



Commissioners Present: Jessica Bradshaw, Jeraldine Brown, Joseph Brown, Jerrold Hennrich, Sidney Logwood, Les O'Dell, Blaine Tisdale, Dora Weaver

Commissioners Excused: Jerrold Hennrich

Commissioners Absent:

Study Circle Staff Present: Sarah Heyer

Guests Present: Carolin Harvey, Maria Iwan, Faith Miller, Elius Reed, Zakee Tanksley,)

Staff Present: Deborah McCoy

Call to Order

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

Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner Logwood and seconded by Commissioner Joseph Brown to approve the minutes from the December 3, 2012 meeting, with the correction that Sarah Heyer was not present. Motion carried. A meeting was not held in January 2013.

Announcements

None

Public Comments

Comments were made by Mr. Tanksley and Ms. Iwan regarding threats and disturbances directed at them by the tenants who occupy the two apartments beneath them. Mr. Tanksley and Ms. Iwan expressed their frustration and described their attempts to resolve the issue. Complaints have been made with Carbondale Police Department and SIU Students' Legal Assistance has been contacted where the Covenant of Peace & Quiet Enjoyment were discussed. Motion was made by Commissioner Logwood and seconded by Commissioner Weaver that a letter be written to the City Council requesting the City Manager to review and follow-up on the situation. Motion carried. Commissioners encouraged Mr. Tanksley and Ms. Iwan to check with the Land of Lincoln to find out what could be done to resolve the issue to allow them to move out. Commissioner O'Dell asked that Mr. Tanksley and Ms. Iwan accept an apology on behalf of the City as their experiences with the situation are not representative of the Carbondale community.

Study Circles Report

Coordinator Heyer reviewed Carbondale's study circle history and the action groups that developed from

those meetings. The Neighborhood Action Group, which grew out of Study Circles, has continued to be active and is about 10 years old. The group focuses on helping neighborhoods organize. They are currently involved in reviewing current and proposed zoning changes.

Non-Violent Carbondale Project Progress Report

Chair Bradshaw reported that efforts to move the City closer to signing the Charter for Compassion continue. City Council Members continue to be contacted and encouraged to support the Charter for Compassion.

The 11 Days of Food Justice is scheduled to run from February 21 through March 2. Thirty (30) events have been scheduled to take place around town. The schedule and publicity will be available on February 11, 2013. The next meeting will be held on February 8, 2013, at Longbranch.

Old Business

Illinois Municipal Human Relations Association (IMHRA) Annual Conference will be held on May 2, 2013, in Springfield, IL. A reception will be held on the evening of May 1, 2013. Commissioners planning to attend include Jeri Brown, Joseph Brown, and Sidney Logwood.

Law Enforcement Reports – No response, to the letter requesting information, has been received. Motion was made by Commissioner Tisdale and seconded by Commissioner O’Dell that a follow-up letter be written with a copy to the City Manager. Motion carried.

HRC Responsibilities, Role, Charges – Commissioner Tisdale distributed the handout summarizing his research on subpoena power. Commissioners agreed to speak with other HRC members during the IMHRA Conference and bring back information to determine the best way to move forward.

Continuing the Dialogue – African American Students. Commissioners agreed that the dialogue needs to continue, that there are serious problems in Carbondale that need to be addressed, that the University continues to talk about diversity and is proud of the numbers on paper yet the campus continues to be segregated, and comments made by Council Members are insensitive and unsettling. The discussion of how to move forward will be continued at the next meeting.

New Business

A copy of a letter written to Murphysboro School District’s Superintendent, regarding a school bus incident that may have been fueled by inappropriate racial responses, was received in December. The letter was received as information only with a copy also sent to the Carbondale Branch NAACP.

Next Meeting: March 4, 2013

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.