



Carbondale Human Relations Commission

Minutes – July 6, 2020
Carbondale Civic Center - 3:30pm

Commissioners Present: Anita Brown, Stephanie Brown, Dora Weaver, Roger Webb, Michelle Snyder, Carla Childs, Joseph Brown

Commissioners (Excused):

Commissioners (Unexcused): Roy Mazcuchowski

Guest Present: Nancy Maxwell

SIU-C Dept. of Public Safety Representative: None

Study Circles Staff:

Staff Present: Commission Liaison Courtney Beverly

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:40p.m. by Chair Stephanie Brown

MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Michelle Snyder and seconded by Commissioner Joseph Brown to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2020 meeting. Motion carried. All Voted Aye.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None to Report

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Stephanie Brown mentioned that the Human Relations Commission Retreat will reschedule for fall 2020.

Commissioner Joseph Brown mentioned the City of Carbondale Affirmative Action Plan documents which were emailed to all the Commissioners. Chair Stephanie Brown announced that all Commissioners will review the Affirmative Action Plan and will submit a revision as a Commission to the City of Carbondale Diversity and Compliance Officer Alicia Jackson.

Commissioner Weaver mentioned the status of her reappointment to the Human Relations Commission. Further information will be announced at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Stephanie Brown and Commissioners discussed the events that are in our world news. Chair Brown suggested that the Human Relations Commission can host a Virtual Town Hall Zoom meeting with other organizations in Carbondale. Chair Stephanie Brown mentioned to the Commissioners several dates the week of July 20th to host a Virtual Town Hall Zoom meeting. Commissioner Snyder volunteered to develop a list of all local organization that would like to be invited and participate in the Virtual Town Hall meeting.

ISSUES

None To Report

Public Education/HRC Website

None to Report

Public Forums/Events

None to Report

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nancy Maxwell mentioned a Little Caesar's employee and the Sign Code Prohibiting Sign Spinners and Little Caesar's Sign Code Violation.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

The Commission discussed Nancy Maxwell's comment about the Sign Code Prohibiting Sign Spinners and Little Caesar's Sign Code Violation. Chair Stephanie Brown suggested to vote if the Human Relations Commission would like to write a letter of support to the City of Carbondale to reconsider the Sign Code Prohibiting Sign Spinners ordinance and reinstate the Little Caesar's employee.

Motion was made by Chair Stephanie Brown to have the Human Relations Commission to send the City of Carbondale a letter in support of the Little Caesar's employee and ask to reconsider the sign spinner's ordinance. 6 Voted Aye and 1 Voted Opposed.

Commissioner Snyder and Commissioner Childs mentioned to the Commission about gathering more information about the sign ordinance and then submitting a letter based off of the Sign Code Prohibiting Sign Spinners ordinance.

Chair Stephanie Brown withdrew the vote to have the Human Relations Commission send the City of Carbondale a letter in support of the Little Caesar's ordinance.

Chair Stephanie Brown requested copies of the Sign Code Prohibiting Sign Spinners ordinance.

Commissioner Childs mentioned that the Human Relations Commission should host a meet and greet with SIUC Chancellor Austin A. Lane. Chair Brown announced that Commissioner Childs will coordinate the meet and greet with SIU Chancellor Austin Lane and the Human Relations Commission.

Commissioner Snyder suggested that the meet and greet should be a Zoom meeting with Chancellor Austin Lane and Commissioners.

Commissioner Webb announced two solar programs in the Southern Illinois area that will help fight climate change. Solarize Southern Illinois developed a 'group buy' to install solar panels for residents, including financing options, that will help the environment, and greatly reduce energy costs. The Illinois Solar for All program will allow lower income residents, including renters, to obtain around a 20% savings on their Ameren electric bill. Contact Commissioner Webb, or Karen Knodt of First Christian Church, for details.

Chair Brown announced that Lenus Turley Park playground equipment have recently been taking down and will be replaced with new equipment for the Inclusive playground.

Chair Brown mentioned that on July 9, 2020 Rock Hill Baptist Church, Carbondale NAACP and Labor Local 773 will host a Drive Through Drop Off located at Attucks Park beginning at 1:30p.m.

PROCESS ASSESSMENT

Study Circles Neighborhood Action Group

None to Report

Sparrow Coalition Report

Commissioner Webb announced that the Sparrow Coalition meeting are every first Tuesday of every month beginning at 9a.m. Sparrow Coalition meetings will be conducted through Zoom. If you would like to join the Sparrow Coalition meeting, please contact Commissioner Roger Webb at rowebb@hotmail.com.

Commissioner Webb mentioned that the Sparrow Coalition meetings will discuss several homeless programs and announced that the Warming Center recently received a grant to remain open until August 30, 2020.

Neighborhood Action Group Report

None to Report

Non-Violent Carbondale Project Report

None to Report

Racial Justice Coalition

None to Report

Race Unity Group

Race Unity meetings have been conducted through Zoom meetings.

Commissioner Weaver announced that Scott Martin will be relocating to Wisconsin in the next couple of weeks.

Carbondale United

Nancy Maxwell mentioned that July 7, 2020 is Blackout Day. The event will be held at Carbondale's First Christian Church which will begin at 5p.m.

Carbondale United will sponsor a Virtual Town Hall meeting for the Carbondale NAACP branch on July 9, 2020 beginning at 5p.m. Individuals are able to register at the Carbondale Public Library or view the meeting on Channel 16 and the Carbondale United Facebook account.

Nancy Maxwell announced that on July 30, 2020 there will be a Youth Summit. More information will be announced at a later date.

Law Enforcement

None To Report

Items for City Council

None To Report

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting – September 14, 2020. There being no further business, Chair Stephanie Brown closed the meeting to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned

Recorded by Courtney Beverly _____