



## Carbondale Human Relations Commission

Minutes – January 11, 2016  
Carbondale Civic Center ~ 5:00 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:** Joseph Brown, Diane Daugherty, Peg Falcone, Ted Gutierrez, Eric McMillan, Faith Miller, Karriem Shariati, Dora Weaver

**Commissioners Excused:** Joshua Kyle Brandon, Jerrold Hennrich

**Study Circle Staff Excused:** Sarah Heyer

**Guests Present:** Cathy Field, Scott Martin, SIUC Public Safety Director Ben Newman, Diana Brawley Sussman

**Staff Present:** Police Chief Jeff Grubbs, Mayor Mike Henry, Interim City Manager Gary Williams, Staff Intern Courtney Beverly, 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 Falcone and seconded by Commissioner Daugherty to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2015 meeting with the following corrections: 1) Maurine Pyle was present and not Marlene Shepherd, 2) Announcements - Ivas John rather than Ivis John, 3) Public Comments should read: "Mr. Reed commented on the accident that occurred at Reed Station Road & Hwy 13," and the remainder of the text should be deleted. THE VOTE WAS A CONSENSUS.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, January 17	Annual Martin Luther King Celebration - Carbondale Civic Center, 4:00 p.m.
Monday, January 18	Carbondale Branch NAACP Martin Luther King Breakfast - SIUC Student Center, 8:00 a.m. breakfast, 9:00 program.
Wednesday, January 20	Community Town Hall Meeting - Carbondale Civic Center, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 23	Annual Neighborhood Alliance Meeting - First Methodist Church, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon.
Monday, January 25	Southern Illinois Veterans Coalition - 10289 Haven Road, Carbondale, 12:00-2:00 p.m. and 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 31	Racial Taboo Film, Varsity Theater, 3:00 p.m.

January 11, 2016

## **COMMENTS**

Mayor Henry expressed his concern regarding the direction of the Human Relations Commission (HRC) and the focus on the Carbondale Police Department. There was discussion regarding the role of the HRC based on the duties and functions set forth in Chapter 14, Article I of the City Ordinance. Mayor Henry commented on the extreme lateness of the 2014 Annual Report, and indicated that reports could be submitted regardless of whether information was received from the Police Department. Mayor Henry stated that the minutes should contain the number of Commissioners voting on motions. Members of the Commission offered comments of clarification to some of the concerns expressed by the Mayor.

## **ISSUES**

### *Public Education/HRC Website*

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

### *Public Forums/Events*

Commissioners were asked to direct comments or edits to the Community-Policing Forum summary to Commissioner Falcone. She will forward to the City's IT Department for posting on the website.

### *Annual Report*

The 2015 Report should be submitted to the City Council in March.

### *Racial Taboo*

Mr. Martin stated that Racial Taboo will be shown to an audience of 100-150 people on Sunday, January 31, 2016, Varsity Theater, 3:00 p.m. Following the film, the audience will break into small discussion groups. Motion was made by Commissioner McMillan and seconded by Commissioner Miller that HRC serve as a co-sponsor of the Racial Taboo event. THE VOTE WAS A CONSENSUS.

## **Public Comments**

None

## **PROCESS ASSESSMENTS**

### *Neighborhood Action Group*

Annual Neighborhood Alliance meeting will be held Saturday, January 23, 2015, First United Methodist Church, 9:30 a.m.

### *Non-Violent Carbondale Project*

Ms. Sussman reported that the group is moving forward with efforts to become a compassionate city, and is waiting to appear before the City Council.

*Racial Justice Coalition*

Ms. Field reported that the Racial Justice Coalition voted to oppose any effort to bring the police back to the schools, and will meet with Superintendent Shimshak regarding the initiative. There was discussion regarding the previous program, and evidence-based research/reports that indicate police in the schools could be a positive effort. It was suggested that a neutral party sponsor a forum where there could be small group discussions to allow for feedback.

*Sparrow Coalition Report*

Ms. Sussman reported that a meeting was held with the Mayor and Interim City Manager and it is illegal to grant waivers for special use permits except in an emergency that meets specific guidelines. The Sparrow Coalition is working on putting some things together for next year.

*Law Enforcement*

Chief Grubbs stated that he has been in contact with Commissioner McMillan regarding the Department's mission statement. The Department is also working on re-establishing the Chaplain Program in some form.

*Items for City Council*

Council attend the HRC Retreat.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Next meeting – February 1, 2016. Motion was made by Commissioner Shariati and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez to adjourn. YES: Brown, Daugherty, Falcone, Gutierrez, McMillan, Miller, Shariati, Weaver.  
NO: None Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Recorded by Deborah McCoy \_\_\_\_\_