



Cambridge Peace Commission

City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Cambridge Peace Commission Notes

Tuesday, October 21, 2008, 6:00-8:30

51 Inman St. – Conference Room B, second floor

Notes

Attending: Linda Brion-Meisels, Betty Burkes, Louise Dunlap, Gail Epstein, Ardeene Goodridge, Mushtaque Mirza, Pat O'Brien, Radhika Rao, Rachel Wyon, Brian Corr

Guests: Tami Wilson, Frank Connelly

Regrets: Moacir Barbosa, Cecilia Duran, Martin Federman, Grove Harris, Ilse Heyman, Thomas Massaro (leave of absence) Nancy Murray, Ayanna Parris, Nancy Seymour, Abha Sur

Absent: Larry Ward

Opening, Note-taker, and Check-in

- **Opening:** Louise opened with Shambhala Warrior reading -- balance of compassion (heat) and insight (cold.) Betty lit a candle to invite spirits of those not here.
- **Note-taker:** Pat O'Brien and Rachel Wyon. Radhika Rao agreed to take notes for the November 2008 meeting, and people hoped that at each meeting a note-taker for can be found for the upcoming meeting.
- **Extended Check-in:** People spoke about what is on their heart about the Peace Commission in this time of transition.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Regular Commission meetings:

- Wednesday, November 12, 2008, 5:45 p.m. at 51 Inman St., Cambridge

2008 Peace & Justice Awards Dinner:

- Sunday, November 16, 2008, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., Dante Alighieri Cultural Center, 41 Hampshire St., East Cambridge

Updates/Reports

Changes in Commission Membership

- Gail Epstein and Ilse Heyman both indicated that they would be stepping down from the commission at the end of their terms in November. People went around the circle and recognized their contributions to the work of the commission, their many gifts, and the honored the work that they have done – and have yet to do.

- There was a strong desire to find a time to honor the work of all of the individuals stepping down from the commission this year, and that while that might or might not be appropriate at the Peace and Justice Awards, it is important to do.
- People agreed that as the commission looks for new members, it is important to bring in new people with a range of skill sets and networks, and to include native Cantabridgians and people born in other nations. Exit interviews were also recommended as a good way to get valuable feedback from those stepping down.
- People also discussed the need to preserve institutional memory and find ways for former commissioners to stay connected and engaged, while making sure that it was clear to everyone who was a member of the commission and who was not, even if they are (or had been) deeply connected and engaged. This was raised as the current practice of including both sets of people on most email communications has led to confusion for some commissioners.

Planning for 2008 Peace and Justice Awards: Sunday, November 16, 4-7 pm

Preparation before the event

- Venue: Dante Alighieri Center has been checked out
- Flyers: available for distribution
- Speaker: Ed Rodman
- Program book - some bios / paragraphs still outstanding - may need reminder
- Publicity - Email / media / Chronicle / CCTV Bulletin Board / School Dept. , TV
- Send packets to awardees - Suggestion: invitations - cards & envelopes
- More publicity via Facebook - if people post on their pages there (e.g. Radhika)
- Ask Awardees to post on their Facebook page or other web pages

Program:

- Welcome: Director and co-chairs; Mayor to welcome all to the city.
- Ed Rodman, School of Groove -- music school across from King Open School
- Introductions will be brief - Recipients may speak at end for 2 minutes. People agreed to do the introductions for the awardees
- Resolutions from City Council will be personalized (Brian will work with the Mayor's office)
- Mayor Simmons or a city councilor will welcome the attendees on behalf of the city.

Food Donations and Pickup:

Brian will reconfirm with each donor, and make sure that someone is able to pick up the donated food.

Food donations (followed by the name of the Commissioner who volunteered to call the business):

- Changsho (Gail)
- Trader Joe's (Rachael) for beverages and desserts
- Au Bon Pain (Rachael)
- Whole Foods (Rachael)
- 1369 (Frank)
- East Coast Grill (Frank)
- Harvest Co-op (Nancy S.) : *Confirmed gift certificate*
- B-Side Lounge (Nancy S.) : *Confirmed No*

- Carberry's (Ardeene)
- Edible Arrangements (Ardeene)
- Camie's Bakery (Ardeene)
- Andala Café (Brian)
- Middle East (Brian): *Confirmed Yes*
- S&S Restaurant (Brian): *Confirmed Yes*
- Andala Café (Brian): *Confirmed Yes*
- Picante Mexican Grill (Brian) : *Confirmed Yes*
- Christopher's (Brian) : *Confirmed certificate*
- Shaw's (Brian) : *Confirmed gift card*
- Veggie Planet (Brian)

Committees will be set up to be in charge of:

- Food - set up, table assignments, decoration, name tags
- Tablecloths, table decorations, and tables with name of awardees
- Registration/check-in at the door (along with slips of paper on table to sign up for the email and mailing list)
- General; decorations and banners - possibly to set up day before

Miscellaneous details

The question of organizations tabling at event came up – people felt that it wasn't a good idea to pick and choose or to accept everyone who might want a table. The exception was South End Press providing copies of Ed Rodman's book for sale.

Set-up on the day of the event will probably be from 1 to 4 pm, with the event running from 4 to 7 pm and half an hour for cleanup. Brian and a few members of the commission will visit the center to check out the facility and identify what needs to be done.

Upcoming Events

There was a proposal from Nancy Ryan of the ACLU of Massachusetts to cosponsor a public hearing on surveillance cameras with the Cambridge Civil Liberties Task Force of the ACLUM on Nov. 20.

Brian agreed to get more information and at our next meeting to discuss possibility of a citywide hearing with presentations in favor and against surveillance cameras in the City of Cambridge.

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, November 12 at 5:45 at 51 Inman St.