



Cambridge Peace Commission

City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Cambridge Peace Commission Meeting Notes

Thursday, February 11, 2009, 6:00-8:00

51 Inman St. – Conference Room B, second floor

Minutes

Attending: Ardeene Goodridge (notes), Thomas Massaro (chair), Mushtaque Mirza,

Staff: Brian Corr

Regrets: Frank Connelly, Cecilia Duran, Jeff Hansell, Grove Harris, Martin Federman, Radhika Rao, Abha Sur, Tami Wilson, Rachel Wyon

Absent: Pat O'Brien, Larry Ward

Opening, Note-taker, and Check-in

- **Opening:** The meeting opened with Ardeene reading from C. Otto Scharmer

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Regular Commission meetings will be the second Wednesday of each month:

- We set dates for the remainder of the spring, adhering to the basic principle that **we will meet on the second Wednesday of each month**, with slight adjustments for holidays such as Passover (the first night of which falls on April 8 this year). So future meetings will be held on March 11, April 15, May 13, and June 10.

Updates and Reports

Program Updates

Updates

- Brian is involved with creating a new project at the King Open School — the Cape Verde Peace Project — around building a school in Cape Verde. Cambridge has a large Cape Verdean community, well represented at the school, and the project is bring people from different parts of the community together.
- Brian is also spending a lot of time at the high school: getting to know people and finding ways to continue the Peace Commissions close connection with the Cambridge Public Schools. Most recently, he has worked with staff and students as they examined the meaning and purpose of Black History Month. He has also been helping with discussions among students, teachers, faculty, and community activists around the "Westboro Baptist Church" plans to come to CRLS on Friday March 13 with their messages of hate and in protest of the school's gay-straight alliance, Project 10 East.
- Brian met with the staff coordinators of the Peace and Justice Corps, Ayanna Parris and Alexia Lomon to identify how there might be a continuing relationship between PJC

and the Peace Commission. They had a productive meeting, and PJC plans to work in support of the Peace Commission's proposed "Summer of Peace" initiative in Cambridge. There are a number of issues in the city related to violence involving people from different neighborhoods. Maybe agencies and organizations can work together on this. One of the goals of the "Summer of Peace" in Cambridge will be to bring city departments, schools, youth centers, community groups, youth, families and communities together in order to prevent violence and reduce the level of tension and conflict.

- Meeting of the Retreat Committee is planned for Feb. 20, 2009. The committee will come up with ideas for the full commission to consider.

Messages to the New Obama Administration

City Council passed an order asking people for messages to the Obama Administration. The commission needs to collect them by Feb. 26, 2009. These messages of peace, hope, and change will be sent to arrive March 4, 2009.

New England Peace Pagoda/Walk for a New Spring

- All Peace Commissioners are invited to join the Peace Pagoda Feb. 17, 2009 @ 9:30am in front of city hall.
- Mayor Simmons will issue a proclamation/welcome.
- The walkers will continue onto Boston and Jamaica Plain that day on their way to Washington. Encourage friends and family to come out.

Creating an alumni group/Advisory Council

- Brian has spoken to former peace commissioners, including Cecilia Duran, Ayanna Parris, and Nancy Murray in regard to an informing an alumni group in the form of an Advisory Council. This would be a way to stay connected to former Peace Commissioners and benefit from their ideas and experience.
- At the end of the retreat maybe a good time to have other people come for dinner. Brian will help with forming alumni Group/Advisory Council.

Retreat Planning

Meeting of the Retreat Committee is planned for Feb. 20, 2009. The committee will come up with ideas for the full commission to consider: Members are Tammy, Frank, Radhika, and Rachel.

New Commissioners

Process of New Peace Commissioners

Members of the Commission have come on in many different ways. Concerns of about the process of new members should be addressed. Brian will present a proposed applicant process for discussion at the next meeting of the Commission. Options for application process:

- Sit down with applicant for the Commission
- Invite applicant and interview, explain responsibilities and duties
- Applicant should meet with ED and the Commission
- Applicant process should be written down and include city criteria.

2009 Holocaust Commemoration

- The 20th Annual Citywide Holocaust Commemoration will take place on May 6, 2009 from 7-9 p.m. at Temple Beth Shalom, 8 Tremont St., Cambridge.

- The Keynote Speaker is Anna Ornstein. Marty and Brian from the Commission, are working with the Mayor's Office, Women's Commission, Disabilities Commission, the Human Rights Commission, Councilor Henrietta Davis, and representatives of Congregation Eitz Chayim and temple Beth Shalom.

Other Events

The Commission is co-sponsoring the September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows event March 7, 2-5 p.m. at 3 Church St., Harvard Square

Closing

Tom commended the information part of the meeting. Meeting was peaceful and quite. Brian went to the inauguration it was a memorable event and joyful

The meeting adjourned after a check-out exercise at 7:45 p.m.