



Cambridge Peace Commission

A department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes of the Meeting of the Cambridge Peace Commission

Wednesday, January 18, 2012 • 6:00 p.m.

Present: Manikka Bowman, Frank Connelly, Brian Corr, Matthew Hoey, Debby Irving, Larry Kim, Mushtaque Mizra

Absent: Karen Coleman, Grove Harris, Brian Loeb

Regrets: Christine Elow

The meeting was convened at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of December 21, 2011 were unanimously approved after review and discussion. Frank moved to approve the minutes.

Martin Luther King Day Event Feedback

People expressed how content they were with the keynote speaker, the somber tone and the organization of the event.

Ethics Statement

Members signed and acknowledged the State Ethics law statement. Each year commission members must sign this document.

Committee Planning

Members reviewed the mission, history and current activities of three committees: Peace@Home, Summer of Peace and Moving Cambridge Forward. A brainstorm generated ideas to enhance collaboration as a team and lay groundwork for planning. Though posts were chosen during retreat, some changes were made: Frank and Manikka to Summer of Peace. Frank also joined Peace@Home. Questions about the potential impact of committee initiatives and cost/benefit analyses were raised in a handout that was circulated. Discussion also included committee roles, such as the convener, and protocol for setting agenda.

Commission Approach & Language

The group discussed ways to introduce ourselves and our initiatives that would send the signal that our interest is to support and coordinate, not impose our ideas on others.

Discussion included what the peace commission is and how existing members would describe it to others. Mushtaque suggested that we spread peace in the community and the world. Others suggested that we are a local peace group. Debby articulated her

understanding that the committee is currently interested in building its role within Cambridge as opposed to focusing primarily on international initiatives. Frank stated that it is important to convey the history of the commission and the road it has traveled. Brian provided members with the establishing ordinance of commission.

The need to abide by the stated mission of the commission and to adhere to existing programming in support of the director of the peace commission was agreed upon.

Larry and Deb talked about potentially enhancing communication via Google docs, including a calendar for the coordination of meetings.

Subcommittee parameters were discussed following a question raised by Larry: What is our latitude – how far can subcommittees go independently? Brian coached members on the open meeting law and how discussion can be conducted in sub-committees. Brian agreed to follow up with committee members to clarify how we can and cannot work according to the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law & Conflict of Interest Law.

Members also discussed strategies for addressing low attendance at meetings.

Peace@Home

Little discussion took place on this program in leader Brian Loeb's absence.

Summer of Peace

The Summer of Peace frameworks from previous years were discussed. A comparison was also made to Boston TenPoint Coalition's Summer for Peace, and how Cambridge's Summer of Peace could become an umbrella for programming that gets youth off the street and fills their schedules. The committee agreed to convene prior to the February meeting and report back on a discussion about timeline and process. The hope is to host a four-meeting series to build connections and ideas across organizations with the common purpose of reducing and/or eliminating youth violence.

Moving Cambridge Forward

Prior to the next meeting, MCF Committee members will read background materials provided by Brian.

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, February 16, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Matthew Hoey