



Carbondale Human Relations Commission

Minutes – December 7, 2015
Carbondale Civic Center ~ 5:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Joshua Kyle Brandon, Joseph Brown, Peg Falcone, Ted Gutierrez, Eric McMillan, Faith Miller, Karriem Shariati, Dora Weaver

Commissioners Excused: Diane Daugherty, Jerrold Hennrich

Study Circle Staff Present: Sarah Heyer

Guests Present: Dave Davis, Peter Lemish, Matthew Nordin, Maurine Pyle, Elius Reed, Diana Brawley Sussman

Staff Present: Chief Jeff Grubbs, Staff Intern Courtney Beverly, Commission Secretary Deborah McCoy

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m. by Vice Chair Brown with roll call and introductions.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner McMillan and seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2015 meeting with the following corrections: 1) Chair Hennrich should be shown as present for the meeting, and 2) correction to the NVCP report on Page 3 (first paragraph) to indicate New Mexico rather than Mexico. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December	Carbondale Public Library collecting toys for the Women's Center
Friday, December 11	Toy Drive, Morris Library Foyer, 2:00-4:00 p.m., sponsored by Beta Theta Pi
Saturday, December 12	Ivas John Christmas Concert at Shryock Auditorium with proceeds to the Splash Park project
Friday, December 25	Annual Christmas Dinner, St. Francis Xavier Church, 12 noon – 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 17, 2016	16 th Annual Martin Luther King Celebration, 4:00 p.m., Carbondale Civic Center

ISSUES

Public Education/HRC Website

Commissioner Shariati commented that the HRC brochure has been a valuable resource for outreach.

Public Forums/Events – Community Policing

Commissioners shared some of the feedback from the discussions that took place at their assigned tables (see attached summary). Chief Grubbs reported that he shares the majority of the feedback indicated in the summary, appreciates the way the Commission organized the forum, and that his officers felt it was a successful endeavor. Commissioner Falcone will prepare recommendations based on the summary and the feedback provided at this meeting.

Commissioner Brandon commented that the tentative date for the Carbondale & Campus Community Forum is Thursday, March 3, 2016, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Commissioners emphasized that the topics should be related to the mission of the HRC, and focus on police and community/campus relations. Commissioners were also reminded that the HRC is an advisory group to the City Council.

Annual Report

The Report has been forwarded to the City Council and City Manager.

Racial Taboo

The film was shown at the Carbondale Public Library on Wednesday, December 2 at 5:30 p.m. Responses from Commissioners included they learned some things, particular segments may be uncomfortable for some viewers, and there was nothing new regarding the information, but helpful in terms of the outcomes. The film will be shown at the Varsity Theater on January 31, 2016, 3:00 p.m. Commissioner Brandon commented that a showing on campus would be meaningful as well.

Public Comments

Mr. Reed commented on the accident that occurred at Reed Station Road & Hwy 13.

PROCESS ASSESSMENTS

Neighborhood Action Group

Coordinator Heyer reported that the Neighborhood Alliance meeting will be held Saturday, January 23, 2015, First United Methodist Church, 9:30 a.m., and Commissioners Daugherty and Shariati will facilitate the meeting. The Group has been reviewing zoning ordinances and has concern that there is inconsistency between the ordinances and what is in the Comp Plan that was revised a couple of years ago.

Non-Violent Carbondale Project

Ms. Sussman distributed the Charter for Compassion brochure and a draft resolution to be submitted to the City Council for consideration. She indicated that groups and individuals have been working on meeting the requirements of a Compassionate City for five years. Commissioner Falcone suggested that the second WHEREAS from the bottom of the page be revised to read, “WHEREAS, the Carbondale community is known

for its service programs that address hunger, ...". Motion was made by Commissioner McMillan and seconded by Commissioner Falcone to accept the change and to recommend to the City Council that it pass the Carbondale Compassionate City Resolution and affirm the Charter of Compassion. Motion carried.

Racial Justice Coalition

No report

Sparrow Coalition Report

Ms. Sussman reported that the group is working on a human cause emergency situation regarding housing through the winter. Several recommendations for housing were discussed, and Ms. Sussman pointed out that the challenge is that most people do not know about the options and some require special use permits. She indicated that the Coalition would be requesting waivers for the winter or a blanket special use permit. The group has a meeting with the Mayor on December 8. The HRC is being asked to support the Coalition's request. Motion was made by Commissioner Shariati and seconded by Commissioner Brandon to support the Sparrow Coalition's recommendation to the City to temporarily waive the requirement for a special use permit for organizations wishing to shelter the homeless during the winter of 2015-2016. Motion carried.

Law Enforcement

Chief Grubbs thanked Commissioner Daugherty for involving the SIUC Athletics Department in the Police Department's coat drive. The Department's Community Christmas Program will assist some 100 families during the week of December 14.

The letter to the Carbondale Police Department requesting data for the annual report, as indicated in the Ordinance, was sent November 13.

Items for City Council

- 1) Recommendation regarding the Charter for Compassionate City
- 2) Sparrow Coalition's request to waive special use permits for emergency winter housing.

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting – January 11, 2016. Motion was made by Commissioner McMillan and seconded by Commissioner Falcone to adjourn. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Recorded by Deborah McCoy _____