

May 10, 14 and 17 2004
Community Relations
Communications and Marketing, Dalhousie University

The third meeting of the Dalhousie University Community Committee (DUCC) was held on Monday, May 10, 2004 in the Boardroom of the University of King's College.

The first meetings of its subcommittees were held on Friday, May 14 and Monday, May 17. A list of priorities set by the subcommittees follows at the end of the May 10 report.

May 10 DUCC Meeting

Action Points:

1. **Subcommittees to Meet** — The two subcommittees examining the issues identified as priorities will meet within the next 10 days. Each will develop plans for the short term. There is a long list of issues for both subcommittees, including the possibility of a study on the impact on the community of increasing university enrolments in HRM, the effect of Dalhousie's no smoking policy on the surrounding neighbourhoods, student noise/disturbances and vandalism.
2. **Open House Chairs Invited to June Meeting** Dalhousie is organizing an Open House for October 22 and 23. The organizing committee wants community input from the DUCC, The co-chairs of the Open House organizing committee will be invited to the next DUCC meeting to discuss the event and the community's input/participation.
3. **Summary of Accomplishments** — The committee will provide a summary of accomplishments to date and publish it on the web site.
4. **Web Site** — The web site will be updated to contain some new sections that include helpful neighbourhood information —for example. have abandoned shopping carts removed from your neighbourhood.

NOTES FROM MEETING
AGENDA ITEMS

#1 NEW MEMBERS JOIN COMMITTEE — Jeffrey Lamb, the new director of Facilities Management at Dalhousie, has joined the committee. Other new members are: Curtis McGrath, President, Dalhousie Student Union; Jane Nauss and Brian Theriault of the HRM's Community Response Initiative; and Tanya Phillips, bylaw manager of Community Standards for HRM.

#2 NUISANCE BYLAW — HRM is working on a nuisance bylaw that includes such issues as abandoned shopping carts, which are unsightly and cause safety concerns. The committee wants to be informed, when the proposed bylaw comes to HRM Council, so it can get neighbours to participate in the process.

#3 UPASS FOR STUDENTS — Dalhousie fully supports the introduction of a UPass for Dal students, This pass allows students to pay an annual fee and travel on transit buses any time during the nine-month academic term. Saint Mary's has a pilot project in place. Dalhousie is ready to join, but Metro Transit still wants to study the SMU project before making a decision about expansion. A UPass would cut down on traffic and parking, and allow students to live in many parts of HRM. Neighbours and committee members can support Dalhousie and the other universities in town by letting Metro Transit know that they support the UPass concept.

#4 FALL RETREAT — The idea of a committee retreat to take stock and consider long-term plans will be considered for the fall, when the committee is further along with its work.

The next meeting of the DUCC will be held on Monday, June 28 in the Lord Dalhousie Room of the Henry Hick's Building at Dalhousie.

SUBCOMMITTEES

The Space Audit Subcommittee met May 14 and is proceeding with preliminary plans to study the “big picture” impacts of increasing student enrolments on the community, including on housing stock, land use and transportation systems. Dalhousie's School of Urban Planning and HRM will be involved.

The Tipping Point subcommittee met on May 17 and developed priority items. The impact of Dalhousie's smoking policy on the surrounding neighbourhoods was discussed and prioritized as an issue for the short term. Preliminary plans also are in the works for a major communication campaign, aimed at off campus and residence students, beginning at the end of August. This will coincide with a police “no tolerance” policy. There is also a need to deal with rooming houses and it has been suggested that Dalhousie provide some kind of seal of approval for “good” housing at its Off Campus Housing Office. The possibility of this will be examined and a report delivered to the next subcommittee meeting.

The Space Audit Committee will next meet on May 31 and the Tipping Point Committee will meet June 16.