

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Minutes of Regular Meeting

March 13, 2016

A regular meeting of the Community Relations Commission was called to order at 3:00 pm on March 13, 2016 at Alton City Hall, 101 E. 3rd Street, Alton, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: Greg Caffey, Jaida Moore, Chief Jake Simmons,

Cassandra L. Campbell opened the meeting with roll call.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Judge Duff requested that the minutes be amended to correct the total count to approve the motions from the minutes from February 14, 2016. A motion was made by Ms. Williams to accept the amended minutes and seconded by Judge Duff. Motion passed 8 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent.

REVIEWING AND ADOPTING CALLS TO ACTION

Mr. Hough has four reference manuals for the Commission to review and will bring them to our next meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS/UPDATES:

POLICE ACADEMY

Chief Simmons is in the process of updating the background information required for participants to register for this event. Suggestions were made regarding revising the current agenda for the Academy. Discussion was had regarding the creation of an outline that will show what will be covered each week of the Academy.

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

The event had approximately 65 participants and was very well received. Most of the participants were already associated with the Mental Health system in some way. For future events we hope to attract participants that are looking for additional information about Mental Health services. Due to the success of this event we hope to have this as an annual event. We would also like to increase the participation from local churches and clergy members.

PRINCIPIA COLLEGE THEATER WORKSHOP

Currently planning is taking place for the skits and locating a place for the performances. The Commission is welcome to attend any of the upcoming workshops.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Williams and Mr. Hough attended the Minority Affairs Dinner at Lewis and Clark Community College and did a great job representing the Commission.

Hayner Public Library is still considering hosting the book club. The YWCA is also interested in partnering with the Commission to form groups to discuss social justice.

PUBLIC FORUM

AJ French thanked the Commission for supporting the Say It Out Loud event. The total number of attendees was 65 including AJ. Pre/Post survey's were given to each participant, AJ is going to forward the results of the survey's to the Commission. AJ shared with the Commission that the Madison County Mental Health Department has identified mental health as a priority area of concern. An invitation was made to the Commission to serve as a liaison to the Mental Health Department. The next meeting is on Friday April 15, 2016, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the old Hospital in Wood River. AJ also suggested that the Commission invite Jennifer Roth to our next meeting to share information on how the county and city can build a partnership. AJ provided each of the Commissioners with literature from the Say It Out Loud event and a book Titled Racism's Toll Report on Illinois Poverty.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Hough to adjourn and seconded by Ms. Williams. Motion passed 8 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassandra L. Campbell