



Carbondale Human Relations Commission

Minutes – August 1, 2016
Carbondale City Hall - 5:00pm

Commissioners Present: Ted Gutierrez, Jerrold Hennrich, Karriem Shariati, Dora Weaver, Diane Daughtery, Stephanie Brown, Faith Miller

Commissioners Excused: Joseph Brown

Commissioners Unexcused: Joshua Kyle Brandon

Study Circle Staff: Sarah Heyer

Guest Present: Brandi Gayles and Sharleah Williams (Black Love Adjoining Communities Collectively), Cathy Field, Marleen Shepherd, Roseanna Dorsey, Rodney Cavitt, Elius Reed

Staff Present: Administrative Services Clerk Courtney Beverly

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:11 p.m. by Commissioner Hennrich.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Daughtery and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2016 meeting. Motion carried. All Voted Aye.

Corrections: Excused

ANNOUNCEMENT

Blue Lives Matter rally was held at the Carbondale City Hall in honor of the Carbondale Police Officer.

Mr. Reed announced that SIU Fall semester begins in two weeks and that SIU Fall enrollment has decreased while SIUE Fall enrollment has increased.

The Annual Jackson County Democratic Dinner will be held on the last Thursday of August at 17th Street Barbecue.

ISSUES

Public Education/HRC Website

Commissioner Stephanie Brown will put together resources regarding different education opportunities that will benefit families and young children in the Carbondale area.

Mr. Rodney Cavitt stated that he worked with several schools in the south suburbs of Chicago and assisting in creating programs for children and families to be more involved with their teachers and education.

Commissioner Weaver reported that during the next Racial Justice Coalition meeting there will be a school board member present to discuss the PRACC test scores on August 4, 2016 at 7p.m. located at District #195.

Commissioner Stephanie Brown mentioned to the Commissioners that the local high school seniors would be transitioning from taking the ACT Exam to beginning the SAT this year.

Public Forums/Events

Commissioner Hennrich mentioned that Commissioner Brandon is interested in teaming with SIUC on an upcoming Campus forum.

Commissioner Weaver reported that Scott Martin from Racial Unity will have a meeting with the Chancellor of SIUC in regards of rescheduling and discussing the Racial Taboo forum on August 3, 2016 at the Church of Good Shepherd beginning at 10a.m.

Dr. Susan Ford has been appointed the Interim Provost at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Annual Retreat

Commissioner Hennrich stated to the other Commissioners that he did not complete the task in meeting with the SIUC Chancellor. But Commissioner Hennrich did meet with the City Manager Gary Williams regarding the last three years of the Human Relations Commission Annual Reports.

Mr. Cavitt addressed the Commissioners about the sewer water flooding at his family home due to the City of Carbondale doing work on a water line on his property. Mr. Cavitt was told to schedule a meeting with the City Manager Gary Williams regarding the flooding issue.

Commissioner Shariati mentioned that he was impressed by the media coverage of the Human Relations Commission Retreat last month.

Marleen Shepherd addressed the Commissioners about how to forward the Tow Fee issue and develop a policy change.

Commissioner Hennrich also discussed with the City Manager if he can provide the HRC with data that the Commissioners can see an increase of police foot patrol and bicycle patrol. Commissioner Hennrich stated to the Commission that the City Manager could have data provided in the next thirty days, which will be presented during the next Human Relations Commission meeting.

Commissioner Hennrich announced to the Commission the work Commissioner Eric McMillan and Chief Grubbs were completing on the mission statement for the Carbondale Police Department. Commissioner Hennrich will give an update regarding the process during the next Human Relations Commission meeting.

Brandi Gayles and Sharleah Williams from the organization Black Love Adjoining Communities Collectively (BLACC) wanted to sponsor an event for the Carbondale community and the Carbondale Police Officers on August 26, 2016 to bring awareness throughout the community.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Sam Reed reported that Carbondale is ranked number one in the nation for food and beverage taxes.

The Chamber Of Commerce will have an Open Forum on the Food and Beverage Tax on August 4, 2016 at 1 p.m. at Paglia's Pizza in Carbondale.

Governor Rauner traveled to Carbondale's SIU airport and signed Molly's Law.

Mr. Reed stated since 1975 the City of Carbondale has an Affirmative Action Plan that required sixteen percent of local minorities residents to be employed in all departments.

PROCESS ASSESSMENT

Sparrow Coalition Report

Marleen Shepherd reported on the increase homelessness over the upcoming winter months.

Marleen also addressed developing an Emergency Response Team Wrap Around Approach, which will service an individual housing or financial needs.

Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless had to suspend all services due to no budget.

Please visit the Sparrow Coalition GoFundMe website, <https://www.gofundme.com/sparrowcoalition>

Neighborhood Action Group

Sarah Heyer reported that Tatum Heights Park will be receiving a new basketball court.

First Time Homebuyer Education program is still being developed with the assistance of Travis Taylor from Planning Services.

The City of Carbondale has distributed out the water quality report presentation.

Neighborhood Action Group wanting to inform residents about the exploration of County Zoning and participating in the zoning survey.

Neighborhood Action Group will be held August 3, 2016 at 5p.m.

Non-Violent Carbondale Project Report

Nothing to Report

Racial Justice Coalition/Racial Unity

Cathy Field mentioned that the Racial Justice Coalition meeting will be held August 4, 2016 at the Church of The Good Shepherd at 7p.m.

The Director of Curriculum and Instruction from SIUC will be discussing the Achievement test and the gap between black students and white students in Carbondale, Illinois.

Brandi Gayles and Sharleah Williams discussed the downtown march that occurred in Downtown Carbondale last week with the HRC Commissioners.

Law Enforcement Report

Nothing to Report

Items for City Council

No items to be forward to the City Council

Miscellaneous

Commissioner Hennrich will meet with the City Manager Gary Williams regarding the Human Relations Commission 2015 recommendations.

Next City Council meeting will be August 9, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting – September 12, 2016. There being no further business, Commissioner Hennrich moved, to adjourn. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Recorded by Courtney Beverly _____