

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Minutes of Regular Meeting

December 13, 2015

A regular meeting of the Community Relations Commission was called to order at 3:00 pm on December 13, 2015 at Alton City Hall, 101 E. 3rd Street, Alton, Illinois.

Members Present: Greg Caffey, Cindy Lolley, Cassandra Campbell, Benjamin Golley, Megan Williams, Chief Jake Simmons, Michael Varner, Peter Hough, Judge Ellar Duff, Dr. Kenneth Spells

Members Absent: Jaida Moore,

Cassandra L. Campbell opened the meeting with roll call.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A request was made by Judge Duff to layover the approval of the minutes from September 13, 2015 to our next scheduled meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS/UPDATES:

POLICE ACADEMY

Shoot Don't Shoot Training currently scheduled to begin on Thursday's beginning 01/21/16 through 03/24/16 from 6:00pm - 8:15pm at West Elementary School (confirmation pending on location). Registration fee is \$25.00 for each participant and includes light snack and T-Shirt. The event is open to everyone but the class size is limited to 20-25 participants. The Alton Police Department will be instructing the event and ask the help of the Commission to assist with promoting the event to the community. Chief Simmons will send out application to us via email.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS TRAINING (A.J. FRENCH)

Say It Out Loud event will be held on Friday, March 11, 2016 at Alton High School located at 4200 Humbert Road in the auditorium from 6:00-9:00 pm. An Eventbright account has been set-up to collect funding for this event. Diana Knobbe, Theodore Bennion, Riverbend Ministries, and the Madison County Mental Health Board (MCMHB) have been invited to attend. MCMHB may be able to cover funding up to \$500.00 for travel expenses incurred by panelist. AJ asked if donation checks noting the name of the event can be made payable to the city of Alton. A motion was made by Ms. Williams to have the Commission sponsor this event and seconded by Mr.Caffey. Motion passed 10 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

LISTEN, TALK, LEARN EVENT

Listen, Talk, Learn Event is scheduled to take place on Thursday, February 11, 2016 from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Alton YWCA located at 304 E. 3rd Street, Alton, IL. Registration details are currently pending. The event is limited to 40 participants and will include a light snack. The Commission has been asked to help promote the event by creating and distributing flyers, emails, notification to churches and local organizations such as the NAACP. Technology is need for the event, which includes a sound system and projector screen. A motion was made by Ms. Williams to have the Commission to sponsor this event and seconded by Ms. Lolley. Motion passed 10 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

MARTIN LUTHER KING UNITY MARCH

The Martin Luther King Unity march has been scheduled to take place on Monday, January 18, 2016 starting at 1:00 pm at Deliverance Temple Church located at 1125 E. 6th St. Alton, IL. The walk will conclude at the Elijah P. Lovejoy Monument with a brief ceremony. The purpose of this event is to engage with the community and promote active involvement in the Civil Rights Movement. Promotion for this event will include creating a Facebook event page. Ms. Williams has offered to assist the Commission with requesting street closures during the March. A motion was made by Judge Duff to have the Commission sponsor this event and seconded by Ms. Williams. Motion passed 10 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

REVIEW CRC MEETING DATE AND TIME

The Commissioners discussed changing the current date and time of the monthly meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Varner to keep the date and time the same and seconded by Judge Duff. Motion passed 10 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

REVIEW CRC STRATEGIC PLAN AND SPECIFY TERMS

Discussion was had regarding our currently Strategic Plan and suggestions were made that we need to complete the plan. We have created our Vision and Mission, we need to set goals for 2016. Ms. Williams suggested that we select a couple call to action items and focus on one per year. Issues such as racial equality would be a good start. Ms. Williams suggested that we put call to actions items on our next meeting agenda. Ms. Williams also offered to email the Ferguson Report for the Commission to review and use as a reference.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

Judge Duff suggested that the Commission offer the community an informal opportunity to speak with each of us in a setting such as Maeva's Coffee Shop. The purpose of this meeting would be to meet and greet the community and be available to listen to possible concerns. Another suggestion was made to go to local churches in the community and introduce ourselves. A suggestion was made to begin working on a plan to organize several meet and greets in the upcoming months. Mr. Hough offered to present this to the Alliance for possible sponsorship.

PUBLIC FORUM

AJ French provided information about the Impact Center located at 2735 Broadway Alton, IL. Impact is an ADA compliant facility and is close to nearby bus routes. The building is able to hold up to 100 participants. This is a location that we could consider using for community forum events or an open house.

With no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Williams to adjourn and seconded by Judge Mr. Hough. Motion passed 10 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassandra L. Campbell