



**Commissioners Present:** Lauren Bonner, Jeraldine Brown, Joseph Brown, Peg Falcone, Jerrold Hennrich, Faith Miller, Dora Weaver

**Commissioners Excused:** Les O’Dell

**Commissioners Absent:** Jovan Gathings, Blaine Tisdale

**Study Circle Staff Present:** Sarah Heyer

**Guests Present:** Judy Cunningham, Fenn Freitag, Beatrice Garrett, Betsy Herman, Wendell Hughes, Sonja Ingebritsen, Camille Jones, Ella Lacey, Peter Lemish, Eric McMillan, Margaret Nesbitt, Elius Reed, Julia Rowe, Diana Sussman,

**Staff Present:** Deborah McCoy, Lieutenant Matthew Dunning, Councilwoman Jessica Bradshaw

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## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Hennrich at 6:10 p.m.

## Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner Joseph Brown and seconded by Commissioner Falcone to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2013, meeting with the correction that Commissioner Falcone volunteered to draft a flyer and not to serve as the Welcome Carbondale committee chair. Motion carried.

## Announcements

October 5-6: Irish Festival, Turley Park

October 10: SIU Carbondale Office of Diversity & Equity - LGBTQ History Mon

October 10: Alphabet Soup, Lesar Law School – 3:00 pm

October 17: Difference Dialogues, SIU Carbondale Student Center, Missouri Room, 12:00-1:00 pm

October 18-28: 11 Days of Peace and Peace History Conference

October 26: State of Arizona Film, Carbondale Public Library, 2:30 pm

October 27 “778 Bullets” – Carbondale Public Library, 2:00 pm

October 28: Peace for Compassion Reception – Hugh Muldoon Peacemaker Award, 5:00 pm,  
Boys & Girls Club

October 7, 2013

## **Public Comments**

Mr. Reed commented that notification was received from Dr. Linda McCabe Smith, SIUC Associate Chancellor for Diversity, indicating that the university would be happy to assist with an employment workshop at the Eurma C. Hayes Center. The workshop will focus on Civil Service positions and is tentatively scheduled for October 29, 2013, 6:00 p.m. He also commented about his concern that the Eurma C. Hayes Center was sold to a group for \$10 that was not a legitimate Illinois nonprofit at the time of the sale. According to Mr. Reed, if that was the case, the Eurma C. Hayes Center still belongs to the City. Mr. Reed inquired about the number of police officers. He was directed to request an updated report for accurate information.

Ms. Cunningham expressed some concerns she had regarding the Carbondale Police Station from 2001. She indicated she had tried to file complaints with the Carbondale Police Department and Jackson County in 2001. She wrote a summation and disseminated it to the community, Eastern Star, Masons, and Shriners. She indicated that her furniture and other expensive items were taken.

## **Study Circles Report**

### *Neighborhood Action*

Coordinator Heyer reported the Neighborhood Action Group met Wednesday, October 2, 2013. Group representatives staffed a table at the Irish Festival on October 5 & 6, 2013.

### *Continuing the Dialogue/Education*

No report

### *Race Relations*

No report

## **Non-Violent Carbondale Project Progress Report**

Members of the NVCP were introduced. Diana Brawley Sussman provided some history on how the NVCP was started, along with some of the events sponsored by the project. For this year's event, 60 events are scheduled for the *11 Days of Peace* and Peace History Conference during October. The events will be featured in a Carbondale Times publication which will also contain articles. The events will be held across the Carbondale community. Ideas on what Carbondale can do to become a more peaceful community can be shared on the organization's website at [www.nonviolentcarbondale.org](http://www.nonviolentcarbondale.org). Commissioners were reminded that their assistance and support is needed with the Charter for Compassion campaign. A resolution will need to be drafted and submitted to the City Council to consider adopting the Charter for Compassion for the City of Carbondale. Vice Chair Hennrich volunteered to be the HRC representative to NVCP.

## **Old Business**

### Law Enforcement Reports:

Vice Chair Hennrich distributed a draft of a FOIA request pertaining to information from the Carbondale Police Department (attached). The Commission agreed that Vice Chair Hennrich should submit the request.

October 7, 2013

HRC Responsibilities, Role, Charges: Suggested revisions to the Bylaws included: **Article II: Purpose and Function** - **J.** Southern Illinois University *Department of Public Safety* instead of Southern Illinois University *Police Department*; **K.** *meetings* instead of **meeting**. **Article III: Composition** – Section 3 – Term of Appointment – *Commissioners appointed initially shall hold office as follows: three(3) Commissioners shall be appointed for one year (one of which shall be a student appointment who shall serve a term beginning on the date of such selection and expiring on the next succeeding May 31<sup>st</sup>), four (4) shall be appointed for two years, and four (4) shall be appointed for three years.* Replaced by: *As each original member's term expires, said member will be replaced by a Commissioner who will serve for a term of two years. Commissioners appointed to fulfill an unexpired term shall serve until the end of the term.* Section 5 – Compensation – *expenses* instead of *expense*. **Article IV: Officers** – Section 1 – *Officers* instead of *Offices*. Section 2 – *Chair* should be capitalized. Section 3 – Do not capitalize *ex officio*. *Representative shall be responsible for notifying members of meeting; managing the Commission's correspondence; recording the deliberations at each meeting; preparing the minutes and supplying a copy of the minutes to the members.* Revision was separating items by semi-colons. **Article V: Finance** – Section 1 - ... funds provided by the Mayor *and the City Council* ... instead of ... funds provided by the Mayor and Council ... **Article VI: Meetings** – Section 2 – *Notices of Meetings* instead of *Notices of Meeting*. *Illinois Open Meetings Act* instead of *Open Meetings Act*. Section 3 – *Special Meetings* instead of *Meetings* . **Article VII: Committees** – Section 2 – Non-commissioners, including experts or consultants *needed* to assist .... Added the worded *needed*. Section 3 – *Committee Appointments* instead of *Committee Appointment*. Section 4 – added a semi-colon after *Commission members*; **Article IX: Amendments** - Amendments may be made to the *By-Laws* instead of *By-laws*; 2) *the amendment or amendments have been* ... instead of *the amendment has been* ... Add a last sentence to that paragraph that reads: *Other revisions to the By-Laws will be approved by the same manner as is stated for the approval of amendments.* Motion was made by Commissioner Falcone and seconded by Commissioner Joseph Brown to approve the revisions. Motion carried. Vice Chair Hennrich will find out what needs to be done next with the By-Laws, e.g. submitted to the Mayor and City Council for review/approval.

Continuing the Dialogue: The *Welcome to Carbondale* event is scheduled for Saturday, November 2, 2013, at the Carbondale Civic Center, 1:00-3:00 pm. Committee meetings were held and some assignments were completed. The program brochure was reviewed. Commissioner Bonner will pull together any loose ends including contacting the media, the university, agencies and organizations, and getting back to Vice Chair Hennrich on status and costs for advertising/story in the Daily Egyptian, Carbondale Times, and Southern Illinoisan. Periodic community discussion events will be identified at a later meeting.

Public Hearing – “Ending Disparities in African American Communities” The hearing, held September 26<sup>th</sup> at the Civic Center, was well attended. The Concerned Citizens and the Community Racial Justice Coalition are discussing how they can work together.

Documentary Updates: “778 Bullets”: Professor Aguayo provided some background on the film which is about the presence of the Black Panthers during the 1960s and 1970s. The Black Panthers visited college campuses and tried to address social justice needs. A group of young men who belonged to the group lived in a house on the northeast side of Carbondale, and 778 bullets were shot into their house. Professor Aguayo commented that what has been remarkable about the film is the discussion that has followed. Themes have emerged around several topics such as education equity, relationship between police and community, race relations at SIU and with the community. Commissioner Miller reported that groups such as the Community Racial Justice Coalition, Concerned Citizens, and NVCP, are trying to respond to some of the issues experienced not only by Black people, but others. Ms. Cunningham commented that conspiracies to obstruct justice do exist and it is important to speak out. Dr. Lacey stated that there should be vigilance about keeping something going rather

than waiting and moving from issue to issue. Professor Aguayo stated that several community groups are coalescing around the film and groups need to take advantage of the discussion and channels that change things such as HRC and subpoena power, the relationship of the Commission to the City Council, and the ability of the HRC to strongly encourage or put pressure on people. Mr. McMillan stated that the HRC can make recommendations and advise the City Council. When citizens bring complaints to the HRC, they should be advised to file formal complaints. There are forms for housing complaints and police complaints. Pastor Ingebriksen asked how might the Racial Justice Coalition and other groups work with the HRC to secure subpoena authority? How can those groups partner with HRC to help them and in turn for HRC to help other groups do what they need to do. Commissioner Joseph Brown stated that when the conversations are about race, they seldom go anywhere. It is the notion of reconciliation that is not talked about. Injustice is talked about, but when it comes to antagonism, the conversation is over. How do people get to a point where they know they will not be attacked and they will be listened to with an open mind. People must feel safe to talk about things that might lead to change and that is one of the main reasons there are no real conversations about race. Mr. Lemish commented that there should be investigation and then discussion with the understanding that recrimination is not acceptable for those who told the truth. This idea of reconciliation comes out of the South African Movement where there was a force of power because of the community's outcry. Ms. Nesbitt commented that the film and the discussions are bringing citizens together so there is no longer the folks from the Northeast Side or from the Southeast, West or Northwest. There are a number of things going on in education, crime, and so on. Citizens must stick together for the betterment of the whole community. An important community topic is the Koppers Wood-Treating Site. The next Community Racial Justice Coalition meeting will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2013, at the Church of the Good Shepherd on the corner of Orchard & Schwartz Streets.

#### **New Business**

No report

**Next Meeting:** November 4, 2013, **6:00 p.m.**

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

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