



Carbondale Human Relations Commission
Minutes – March 17, 2014
Carbondale Civic Center ~ 6:30 p.m.

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

Commissioners Excused: Blaine Tisdale

Commissioners Absent: Jeraldine Brown

Study Circle Staff Present:

Guests Present: Eric McMillan, Karriem Shariati

Staff Present: Deborah McCoy, Deputy Chief Stan Reno

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Hennrich at 6:40 p.m.

Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner Falcone and seconded by Commissioner Joseph Brown to approve the minutes from the February 4, 2014, meeting. Motion carried.

Announcements

- March 20: “Dark Girls” – Women’s History Month, Student Center Illinois Room, 6-8 pm;
Facilitated by Dr. Rachel Griffin
- March 25: My Black is Beautiful: Professional Image of Black Women and Our Perceptions
of Beauty – Women’s History Month, Student Services Bldg. Room 160, 6-7:30 pm.
Facilitated by Ms. Anna Jackson.
- March 27: Forty Year Anniversary – Racial Injustice – SIU Law School, Room 108
(Courtroom), 5 pm.

Public Comments:

None

Study Circles Report – Coordinator Heyer was not present, but attending the Restorative Justice panel discussion held at the SIU Law School from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The program is geared towards youth where the offender and victims are brought together.

Neighborhood Action Group

No report

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 received reports from the City Manager late this afternoon and had not had an opportunity to review them in detail. Copies of the reports for 2011, 2012, and 2013 were distributed. Commissioners discussed additional information they would like to see the reports contain (e.g. real/location of the crime) and clarification of the codes. Deputy Chief Reno explained some of the statistics and programs, and responded to questions. Vice Chair Hennrich reiterated the importance and the need to coordinate with SIU-C, Jackson County Sheriff, State Police, SIEG, and any other entities responsible for enforcement of the law. Vice Chair Hennrich asked that Commissioners take time to review the reports and come prepared for discussion at the next meeting.

HRC Responsibilities, Role, Charges: Commissioner Miller indicated that the Educational Campaign Committee has been making progress. An article was published in the Southern Illinoisan today on the Human Relations Commission. Commissioner Joseph Brown was quoted and his picture is featured. There was also a section in the Neighborhood Notification Program's newsletter that is published by the City's Development Services Department. The article written by Commissioner O'Dell has been forwarded to the City Manager's Assistant awaiting the next edition of the *Communique*. Ms. McCoy is to follow up on the possibility of the HRC having an email address. Commissioner Miller commented that the website should be reviewed periodically for updates and changes. Mr. McMillan suggested that "frequently asked questions" be included on the website. He also suggested that the Educational Campaign Committee remain a standing committee.

Continuing the Dialogue: Focused Community Discussions. Topic of the first discussion is Environmental Racism. The tentative dates being considered were April 9, 10, 11, however, elections have caused further planning to be delayed. Following the elections, individuals can be contacted and planning resumed.

Partnering for Social Justice: States Attorney Mike Carr will be present at the April 3rd Community Racial Justice Coalition meeting that will be held at the Church of the Good Shepherd at 7:00 p.m. The discussion will be focused on the inequity of minority persons in the court system.

New Business

Illinois Municipal Human Relations Conference: May 1, 2014, Springfield, IL. Commissioner Joseph Brown will attend. Other Commissioners interested in attending should let Ms. McCoy know.

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Retreat: Commissioners were in agreement that a Retreat should be scheduled for a later time when a facilitator can be identified. Mr. McMillan commented that one purpose of the Retreat should be to help the Commission cast a vision of what the Commission should be doing and then deciding how the Commission will move forward. Commissioner Falcone stated that the Commission should consider planning a year of proposed accomplishments. Mr. McMillan suggested that the Commission look further out than a year to identify what can be done, what has been done, what things have been barriers or what has prevented the group from reaching its accomplishments. Commissioners agreed to discuss the Retreat at the next meeting, and to wait until after the IMHRA Conference to identify any dates.

Next Meeting: April 7, 2014, 6:30 p.m.

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

Recorded by Deborah McCoy _____