



Carbondale Human Relations Commission

Minutes – April 1, 2019
Carbondale Civic Center - 5:00pm

Commissioners Present: Jerrold Hennrich, Dora Weaver, Joseph Brown, Karriem Shariati, Michelle Snyder, Anita Brown, Roger Webb, Carla Childs, Ted Gutierrez, Yahaira Heller

Commissioners (Excused): Stephanie Brown, Commission Liaison Courtney Beverly

Commissioners (Unexcused):

Guest Present: Scott Martin, Chad Whitney, Rara Schenke, Lallie Cox, Julie Robinson, Georgia de la Garza, Elius Reed

SIU-C Dept. of Public Safety Representative: None

Study Circles Staff: Sarah Heyer

Staff Present:

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00p.m. by Chair Hennrich.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Anita Brown and seconded by Commissioner Joseph Brown to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2019 meeting. Motion carried. All Voted Aye.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Gutierrez announced that local voting will be held on April 2, 2019 and announced that today Human Relations Commission meeting will be his last meeting as a Commissioner.

Yahaira Heller introduced herself to the Human Relations Commission as the newly appointed Human Relations Commission SIU Student Representative.

Chair Hennrich announced the July 13, 2019 Human Relations Commission Annual Retreat.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Hennrich mentioned to the Commission that there were no updates from Mr. Miles Davis in regards to his special-use permit for his Autopsy Clothing Store. Further discussion led to the Human Relations Commissioners to discuss writing a letter of support to the City Council.

NEW BUSINESS

The Human Relations Commission discussed proposal items that were mentioned during the March 2019 City Council meeting. Further discussion led to the Human Relations Commissioners to discuss the Open Meetings Act.

Commissioner Carla Childs enters the meeting at 5:18pm

Sarah Heyer enters the meeting at 5:32pm

Commissioner Anita Brown discussed with the Human Relations Commission the City of Austin Human Diversity Commission Agenda items and also shared how to incorporate some of their topics into our New Business discussions. Topics that were discussed were Affordable Housing and Gentrification, Engagement Process Partnerships and Community, Addressing Disparate Impacts, Institutional Racism, Gender Equity, and LGBTQ+ Inclusion and Discrimination, Immigrants' Rights and Police Accountability.

Student Representative Heller briefly mentioned expectations of Housing Rentals, Landlord and Tenant and Affordable Housing in Carbondale.

The Human Relations Commissioners discussed further on the City of Austin Human Diversity Commission Agenda items. Commissioner Anita Brown announced that she will be contacting a representative for the City of Austin to obtain more information about their agenda items. Commissioner Anita Brown will update the Commission on May 6, 2019.

Sarah Heyer briefly mentioned the history of Study Circles to the Human Relations Commission and how involved the organization is with the City of Carbondale. Sarah mentioned that Study Circles had dialogue groups that led to Neighborhood Alliance, Community and Police Working Together and Racism and Race Relations discussions.

The Human Relations Commissioners discussed statements from Mayor Mike Henry during the Carbondale Mayoral Candidate Community forum on March 28, 2019.

Commissioner Carla Childs exit the meeting at 6:51pm

Chair Hennrich discussed ordinance provisions that occurred during the March 26, 2019 City Council meeting with the Commissioners.

ISSUES

None To Report

Public Education/HRC Website

None To Report

Public Forums/Events

None To Report

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Elius Reed discussed the March 2019 United States Environmental Protection Agency Newsletter, which discussed the Koppers site and the cleanup. Further discussion led to Mr. Reed mentioning a March 23, 2019 Southern Illinoisan Newspaper article.

Mr. Reed addressed the Human Relations Commission about a warning ticket he received from the Carbondale Police Department.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Gutierrez discussed a letter that he received from Elius Reed in regards to his FOIA request from the City Clerk Office on March 24, 2019.

PROCESS ASSESSMENT

Sparrow Coalition Report

Commissioner Webb announced that March 31, 2019 was the last night for the Warming Center to be open. Commissioner Webb also mentioned to the Commission on how many visits the Warming Center had during the winter months of 2019.

Women For Change

None To Report

Neighborhood Action Group Report

Sarah Heyer discussed the Neighborhood Alliance meeting and mentioned that next year topic will focus on education. The upcoming Neighborhood Alliance meeting will be held in October 2019. Dates and times of the meeting will be announced at a later time.

Non-Violent Carbondale Project Report

None To Report

Racial Justice Coalition

None To Report

Law Enforcement

None To Report

Items for City Council

None To Report

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting – May 6, 2019. There being no further business, Chair Hennrich closed the meeting to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned

Recorded by Courtney Beverly _____