

Cambridge Peace Commission Meeting

Wednesday, April 30, 2008, 6:00-8:30
51 Inman St., – Conference Room B, second floor

Minutes

Attending: Betty Burkes, Brian Corr, Gail Epstein, Martin Federman, Ardeene Goodridge, Grove Harris, Ilse Heyman, Cathy Hoffman, Tom Massaro, Radhika Rao, Nancy Seymour, Rachel Wyon

Absent: Abha Sur, Nadia Chamblin-Foster, Linda Brion-Meisels, Nancy Murray, Mo Barbosa, Cecilia Duran, Ayanna Parris, Pat O'Brien, Mushtaque Mirza

Opening

Gail Epstein from The Secret Teachings of Plants

Check-in

Note Taker –Marty Federman

Upcoming Meetings:

- Tuesday - May 27, 2008
- Monday - June 23, 2008
- Tuesday - July 29, 2008

All of these meetings will begin at 5:45 p.m. at 51 Inman St. We will consider a “regular” meeting night after the summer

Welcome/Introduction

Brian spoke about his background and his feelings of what peace and social change means. He asked for input and thoughts from Commissioners. Some of the responses:

- Need to include youth as a way to “plant seeds”
- Recommendation that Brian (and others) read Creating a World that Works for All
- Need to address both the “teaching” (making people aware) functions, and the things that move the community actively in some way.
- Be aware of the “International Peace Day” (September?)
- Very important to keep the Peace Commissions presence in the neighborhoods – including the Peace Circles and building on inter-connectedness/intergenerational
- What is the relationship between oppression and peace?

Updates/Opportunities *(See Prep Notes for more information)*

Hearing on the War –

New Haven event Wednesday, May 21 – Grove may be there at that time and would go.

There was interest in creating some kind of public event about the war that could reach/include a broad cross-section of the community including possibly Veteran's Services, the Disabilities Commission, and UJP. Commissioners should send Brian ideas for an event and collaborators.

Winter Soldier.

The footage from the hearings could be a part of a PC event.

Hiroshima exhibition –

From mid-June to mid-July; reception on Tuesday, July 1, 5:30 p.m., University Hall, Lesley University. Radhika will be an additional point person and will contact Meenakshi and Linda

Lemon Tree/Sandy Tolan event –

Tuesday, May 13th, 7-8:30 p.m., (Tickets will not matter after 6:45 p.m. – people will be let in depending on space available) Cambridge YMCA (Central Sq).

The Commission has already taken in 80 reservations in addition to tickets distributed through the library and Harvard Book Store. We expect an overflow crowd. All the Commissioners at the meeting are planning on attending.

Commissioners will get to the Y at 6:00 to help set up. (Please let Cathy know if you will be there.) Sara Roy and Hilary Rantisi have confirmed. Marty volunteered to pick up Sandy Tolan. Betty and Cathy will order food for the reception that will follow.

Director – reception

After some discussion about the pros and cons of having a community reception for Brian earlier rather than later, Nancy Seymour, Gail and Betty volunteered to meet to consider the wisdom expressed during this discussion and to make a recommendation to the Commission at the May meeting. General sense seems to be sooner rather than later.

Diego Garcia/Czech Republic (See the April Prep notes for details)

Cathy shared the information that she had gathered a recent AFSC event on US Bases with speakers from the Czech Republic and the Diego Garcia Island.

Radhika agreed to write an article for the Chronicle about the U.S. involvement in the deportation of native people from Diego Garcia Island to make way for the construction of a military base. Check out their website. www.LetThemReturn.com. Brian will contact other networks to bring to their attention the ongoing struggle for restitution and return to the Island.

Brian will circulate information about the opportunity to sign an online petition in opposition to a U.S. Radar Military Base in the Czech Republic to the Commission's email list as well as the Disarmament Action lists, Cities for Peace network and the International Association for Peace Messenger Cities.

Alewife reservation Park Serve Day

May 17, Saturday- 10am-2pm: Park Serve Day of Department of Conservation and Recreation. FAR organizing group: **10am-2pm.** [Annual Earth and Cleanup Day at Alewife.](#)



Sign up if able.

Thousands are called to Steward Public Lands Across Massachusetts Friends of Alewife Reservation calls Many to Alewife Reservation FAR provides tools, gloves, bags, spray, some sun screen. Bring your own water bottles

Commissioners are invited to adopt an area at the Alewife Reservation on Park Serve Day to clean up on May 17. Nancy Seymour and Gail volunteered to attend and Brian will send information about the day and an invitation to all the Commissioners. Check out the website at www.friendsofalewifereservation.org. You might remember Ellen Mass's visit a few months ago to brief the Commission about the impressive conservation and restoration efforts at the Alewife Reservation.

Discussion

Retirement/25th anniversary debrief

Individuals shared highlights from the Peace Commission's retirement party for Cathy in March. There was a unanimous sense that this was an extraordinary celebration of both Cathy's contribution over the past 21 years and the Peace Commission's extraordinary presence in the City of Cambridge. Footage from the videotape of the event and from the slide show will be linked to the Peace Commission website soon.

Peace and Justice Awards program

November 16th was suggested for the event. Nancy Seymour, Ilse, Betty, and Radhika volunteered to meet and to think about details for this program with Brian. The ideas will be brought back to the next meeting of the Peace Commission.

Brian will begin compiling a list of potential awardees. Commissioners are invited to contact him with names of people for this list.

Humanitarian Crisis on our Border (See attached letter from Lois Martin)

Brian will contact AFSC, Centro Presente, and the Arlington Church in Boston about organizing a local event to bring peoples attention the plight of people immigrating to the U.S. and U.S. policies creating the crisis. He will contact Lois about her availability to present at a local event.

Updates

Mass. Department of Peace (See April Prep notes)

Planetwalker

This Peace Commission endorsed event is happening.

Wednesday May 14, 2008

7:30 PM

Cambridge Forum

3 Church Street in Harvard Square

contact: 617 495 2727

Holocaust Commemoration

The City-Wide event will happen on

Wednesday, May 14th

7:00-8:30 PM

Temple Beth Shalom of Cambridge

8 Tremont Street

El Salvador

Rachel and Cathy gave a brief report from the recent teacher's delegation to our sister city, San Jose Las Flores. The report back is:

Wednesday June 4th

7:00 PM at the Senior Center

806 Mass Ave.

Announcements

Mr. Hillel Stavis videotaped the meeting and made a statement expressing his concerns over the recent Cambridge/Bethlehem People to People Project and about Darfur.

The 12th Annual Mother's Walk for Peace is Sunday, May 11. Brian will send out details for Commissioners to attend together.

Hilda's declining health was noted with sadness. People can send notes to her home or the hospital.

With gratitude, Commissioners acknowledged this meeting as Cathy's last as director.