



Carbondale Human Relations Commission

Minutes – March 7, 2016

Carbondale Civic Center - 5:00pm

Commissioners Present: Joshua Kyle Brandon, Joseph Brown, Peg Falcone, Ted Gutierrez, Jerrold Hennrich, Faith Miller, Kareem Shariati, Dora Weaver

Commissioners Excused: Diane Daugherty

Study Circle Staff: Sarah Heyer

Guest Present: Cathy Field, Debbie Martin, Scott Martin, Elius Reed

Staff Present: Commission Secretary Courtney Beverly, Administrative Services Director Deborah McCoy, Deputy Chief Stan Reno

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by the Chair Hennrich.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Falcone to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2016 meeting. All Voted Aye. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Brandon commented on housing developments in Carbondale.

An email from Ms. Marleen Shepherd regarding the Sparrow Coalition was read into the record.

ISSUES

Public Education/HRC Website

No new information about the HRC Website at this time.

Commissioner Shariati mentioned that the “King Celebration” was well attended. The event provided information, including “Who to Call,” “History of The Non-Violence in Carbondale” and the HRC Brochure. Commissioner Shariati also suggested having a “Human Relations Committee” tent for future events that will hold information for the Commission.

Commissioner Gutierrez mentioned that local businesses (individuals) wanted biographies of City Council members posted on the City’s website. Dr. McCoy commented that the suggestion be directed to the Mayor and City Council as it would be their decision and not that of the HRC.

Public Forums/Events

Commissioner Brandon reported that he had proposed forum options to the SIUC Undergraduate Student Government (USG). He stated that the forum for “Racial Taboo” would be held on April 6, 2016 at 6 p.m. in the SIUC Student Center. Commissioner Brandon also invited key SIUC campus leaders and the USG Treasurer to speak at the forum.

Commissioner Brandon stated that he would work with USG to plan the campus forum with the format similar to the other HRC forums, but where participants would have 10-20 minutes to ask questions after each speaker. A survey of students to gather information on important issues will be conducted on campus.

Racial Taboo

No Report

Annual Report

Motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Brandon to forward the Annual Report to the Mayor, City Council, and City Manager, with or without the data from the police department. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

Commissioner Hennrich asked Deputy Reno to follow-up on the data and a letter sent to the department in December requesting information.

Annual Retreat

Commissioners discussed the Annual Retreat and decided it should be held in July consistent with the two previous retreats. Commissioner Miller suggested a planning calendar that would contain information on educational forums and other future events. Commissioners agreed that goal setting should take place at the Annual Retreat. Commissioners will further discuss the agenda for the Annual Retreat at the next HRC meeting.

Public Comments

Mr. Reed attended the Memorial March in Carbondale, Illinois while meeting Shelia Simons, State Representative Terri Bryant, Carbondale Police Chief Jeff Grubbs and Mayor Mike Henry and after the Memorial March there was an additional meeting being held at the SIUC Engineering building that Mr. Sam attended as well.

PROCESS ASSESSMENTS

Neighborhood Action Group

Coordinator Heyer reported on the homelessness and homeownership discussions held by the Neighborhood Alliance. She announced the Homebuyer Education workshop scheduled for March 31, 2016, at the Carbondale Public Library, 6 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Child care services will be available during the event.

Coordinator Heyer reported that discussion at the Neighborhood Action Group meeting included artwork for the Arbor District by outreach to students, and distributing information throughout the community.

Non-Violent Carbondale Project

Coordinator Heyer reported that the Non-Violent Carbondale Project was hoping to be on the City Council agenda for "Charter for Compassion." Commissioners were reminded to visit the website (www.nonviolentcarbondale.org) to pledge and sign their support of the "Charter of Compassion".

Racial Justice Coalition

Ms. Field reported that the Racial Justice Coalition continues to meet monthly focusing on issues that include: 1) Carbondale Police to repair relationships with the African American community, 2) Concerns of the achievement gap between black and white students in Carbondale District#95.

Sparrow Coalition Report

An email from Ms. Shepherd was distributed to Commissioners. She provided an update on agencies/organizations that have received cuts in funding, including the Big Brother and Big Sister program. Commissioner Gutierrez commented that the SIUC Business Development Center was still open and seeking alternative funding. The Sparrow Coalition is coordinating four teams to focus on: 1) Communications and Advocacy, 2) Emergency Shelter, 3) Knowledge and Mobilization, 4) Long-term Housing. Sam Cox and Jess Joe will coordinate the teams. The Sparrow Coalition's next meeting is April 5, 2016, 3:30 p.m. at First Christian Church.

Law Enforcement

Commissioner Gutierrez reported that he spoke with Chief Grubbs, regarding Commissioner McMillan and his work on the department's mission statement, and the statement was essentially finished. No further assistance from Commissioner Gutierrez is needed.

Items for City Council

2015 Annual Report

None

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting - April 4, 2016. There being no further business, Commissioner Hennrich moved, and Commissioner Gutierrez seconded, to adjourn. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Recorded by Courtney Beverly _____