



Commissioners Present: Jeraldine Brown, Joseph Brown, Peg Falcone, Jerrold Hennrich, Faith Miller, Les O'Dell, Dora Weaver

Commissioners Excused: Lauren Bonner

Commissioners Absent: Blaine Tisdale

Study Circle Staff Present: Sarah Heyer

Guests Present: Karriem Shariati , Elius Reed, CCHS Students (Dyrell Bates, Sierra Burns, JayLynn Davidson, Rachel Fligor, Brianna Halliday, Brittany Hewerdine, Sabrina LeBlanc, Simone Pike,

Staff Present: Deborah McCoy, Chief Jodi O'Guinn, City Manager Kevin Baity

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Hennrich at 6:35 p.m.

Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner O'Dell and seconded by Commissioner Falcone to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2014, meeting, with the correction that Commissioner Jeraldine Brown had an excused absence. Motion carried.

Announcements

April 9: EPA will have representatives at the Eurma Hayes Center from 6:00-9:00 pm to discuss issues regarding the old Copper Tire Plant area. The meeting is not considered one of the two to be sponsored the City Council.

April 12: Annual Soul Food fund raiser will be sponsored by the African American Museum from 11:30 am – 3:30 pm in the University Mall food court area. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children.

April 12: Spring Clean Up will be held at Turley Park

April 12: Aids Walk

April 17: SIU Board of Trustees Meeting will be held at the Student Center at 9:00 am.

April 17: Dr. Cornell West will be speaking at Shryock Auditorium at 7:00 pm.

Congratulations were extended to Commissioner Miller on her appointment as the Director of the SIU-C Dental Hygiene Program.

Public Comments:

Mr. Reed commented on the negative impact the investigation of SIU-C student Pravin Varughese's death might have on the university's declining enrollment. He referenced Carbondale Times articles (February 19, 22, & 26, 2014) containing statements from Police Chief O'Guinn and descriptions of the District #13 State Police Officer's actions. Mr. Reed stated that an article in the April 3, 2014, Daily Egyptian reported that the toxicology report showed no signs of alcohol or drugs in Mr. Varughese's system. Mr. Reed stated that he was told by Representative Enyart's Office that Mr. Varughese's parents had contacted Indian government officials, who contacted Chancellor Cheng or some other official, to inform the university that they would not be sending the proposed 500 students to SIU-C as planned because Carbondale is no longer a safe place for students.

Mr. Baity commented that he and Mr. Reed had spoken about the situation with the Indian government not sending students to Carbondale. Chancellor Cheng indicated that no one from the Indian Consulate or Indian Government had contacted her office.

Mr. Reed indicated that his comments were meant to bring attention to the seriousness of the issue (danger to students) and that the issue has not been resolved. He suggested there be a public meeting to discuss the issue.

Chief O'Guinn commented that the information being reported about the toxicology test is inaccurate, and that the State's Attorney's Office had advised that it not be commented on as there is an open investigation. Questions were asked about the search for Mr. Varughese and Chief O'Guinn summarized the information received and the steps taken by the Carbondale Police Department.

Commissioner Falcone stated that something positive to come out of the situation could be improved communication between law enforcement agencies.

Study Circles Report

Neighborhood Action Group

Coordinator Heyer reported the Neighborhood Group met April 2, 2014. Representatives from Glenview Street were present and looking to organize a neighborhood group. There was discussion regarding the Neighborhood Business Proposal, the City's budget shortfall, the Carbondale *Communique*, and the Carbondale Neighborhood Watch meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 5:00 p.m. April 19, 2014 will be a ground breaking ceremony at the Buckminster Fuller Dome.

No report

Continuing the Dialogue/Education - No report

Race Relations - No report

Non-Violent Carbondale Project

Coordinator Heyer reported on the following events:

April 4 - Community of Rights – Rights of Community Speakers

April 7, 2014

April 5 – Workshop on collecting stories. Things are missed in the community when things are viewed only from a science perspective and not an anecdotal.

April 12 – Workshop – kids collecting stories – Boys & Girls Club

April 26 – Sharing stories

Commissioner Miller commented that there is a good deal of information contained in the “Linking Lands, Lives and Arts of Southern Illinois” that can be found on line.

Old Business

Law Enforcement Reports: Vice Chair Hennrich called attention to the 2011, 2012, and 2013 reports distributed at the last Human Relations Commission meeting. Commissioner Falcone inquired whether there was any way of determining whether the numbers are duplicates, e.g. the number of people as opposed to number of actual arrests. Chief O’Guinn stated that the current system is not set up to extract that kind of information, but the new system may allow customization. Questions were asked about a Restorative Justice program for juveniles. Under Mr. Wepsiec’s Office, few individuals were recommended for the program, but Mr. Carr may choose to handle the program differently. Restorative Justice puts the victim and the offender together. Chief O’Guinn stated that there may not be sufficient staffing or funding to support the program. Commissioner Joseph Brown commented that the university, particularly the Dean of Liberal Arts, would be a resource and internships and externships could be created. Students studying delinquency could be connected to those issues present in the Carbondale community. Chief O’Guinn commented that part of the problem is that a lot of people are saying what needs to be done, but no one is stepping forward to move things along. Chief O’Guinn provided clarification of UCR Violation Codes, index crimes, burglary, theft, and calls for service. Traffic citations have been increased as a result of phone calls about driving while texting/talking, running red lights, and stop signs. Traffic stops also include warnings (roughly 5,000 citations with 3,000 of those being warnings).

Mr. Baity reported that the City is reviewing state traffic violations to determine if and how they can be incorporated into City Ordinances so the City of Carbondale can write the ticket and the revenue stays local rather than going to the State of Illinois.

Commissioner Weaver asked the CCHS students if they were aware of any discrepancies between white and black kids. Most comments indicated that the environment, parenting, matter of discipline, and peer group contributed to the differences.

HRC Responsibilities, Role, Charges:

Educational Campaign: Vice Chair Hennrich spoke about a seminar he attended where Judge Timberlake was the facilitator. A white paper, titled “Restorative Justice: A Primer and Exploration of Practice Across Two North American Cities,” was distributed to Commissioners. Commissioner O’Dell suggested that Commissioners be given an opportunity to review the handout and discuss at the next meeting. Commissioners agreed.

Retreat: On hold until after Illinois Municipal Human Relations Association Conference.

Community Discussions: Environmental Racism. Commissioner Miller encouraged Commissioners attend the meeting with the EPA at the Eurma Hayes Center on April 9, to learn or to hear any issues that are related to environmental racism. Commissioners will need to take some action regarding what direction they would like

to move, perhaps at the next HRC meeting.

Partnering for Social Justice: States Attorney Mike Carr was scheduled to speak on Restorative Justice, but had to cancel, and the meeting was cancelled due to weather.

Illinois Municipal Human Relations Conference: May 1, 2014, Springfield, IL. Commissioner Joseph Brown will attend. Other Commissioners interested in attending should contact Ms. McCoy.

New Business

Commissioner Weaver reported that she had emailed the Mayor indicating her desire to continue with the HRC.

Next Meeting: May 5, 2014, 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Recorded by Deborah McCoy _____