



Commissioners Present: Jeraldine Brown, Joseph Brown, Jerrold Hennrich, Faith Miller, Dora Weaver

Commissioners Excused: Peg Falcone, Les O’Dell

Commissioners Absent: Blaine Tisdale

Study Circle Staff Present: Sarah Heyer

Guests Present: Judy Cunningham, Eric McMillan, Shelley A. Faulkner, Karriem Shariati

Staff Present: Deborah McCoy, Lieutenant Matthew Dunning

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Hennrich at 6:30 p.m. Vice Chair Hennrich called for the introduction of guests who shared about why they were interested in the HRC and/or attending the meeting.

Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner Joseph Brown and seconded by Commissioner Weaver to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2013, meeting with the correction of the word “Peach” in the Announcements to read Peace. Motion carried.

Announcements

- January 17: Free Dinner at the Eurma C. Hayes Center, 4:00 pm–6:00pm. Co-sponsored by the African American Museum, Eurma C. Hayes Center, and Attucks Community Service Board.
- January 19: Annual Martin Luther King Community Celebration, “Rise Up for Change,” Carbondale Civic Center, 4:00 pm.
- January 20: MLK Breakfast, SIU-C Student Center. Breakfast served from 7:00am-9:00 am with program beginning shortly thereafter. Sponsored by the Carbondale Branch NAACP.
- May 1: Illinois Municipal Human Relations Association (IMHRA) Conference - Springfield, Illinois.

Public Comments: None

Study Circles Report

Neighborhood Action Group

Coordinator Heyer reported the Neighborhood Action Group will host the Neighborhood Alliance Meeting on Saturday, January 25, 2014, 9:30 am at the First United Methodist Church, 214 W. Main Street. Vice Chair Hennrich will be speaking on behalf of the HRC at the event. Coordinator Heyer solicited volunteers to assist with updating the three-fold HRC display board she will be taking to the Neighborhood Alliance Meeting. Commissioner Jeri Brown volunteered to assist with the display.

Coordinator Heyer reported that the City's Planning Department can advise citizens of changes that are scheduled for neighborhoods. Those interested in receiving information should contact the Planning Department.

Mr. McMillan commented that neighborhood associations/groups are a way to get people engaged in the community, and those groups should also include rental property tenants.

Continuing the Dialogue/Education - No report

Race Relations - No report

Non-Violent Carbondale Project

Progress continues towards making Carbondale a place where every single human being treats, and is treated, "with absolute justice, equity and respect" (Charter for Compassion). Four sets of activities and events to advance peace have been held including 11 Days of Peace, 11 Days of Compassion, and 11 Days of Food.

NVCP will be hosting events in March and/or April where speakers will address environmental concerns. A book titled, *Rights of Community – Community of Rights*, will be the foundation of the discussion. The discussion will address the control people in the community have over what happens in their environment. NVCP will also sponsor a forum where the public will be invited to participate in storytelling, presenting oral histories, and so forth.

Old Business

Law Enforcement Reports: Vice Chair Hennrich reported that to date, no information from the Carbondale Police Department has been received. He suggested a FOIA request be submitted and disseminated a copy of the request. Commissioners agreed that the request should be submitted. Commissioner Bonner indicated that she would be willing to speak with the Mayor about the matter, and the Commissioners authorized her to do so. There was discussion about whether HRC could make the FOIA request or whether it had to be made by an individual. Commissioners agreed to invite the City Clerk to its February meeting to discuss the Open Meetings Act and FOIA. Mr. McMillan commented that people should be encouraged to use the complaint process that is already in place so there is documentation.

HRC Responsibilities, Role, Charges: Commissioner Miller, Chair of the Educational Campaign Committee, reported that Commissioner Joseph Brown, Vice Chair Hennrich, and Mr. McMillan were guests on WSIU with Jennifer Fuller on December 3, 2013. Vice Chair Hennrich will be the guest on radio station 91.1 with Les O'Dell on January 20, 2014, 10:30 a.m. Commissioner O'Dell will write an article for the *Communique*.

Continuing the Dialogue: Focused Community Discussions. Commissioner Miller suggested Environmental Racism as the first topic. Commissioners agreed to contact potential speakers and ascertain their availability for March, April or May. Other topics recommended for future discussions included Poverty and Fair Housing.

Partnering for Social Justice: Because of the weather, meetings have not been held. The group has watch programs on education, court and crime, and the coppers project.

New Business

None.

Next Meeting: March 3, 2014, 6:30 p.m.

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

Recorded by Deborah McCoy _____