



Carbondale Human Relations Commission
Minutes – February 4, 2014
Carbondale Civic Center ~ 6:30 p.m.

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

Commissioners Excused: Les O'Dell

Commissioners Absent:

Study Circle Staff Present:

Guests Present: Judy Cunningham, Rosie Dorsey, Eric McMillan, Shelley A. Faulkner, Eric Novack, Karriem Shariati, Len Williams

Staff Present: Deborah McCoy, Lieutenant Matthew Dunning

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Hennrich at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner Joseph Brown and seconded by Commissioner Falcone to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2014, meeting. Motion carried.

Announcements

February 7: Carbondale Bill of Rights - Women's Center, 4:45-6:15 pm. Sponsored by Non-Violent Carbondale Coalition

February 13: Angela Davis, Shryock Auditorium, 7:00 p.m., free to the public

Public Comments:

Ms. Cunningham commented that she had spoken with a representative who had worked for EPA for 22 years. The conversation was in regards to the soil samples that have been conducted on the land where the old Coppers Plant was located.

Guest Presentation: Ms. Jennifer Sorrell, Carbondale City Clerk, Public Meetings and FOIA Requests

Ms. Sorrell stated that she is the City Clerk for the City of Carbondale, and serves as the FOIA Officer, but not for the Police Department or Pension Boards. Ms. Sorrell commented that the Open Meetings Act should be addressed by City Attorney Mike Kimmel, but she would try to answer any questions that she could. "A Citizen's Guide to Using the Illinois Freedom of Information Act" (SIU-C Paul Simon Public Policy Institute), Illinois Municipal League (IML) Traffic Crash Report, Arrest Reports Exempt Items Only, and W-2 Forms
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handouts were distributed.

Study Circles Report – Coordinator Heyer was not present, but attending a conference in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Neighborhood Action Group

Vice Chair Hennrich reported that he, Commissioner Miller, and Mr. McMillan attended the Neighborhood Alliance Meeting held on January 25, 2014, at the First United Methodist Church. He spoke on behalf of the HRC and reports were also given by representatives of Neighborhood Watch, Food Security, Common Greens, Carbondale Park District, Carbondale Sustainability Commission, Carbondale Main Street, Green Earth, Carbondale Public Library, Keep Carbondale Beautiful, Carbondale Community Arts, Carbondale Planning Commission, SAFE, and the Bucky Dome. Mr. McMillan commented that a lot of people in the community were doing a variety of things to make Carbondale a better place to live. Groups shared what they were doing to address issues such as food safety, neighborhood mapping, and swimming pool plans.

Continuing the Dialogue/Education - No report

Race Relations - No report

Non-Violent Carbondale Project

No report.

Old Business

Law Enforcement Reports: Vice Chair Hennrich reported that he had heard from Deputy Chief Grubbs in response to the FOIA request. A copy of the correspondence and the Professional Standards Report were distributed. Following discussion regarding the response, the FOIA request, language of the FOIA request and the Professional Standards, information the Ordinance indicates the HRC should review, and who should receive the FOIA request, motion was made Commissioner Falcone and seconded by Commissioner Bonner that it be communicated that the previous FOIA request submitted by Vice Chair Hennrich is being rescinded. Motion carried. Commissioner Falcone will draft a new request for data (suggested by Ms. Faulkner that the word “data” be used rather than “summary”), using the language of the Professional Standards (as suggested by Mr. McMillan), that does not include any personnel details (as suggested by Commissioner Falcone). Once the document is finalized, the FOIA request will be submitted to the City Council and the Police Department.

HRC Responsibilities, Role, Charges: Commissioner Miller, Chair of the Educational Campaign Committee, reported that Vice Chair Hennrich appeared on Les O’Dell’s radio show on January 20, four HRC representatives attended the Neighborhood Alliance Meeting, and that pictures from the meeting were forwarded to be placed on the City’s website in the HRC area. Commissioner O’Dell’s article will appear in the next *Communique*. Commissioner Miller suggested, and Commissioners agreed that a HRC email address might be helpful and encourage citizen participation. She also suggested brief bios to be included with Commissioners’ names on the website

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Continuing the Dialogue: Focused Community Discussions. Topic of the first discussion is Environmental Racism. Tentative dates being considered are April 9, 10, 11. Individuals contacted to participate as speakers/panelists include Senator Toi Hutchison, Senator James Clayborne, John Warzoth (retired SIU-C geologist), and perhaps someone that Gary Williams (City's Economic Development Coordinator) could recommend from the Delta Regional Alliance. It was also suggested that the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute be involved.

Partnering for Social Justice: No update.

New Business

None.

Next Meeting: March 3, 2014, 6:30 p.m.

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

Recorded by Deborah McCoy _____