

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

June 12, 2016

A regular meeting of the Community Relations Commission was called to order at 3:00 pm on June 12, 2016, at Alton City Hall, 101 E. 3rd Street, Alton, Illinois.

Members Present: Greg Caffey, Peter Hough, Dr. Kenneth Spells, Mike Varner, Ellar Duff, Megan Williams

Members Absent: Benjamin Golley, Cindy Lolley, Chief Simmons

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the previous meeting had not been received. No action was taken.

REVIEWING AND ADOPTING CALLS TO ACTION

- Directory of Services: Some Commissioners were reviewing the Riverbend Headstart resource guide to see if it was ok or needed additional information. Cindy Lolley was going to review the guide. The Commission needs to follow-up with her.
- Implicit Bias: Idea was thrown out to do another DAP training. Mike Varner will email DAP to see its interest and availability.
- Policing and Building Trust within the Community: No news about the Citizens Police Academy. The Commission need to follow-up with Chief Simmons.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Expungement Day being hosted by Simmons Hanley Conroy and the State's Attorney office at the Simmons Hanley Conroy office.
 - o Purpose of expungement day was discussed.
 - o Questions was raised about holding another Amnesty Day.
 - o Ms. Williams explained an email was sent to State's Attorney Gibbons letting him know there was interest in another Amnesty Day and asking if he would be holding one this year. She has yet to receive a response.
 - o Judge Duff said she would talk to the Chief Judge regarding another Amnesty day.
 - o Ms. Williams explained the clerks tracked the warrants which were quashed on Amnesty Day. The clerks believed that more than half the warrants quashed had been reissued within six months.
 - o Mr. Hough wanted something where we can encourage citizens and government to resolve issues, so the problems do not get to a point of no return.
 - o Judge Duff will speak with the Chief Judge, Ms. Williams will get status of warrants. Mr. Hough would like to know if its worthwhile to hold another Amnesty Day.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

- Honoring a Youth, Citizen, and Business of the Year

- Mr. Hough wanted to also highlight an officer of the year. Mr. Varner believes the community needs to nominate and choose the officer.
- Mr. Caffey asked how the Boys and Girls Club selected its officer of the year. Ms. Williams explained the Chief of Police selects who will be honored.
- Ms. Williams made a motion to create a citizen, youth, business, and police officer of the year awarded. Motion Seconded by Judge Duff. Motion Passed
 - 6 Ayes: Caffey, Hough, Williams, Duff, Spells, Varner
 - 0 Nays
 - 3 Absent
- Receiving Funding from the City
 - Judge Duff asked about the Commission receiving money. Ms. Williams explained there is no money in the budget designated for the Commission, but we have the right to raise money.
 - Judge Duff believes the lack of funding shows the lack of commitment on the part of the City. The Commissioners are volunteers and she believes they should be given a budget to meet the goals of the Commission.
 - Mr. Hough interjected that he believes the Commission needs to show value and impact before requesting money. The Commission needs to do things that have impact. We need to be able to explain why we need funding, and right now he does not believe all of the commissioners are on the same page about what we would do with it.
 - Judge Duff understand Mr. Hough's point but the City formed the Commission and while the City did allow the Commission to pick its mission the City should then fund the mission selected. She does not think it is appropriate for us to raise money for general operations. Right now when we plan events we are at the mercy of other non-for-profits and we should not have to do that. Judge Duff believes we need to address the inadequacy of support with the City Administration.
 - Judge Duff made a motion to request funding from the City. Dr. Spells seconded the motion.
 - Further discussion was had on how to proceed in requesting money. Mr. Hough suggested that that a couple commissioners work on a proposal, look at other cities and how their commissions are funded, get receipts and some ideas of cost. Judge Duff wants to know if there is even the possibility of financial support. If there is not, then there is no reason to spend time on a proposal. If the Mayor and Council members would show up to events more people would get involved.
 - Judge Duff withdrew her original motion. Judge Duff made a motion to have two Commissioners talk to the mayor about his commitment to support the Commission both by attending events and financial support. Dr. Spells seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 - 6 Ayes: Caffey, Hough, Williams, Duff, Spells, Varner
 - 0 Nays
 - 3 Absent
- Financial Education event with Carrollton Bank

- Ms. Williams made a motion to host a financial education event with Carrollton Bank. Judge Duff seconded the motion.
 - Discussion: Judge Duff believes this is a great idea. Mr. Hough asked if there was any kind of financial education classes in the schools. Dr. Spells explained the 100 Black Men offer an after school program. Mr. Varner believes it could eventually expand into a job fair. Judge Duff likes the idea of progressive session.
- Motion passes
 - 6 Ayes: Caffey, Hough, Williams, Duff, Spells, Varner
 - 0 Nays
 - 3 Absent
- One Story One City
 - Ms. Williams suggests the idea of creating a series of events with the YWCA revolving around the theme of one book. She will talk to the YWCA about its interest in participating in such an event.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW OFFICERS

- Ms. Williams made a motion to lay over the appointment of new officers. Judge Duff seconded the motion. So ordered by Mr. Hough.

REVIEW AND VOTE ON THE CURRENT DATE AND TIME OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED CRC MEETING

- Ms. Williams made a motion to move the meeting date and time. Judge Duff seconded the motion.
- Mr. Varner made a motion to amend to move the meeting to the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm. Seconded by Ms. Williams. Motion to Amend passes.
 - 6 Ayes: Caffey, Hough, Williams, Duff, Spells, Varner
 - 0 Nays
 - 3 Absent
- Mr. Varner makes a motion to approve the motion as amended. Ms. Williams seconds the motion. Motion passes
 - 6 Ayes: Caffey, Hough, Williams, Duff, Spells, Varner
 - 0 Nays
 - 3 Absent

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- There are no comments

ADJOURN

- Ms. Williams made a motion to adjourn. Judge Duff seconds the motion. Motion passes.
 - 6 Ayes: Caffey, Hough, Williams, Duff, Spells, Varner
 - 0 Nays
 - 3 Absent

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan L. Williams