



Commissioners Present: Jessica Bradshaw, Jeraldine Brown, Patricia Keenan, Sidney Logwood, Candle Wester-Mittan

Commissioners Excused: Sherry Ratcliff

Commissioners Absent: Julian Ross

Study Circle Staff Present: None

Guests Present: Jenn Freitag, Christopher Mullins, Diana Brawley Sussman

Staff Present: Deborah McCoy (Excused)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Hugh Muldoon, at 6:35 p.m.

Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Bradshaw to approve the revised minutes of the September 12, 2011 meeting. Motion carried. Motion was made by Commissioner Wester-Mittan and seconded by Commissioner Keenan to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Announcements

None

Public Comments

None

Study Circles Report

A copy of the minutes from the Neighborhood Action Group was e-mailed to Commissioners. Chair Muldoon raised the question of whether the Neighborhood Action Group needed to maintain a link with the Human Relations Commission and continue to be an agenda item. Discussion on the issue was postponed.

November 7, 2011

Non-Violent Communication Progress Report

Chair Muldoon offered a historical introduction noting that the original plan to involve the various sectors of the community was virtually accomplished through the *11 Days for Peace*. He mentioned a number of follow through meetings and activities and requested a volunteer to represent the Human Relations Commission on the planning committee for the MLK community commemoration. Commissioner Brown agreed to represent the Human Relations Commission. Commissioner Muldoon also asked for volunteers to help Sarah Heyer with a display for the event. Another request for volunteers will be forthcoming when a work day is scheduled.

Chair Muldoon noted that Linda Flowers, Principal of Thomas Elementary School, is still interested in having Tod Kington work with her school staff. The NVC reading practice group will work on an idea to show training videos at the Varsity. Jenn Freitag announced that the Women's Center Bystander Training series will continue next year on a monthly basis and perhaps be scheduled at the Civic Center in partnership with related groups. Diana Brawley Sussman presented a proposal for *11 Days in May on Civility*. She will seek a small grant to help cover expenses. The Human Relations Commission, with a motion by Commissioner Logwood and a second by Commissioner Keenan, voted unanimously to serve as the primary partner with the Carbondale Public Library in support of the American Library Association Building Common Ground grant application entitled, "Let's Face This: An 11 Days Project on Community, Civility, and Compassion."

Chair Muldoon asked that the Human Relations Commission (HRC) approve and acknowledge the group's name as "Nonviolent Carbondale" and recognize HRC's role as a working partner in the group. The "Nonviolent Carbondale Project" would no longer be used. This shift acknowledges the collaborative leadership of the partners actively involved in Nonviolent Carbondale. Motion was made by Commissioner Logwood and seconded by Commissioner Wester-Mittan to change the name to Nonviolent Carbondale. Motion carried. The next meeting of the Nonviolent Carbondale subcommittee is Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. Members of the HRC are invited.

Other Reports

None

Presentation: Dr. Christopher Mullins, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, SIUC. Mullins noted that violence is a "nested" phenomenon and is best understood through its layered contexts. Family and neighborhood cultures are critical factors. This means that school intervention is generally not effective. Acceptance of violent ways of solving problems is engrained at early ages and supported by popular culture, sports, the military, and personal needs to create and assert one's identity and reputation among peers. Mullins studied street violence in St. Louis and elsewhere as well as large scale violent behaviors in wars and genocides.

Next Meeting: December 5, 2011

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Recorded by Chair Muldoon and Commissioner Keenan