

UNH-city panel look to build upon success

The UNH Mayor's Advisory Commission met with West Haven Mayor Ed O'Brien and his Chief of Staff John Lewis to discuss the future of the commission, which aims to strengthen and improve the relationship between UNH and the City of West Haven. The panel, now in its second year, brings together UNH students with city leaders to exchange ideas to improve West Haven and the relations between the university and municipality.

After organizing the successful WestFest earlier this year, the commission is looking for new projects to help students become more involved in the West Haven community. Several exciting ideas were discussed including facilitating more events in downtown West Haven such as "pop-up" open mic nights, street festivals, and working with West Haven Historical Society to offer walking tours to students.

The group also discussed organizing volunteers for multiple events such as the Tree Lighting Ceremony, a Thanksgiving food drive and donation collection, and the Festival of Lights. Mayor O'Brien would also like to have a survey conducted on the need for transportation services in the UNH and train station area, which the Mayor's Advisory Commission is ready and willing to conduct and facilitate.

Finally, the group focused a great deal on revitalizing the downtown West Haven area and attracting more businesses that could cater to both UNH students and the West Haven community.

"The Mayor's Advisory Commission and Mayor O'Brien's office are both excited and eager to begin working on all of these projects to strengthen the relationship between the University and West Haven," a UNH spokesman said.