



Carbondale Human Relations Commission

Minutes – October 5, 2015
Carbondale Civic Center ~ 5:00 p.m.

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

Commissioners Excused:

Study Circle Staff Present: Sarah Heyer

Guests Present: Marleen Shepherd

Staff Present: Police Chief Jeff Grubbs, Building Inspector John Lenzini, Commission Secretary Deborah McCoy

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Chair Hennrich. He congratulated Commissioner Daugherty on her appointment to the Commission. She commented that she was the golf coach at SIUC for 25 years and has been retired for four, and is currently involved in animal rescue, and is excited to be a part of the Commission. Congratulations were also extended to Police Chief Grubbs on his appointment.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Falcone and seconded by Commissioner Brandon to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2015 meeting. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ISSUES

Police in the Schools

Commissioner Shariati suggested and Commissioners agreed that this item be removed from the agenda.

Public Education/HRC Website

Website updates continue to be made.

Public Forums/Events – Community Policing

Commissioners Gutierrez and McMillan reported that a meeting was held September 24, 2015, with Chief Grubbs, Deputy Chief Reno, and Dr. McCoy regarding the Community/Policing Forum. The previously identified November 10 date will not work for the forum. Police Chief Grubbs commented on the meeting and HRC Meeting Notes - Page 2

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the rationale for why the date was not the best for the Police Department. Chief Grubbs received the summary of the discussions from the last forum. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for October 22. Commissioner Brandon presented a draft itinerary for the Community/Policing Forum. He suggested that the two sections used for the previous forum (a panel and discussion tables) be maintained. Commissioners discussed hosts for each table (including a HRC rep and sworn/non-sworn officer) the list of suggested topics, questions, and forum set-up. Commissioner Brandon recommended the HRC develop a toolkit with pillars, and Commissioner McMillan suggested the pillars represent HRC values and principles. Commissioner Brown commented that the mission statement and values could be placed around the forum room to establish an environment. Commissioner McMillan stated that the Racial Justice Coalition asked that any questions/concerns regarding trust be included in the forum discussions.

Commissioner Miller shared her experience with the Carbondale Citizen Police Academy, and the successful fund raising efforts of Mary Hart (wife of former SIUC Athletic Director Jim Hart) to acquire Jasper, the first Carbondale Police Department K-9.

Mr. Lenzini commented on the need for information to be shared with students and its importance in improving the relationship between the City and the university, particularly where code enforcement is concerned. Commissioner Brandon indicated that he will work hard to make sure the Community/Policing Forum to be held on campus next semester will be helpful for students, the university and the community. Commissioner Brown suggested that university faculty and staff be included in the marketing campaign to reach students. Commissioner Miller suggested that Dr. Lori Bryant be contacted as she is the new director of Students' Legal Assistance, replacing Steve Rogers.

2016 Meeting Schedule

Motion was made by Commissioner Falcone and seconded by Commissioner Brandon that the 2016 HRC Calendar include Monday meetings at 5:00 p.m. on January 11, February 1, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 11, August 1, September 12, October 3, November 7, and December 5. Motion carried.

Annual Report

Chair Hennrich submitted a summary of 2014 HRC meeting minutes for corrections and changes. Commissioner Falcone agreed to work on the draft of the Annual Report and submit it to Dr. McCoy for distribution to Commissioners. Action will then be taken at the November meeting.

Public Comments

None

PROCESS ASSESSMENTS

Neighborhood Action Group

Coordinator Heyer reported that the group will meet on Tuesday, October 6, 2015. The Arbor District is hosting a potluck picnic on Sunday, October 18, 2015.

Non-Violent Carbondale Project

Coordinator Heyer reported that Diana Brawley Sussman, Director of the Carbondale Public Library, wrote an article for the Journal of Librarians regarding her experience working with the NVC and the Sparrow Coalition.

Racial Justice Coalition

Commissioner McMillan reported that the group was trying to tie up some loose ends and determine who would be doing what with the departing of Rev. Ingebritsen. The duties of Rev. Ingebritsen would be split up amongst various members. Ms. Cathy Field will serve as the main coordinator with Dr. Ella Lacey as the spokesperson. The group will continue to meet at the Church of the Good Shepherd. The group is deciding how to move forward with concerns about the Community Growth Plan.

Sparrow Coalition Report

Ms. Shepherd reported that the biggest concern continues to be the budget impasse in Springfield and the dire effects is having on social service agencies. She spoke about the near loss of the Good Samaritan House soup kitchen and the actions taken to save and maintain it. A monthly community forum is being held to discuss the issues. Of particular concern is what will be done to address the various issues with winter approaching. The October forum meeting will be an attempt to bring stakeholders together to discuss what can be done to address the crises southern Illinois is experiencing, and the 35-40 unsheltered Carbondale homeless. She commented that there was an excellent response to the micro housing and other housing options used in Eugene, OR. The SIUC Department of Social Work and the Carbondale Public Library have an agreement where a Social Work graduate assistant is assigned to the Carbondale Public Library. She is coordinating a winter cover drive and has updated a directory. Chief Grubbs commented that conversations about social issues need to be addressed before policing issues can be addressed. Commissioner Brown stated that the discussions HRC has had and are having are about those very issues. He stated that he would like to challenge any perception that HRC is stuck on the same record, as the entire second half of HRC's monthly agenda is about social issues, and it is the responsibility of the entire community.

Law Enforcement

Chief Grubbs announced that due to the lack of state funding, the local Mobile Training Unit will be cancelled November 1 and lights at local offices will be out by February 1, 2016, if there is not a budget. Other training will also be impacted. Chief Grubbs indicated that the department is compiling 2014 statistics by hand to match the 2013 reports of the Law Enforcement Report with the new system being operational for less than a week. The new system went live Friday, October 2, 2015. Commissioners Gutierrez and Daugherty will draft a letter to be sent to the Illinois State Police, Carbondale Police, and Jackson County Sheriff's Office requesting reports as set forth in the City Ordinance. Chief Grubbs reported that the department is adding to its Community Christmas Store a component where all 100 children will receive a coat, in addition to the toys. On Friday, October 30, 2015, the Carbondale Police Department, Carbondale Park District, Carbondale Fire Department, States Attorney's Office, and Jackson County Sheriff's Office will sponsor a *Trunk or Treat* at Attucks Park where kids will receive small gift baskets. Anyone wishing to be a part of the Christmas Store or *Trunk or Treat* efforts, please let Dr. McCoy know so she can forward the information.

There were questions and discussions regarding the administrative tow fee charged by the City. Chief Grubbs provided an explanation and answered questions. Mr. Lenzini reminded Commissioners that Building and

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Neighborhood Services also has vehicles towed, following a lengthy legal process, for things such as vehicle abandonment.

Items for City Council

None

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting – November 2, 2015. Motion was made by Commissioner McMillan and seconded by Commissioner Brown to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Recorded by Deborah McCoy _____