posed and recorded as to whether or not they have any issues. All those issues are presented to Sarah Morris
- Communication is key – the newsletters are hand-delivered to all neighbours in the community
 - The community has let Sarah Morris know that they don't want mass mailers or email and that the personal delivery of the newsletter is more appreciated
- Focus on key message of "Try to be a Good Neighbour"
- Relationship building is the absolute key
- Also about managing expectations – there are things that can be done and can't be done. Those discussions need to take place with the community
- Yearly the neighbours are invited to a Campus BBQ – get to know the students and get to be neighbourly with each other

- Two meetings per year are held (June/July timeframe and Fall) – neighbours invited to campus to hear about what is and what is not working. What can be done to improve those areas that are not working
 - Having these meetings shows that the University is very willing to listen to the community and change those things that need to be changed in working towards making the community better
- There are many good sources of information available to make the Community-University relationship work
 - Michael Fox, author of “Town & Gown Relations” is one of those good sources of information

Remarks & Questions:

- It is always in the best interest of both the community and the University to work things out
- **Sharing Best Practices:**
 - It is excellent to share best practices with other University municipalities
- **University Neighbourhood:**
 - The question of what is your neighbourhood and how far it extends is one of the most important questions – there has to be consultation as to what defines the “University Neighbourhood” and be prepared to change those limits if an incident happens
- **University Involvement:**
 - A litter clean-up campaign is held every Saturday morning (The “Trashformers”) as part of the community clean-up programme initiated by the University – one way in which St Mary’s University gives back to the community
- **Communicating to Students:**
 - SMU advertises in “The Coast” (newspaper) and every year a student is hired to work as the ‘neighbourhood assistant’ – always hired from the residence to have a student connected to the residence community. The student union is also used in connecting with the students and orientation events for messaging
 - Welcome Events and through word of mouth
- **Connecting Students and Local Residents:**
 - Neighbours are encouraged to take the first step in meeting students who move into the area as they have been residents in the neighbourhood for a longer period of time
 - Important to put students and neighbours together early at the start of the academic year
- **Acadia University Equivalent Position:**
 - Is there an equivalent role/department at Acadia University – there is a “Student Services” department at Acadia but it does not delve as deeply into the neighbourhood relationship as that of SMU



- ASU is looking at an off-Campus “Student Ambassador” program (in the 2017/2018 timeframe) to further develop the student-neighbourhood relationship
- **Other Organizations:**
 - Sarah Morris put forward the recommendation to be involved in both the Ontario Town & Gown and the International Town & Gown meetings coming up this year – Town staff will be involved in both meetings
 - The partnership with these two organizations is just beginning to develop
- **Formal Mediation Process:**
 - At the present time it is Sarah Morris, but there is also a staff member who is trained in conflict resolution

Chair expressed thanks to Sarah Morris for sharing experiences with the Town & Gown Committee.

5. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- Cheaton Cup Lessons Learned/Activities:
 - Planning meetings were held up to the event to ensure that controls were properly in place for the event
 - Student hosts for neighbourhood events were brought together prior to the event taking place and briefed by the Compliance Officer to ensure that they were advised about Bylaws that are in place
 - The Compliance Officer will follow-up with all organizations to hold a de-brief to ensure that there is a game plan in place for next year’s event

6. PRESENTATION

Chair, Councillor Mangle, presented flowers and expressed thanks to ASU President, Suzanne Gray, in appreciation of her involvement with the community and building relationships

7. NEXT MEETING

It was announced that the next meeting of the Town and Gown Committee was scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 12:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Approved at the April 26, 2016 Town & Gown Meeting.

As recorded by Dan Stovel, AA Corporate Service