

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Minutes of Regular Meeting

February 14, 2016

A regular meeting of the Community Relations Commission was called to order at 3:00 pm on February 14, 2016 at Alton City Hall, 101 E. 3rd Street, Alton, Illinois.

Members Present: Greg Caffey, Cindy Lolley, Cassandra Campbell, Megan Williams, Peter Hough, Chief Jake Simmons, Judge Ellar Duff,

Members Absent: Jaida Moore, Benjamin Golley, Dr. Kenneth Spells, Michael Varner,

Cassandra L. Campbell opened the meeting with roll call.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Williams to accept the minutes from January 10, 2016 and seconded by Chief Simmons. Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 4 absent.

REVIEWING AND ADOPTING CALLS TO ACTION

Ms. Lolley followed up with United Way regarding the 2-1-1 Program to find out what type of services they offer to the community. The program provides callers with information about mental health, assistance with food, shelters and other social service referrals. Mr. Hough offered to get copies of the reference manual used by Head Start to begin working on setting up action plans for Bias Training and Building Relationships.

UPCOMING EVENTS/UPDATES:

POLICE ACADEMY

We have received four applications for the Police Academy. Due to low enrollment the date of the Police Academy has been delayed until April. There has been some hesitation with enrolling because each participant is required to submit to a full background check. Additional support with advertising is needed. Suggestions were made to provide an outline of the activities of each week of the Academy so the participants will know what to expect.

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

Madison County Mental Health Board has agreed to provide a \$500.00 sponsorship to the Say It Out Loud Event. Final registration form will be ready next week for people who do not have access to computers to register online using the EventBright website. Jennifer Roth is working on obtaining the certificate of insurance needed for the one-day event. The Commission has been ask to continue to promote this event and send the information to our contacts. AJ will ask Mr. Varner to forward the Commission the electronic copy of the registration form to distribute and assist with the promotion of this event.

LISTEN, TALK, LEARN EVENT

Thirty-five people attended the event. The children who attended were the highlight of the event and were very engaged in the conversations. The event was very successful and suggestions were made that we partner with schools to create additional opportunities for more of these types of conversations. The Police Department has a Speak Out event and this could be a possible event we could expand on. The Commission agreed that these types of events are more successful when limited to 30-35 participants. Chief Simmons offered to reach out to Dr.

Spells and Drug Free Alton to create a forum. Possible topics for future events could be discussions with people in the community who grew up in the 1960's and what they experienced. In order to learn more about what participants gained from the event we will work on setting up a survey to capture the ideas and thoughts of each participant. Mr. Varner has the email address of some of the participants so we can send the survey to them for feedback. Discussion was had regarding setting up a promotional plan for this event as well as other upcoming events.

MARTIN LUTHER KING UNITY MARCH

The Martin Luther King event was as success. The next march will be moved to April 4th on Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination date instead of his birthday.

PRINCIPIA COLLEGE THEATER WORKSHOP

All of the students have been selected and the workshops have begun.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

We are waiting on a response from Hayner Public Library regarding the book club and discussion sessions. The YWCA may also be a possible location to host the book club.

Ms. Williams has offered to send the Commissioners the link to a series of Hidden Bias Assessments that Harvard University has put together. There are 15 tests that we can take to see if we have any hidden bias. Other organization such as the YWCA has sent out Hidden Bias tests.

Mr. Golley and Mr. Hough have been invited to the Lewis and Clark Minority Affairs Dinner on February 25, 2016. Mr. Golley will not be able to attend this event, Judge Duff offered to attend with Mr. Hough and speak on behalf of the Commission. They will briefly highlight the Mission and Vision of the Commission.

Chief Simmons has requested assistance from the Commission to help with Cultural Company Training. He has asked that we come and observe the upcoming training.

PUBLIC FORUM

AJ French shared that she is going to write a Mental Health Commentary to the Telegraph. She also shared that Joe Bolt has Community Collaboration meetings at the Salvation Army once a month that the Commission is welcome to attend.

With no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Williams to adjourn and seconded by Judge Duff. Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 4 absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassandra L. Campbell