



Carbondale Human Relations Commission

Minutes – February 1, 2016
Carbondale Civic Center ~ 5:00 p.m.

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

Commissioners Excused: Jerrold Hennrich

Study Circle Staff Excused: Sarah Heyer

Guests Present: Ella Lacey, Scott Martin, Elius Reed, Marleen Shepherd

Staff Present: Administrative Services Clerk Courtney Beverly, Building Inspector John Lenzini, Commission Secretary Deborah McCoy

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Vice Chair Brown with roll call and introductions.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Daugherty and seconded by Commissioner Falcone to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2016 minutes. THE VOTE WAS A CONSENSUS.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A statement, regarding the passing of Commissioner McMillan, was read by Commissioner Brown. Commissioners, by consensus agreed the statement should be included in the minutes with a copy sent to the family.

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| Saturday, February 6 | Gamma Kappa Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, second Annual "Have a Heart" Zumba. Backpacks and/or donations for the American Heart Association are welcome; District 95 building on Giant City Road, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Wear red for heart health. |
| Tuesday, February 9 | African American History Program sponsored by the American Association of University Women (AAUW), African American Museum, 7:00 p.m., featuring Commissioner Miller as the guest speaker. |
| Wednesday, February 10 | President Obama to address the Illinois General Assembly. |
| Saturday, February 13 | Memorial Service for John Holmes, SIUC Student Center, 2:00 p.m.
Black Panther Movie, Carbondale Public Library, 2:30 p.m.
A Nightingale for DuBois, SIUC Theater Dept, 7:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 14. |

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ISSUES

Public Education/HRC Website

Daniel Pressley agreed that the housing information could be posted on HRC's website. Commissioner Shariati will get a copy of the information to Commissioner Falcone.

Public Forums/Events

The SIUC Undergraduate Student Government is scheduled to meet on Tuesday to discuss staffing tables to assess the interest of various topics for a campus forum. Commissioner Brandon will provide the Commission with an update at its next meeting.

Annual Report

Commissioner Falcone will draft the report and forward for feedback. The goal is to submit the report to the City Council in March.

Racial Taboo

Mr. Martin reported that approximately 150 people turned out to see the film, Racial Taboo on January 31, and 135-140 stayed to talk. A series of meetings are planned beginning February 9. Louis Henry Gates' *Many Rivers to Cross* will be shown on the first floor of the Boys and Girls Club followed by group discussion. Suggestions for other locations to host the film on Tuesdays are welcome.

Public Comments

Mr. Reed commented that Carlton Smith is the new director of the Eurma Hayes Center. He spoke about Polar Bear and the need to bring the fun back to Carbondale to possibly increase student enrollment. Commissioner Brown spoke about the critical issues and the atmosphere of socially addictive qualities that underpin culture and present serious psychological concerns. The question that should be asked and the responses critiqued more strongly is "how do you feel the next day?" because of long term health issues.

PROCESS ASSESSMENTS

Neighborhood Action Group

Commissioners Daughtery and Shariati facilitated the annual meeting. A number of reports were presented by several groups, with the focus on housing. A Bank of America representative spoke about housing and how to get assistance. Mr. Lenzini commented on the City's first time homebuyer and rental conversion programs. Dr. Lacey suggested inviting the banking group to make a presentation to a group such as the HRC so feedback and other important factors (such as home insurance, taxes, etc.) can be identified for inclusion in future presentations.

Non-Violent Carbondale Project

No report.

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Racial Justice Coalition

Dr. Lacey reported that a letter was sent to Superintendent Shimshak requesting a meeting for February 13. He has acknowledged receipt and will respond to the request. A meeting was held on January 28 and faculty reported on district test scores for white, black, and other students. The Racial Justice Coalition is developing a response to the report. Math and reading are two areas of focus.

Sparrow Coalition Report

Ms. Shepherd reported that there are problems in Carbondale with a variety of populations. Recommendations have been presented to City staff and two programs are being reviewed and considered: 1) PADS (with churches – the concern here is NIMBY – not in my backyard), and 2) tiny house community. Another focus for the Coalition is to educate the homeless about resources.

Law Enforcement

Commissioner Gutierrez commented that he would reach out to assist Chief Grubbs with the mission statement in the absence of Commissioner McMillan.

Items for City Council

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting – March 7, 2016. Motion was made by Commissioner Daugherty and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez to adjourn. YES: Brandon, Brown, Daugherty, Falcone, Gutierrez, Miller, Shariati, Weaver.
NO: None Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Recorded by Deborah McCoy _____