



Carbondale Human Relations Commission

Minutes – July 1, 2013

Carbondale Civic Center ~ 6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Lauren Bonner, Joseph Brown, Peg Falcone, Jerrold Hennrich, Sidney Logwood, Les O'Dell, Dora Weaver

Commissioners Excused: Jeraldine Brown, Jovan Gathings

Commissioners Absent: Adrian Miller

Study Circle Staff Present: Sarah Heyer

Guests Present: Eric McMillan, Elius Reed

Staff Present: Deborah McCoy, Lieutenant Paul Edwards

Call to Order

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

Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner Falcone and seconded by Commissioner Joseph Brown to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2013 meeting. Motion carried.

Announcements

July 5 – 7, 2013: Sprit of Attucks Homecoming – Carbondale Civic Center and Attucks Park
July 18-21, 2013: SIUC Black Alumni Group (BAG) Reunion
July 25, 2013: “778 Bullets” – Screening and discussion of the short documentary, Church of the Good Shepherd United Church of Christ – 515 S. Orchard Drive
September 4-5, 2013 Veterans & Community Expo – Carbondale Civic Center, co-sponsored by the Veterans Administration and City of Carbondale

Public Comments

Mr. Reed stated that he had filed the final report to Illinois State NAACP President George Mitchell regarding the 8/26/12 house party. He commented that, according to information received from SIUC through a FOIA request, there is a decrease in the number of full-time permanent Black employees and Blacks holding tenured positions.

Study Circles Report

Coordinator Sarah Heyer reported the Neighborhood Action Group met on June 26, 2013, and will not hold meetings during July or August. The group is reviewing its purpose and mission.

July 1, 2013

Mr. McMillan commented that he visited BNS a couple of months ago and asked whether there were any kinds of programs or resources available to help with neighborhood/homeowner associations. He worked with neighborhoods and associations in Danville and it was a positive way to get citizens involved. He encouraged BNS to focus on promoting neighborhood associations as a way to get people engaged and involved in city/municipal government. Other cities have transient student populations, e.g. Bowling Green, KY, Madison, WI, but are still successful. He indicated that he had read the goals and objectives set forth as part of the budget document and was not impressed. The goals are very broad and general. Objectives and goals are easier to accomplish when they are SMART (simple, measurable, acceptable, realistic, and timely).

Non-Violent Carbondale Project Progress Report

No report from the group. A meeting will be held on July 18, 2013, 4:00 p.m. at the Carbondale Public Library for the purpose of discussing the October Peace Conference.

Old Business

Law Enforcement Reports:

Letter – Mayor and Council: Motion was made by Commissioner Hennrich and seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the letter to the Mayor and Council regarding requests from law enforcement agencies.

Letter – Carbondale Police Chief: Commissioner Hennrich asked whether the Carbondale Police Department has a policy on investigating complaints to exonerate its police officers. Commissioner Weaver suggested that there be specific requests listing what is required and that a copy be sent to the Mayor, Council, and City Manager. Motion was made by Commissioner Hennrich and seconded by Commissioner Bonner for the HRC to send a letter to the Police Department requesting and simultaneously submitting a FOIA request for the information outlined in the letter. Motion carried.

HRC Responsibilities, Role, Charges – The Bylaws Committee (Commissioners Hennrich, Gathings, Bonner, Weaver, and Mr. McMillan) was not able to meet during June, but will meet this month and bring recommendations to the next meeting for consideration. Commissioner Hennrich and Ms. McCoy attended the Fair Housing Advocacy Training, co-sponsored by the City and the Illinois Department of Human Rights, on June 27, 2013, at the Civic Center. The training included a discussion on housing discrimination, the processes of filing housing discrimination charges and investigating, the status of integration in Illinois, housing issues in Carbondale, and promoting fair housing.

Continuing the Dialogue – Commissioner Brown commented that he questioned the possibility of sponsoring orientation sessions for underserved communities on campus given the current situation of the Resource Centers and the fact that the Director of the Center for Inclusive Excellence resigned two weeks ago. Commissioner Bonner indicated that she would be willing to move forward with plans for Orientation. Contact persons need to be identified. Commissioner Brown indicated that there should be an ad hoc committee put together to discuss and plan the event which would be held the latter part of August 19. Commissioner Bonner suggested that the Orientation(s) be offered to students in general rather than particular groups.

Following discussion, the Commissioners agreed that Chair Logwood should meet with Mayor Fritzler to discuss the letter to the Mayor and Council, letter to the Carbondale Police Chief, along with the plan for the HRC Bylaws and Orientation for SIUC students.

July 1, 2013

New Business

Ms. McCoy reported that the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority would like the HRC/City to co-sponsor a forum on ending disparities in African American communities facilitated by the Illinois African-American Family Commission. The date being considered is Thursday, September 26, 2013. The schedules of Senator Hunter and Representative Davis are being confirmed. Motion was made by Commissioner Hennrich and seconded by Commissioner Brown for the HRC to co-sponsor the forum. Motion carried.

Commissioner Bonner commented that she will be participating in a Ride Along with the Carbondale Police Department on Friday, July 5.

Next Meeting: August 5, 2013

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

Recorded by Deborah McCoy _____