

Brian Corr
Larry Kim
Sean Hope
Emily Hardy
Frank Connelly
Chandra Banks

- Brian asked me if he could have my notes after; said it wasn't really feasible for him to take notes – I added “and chair the meeting” – and he said that he needs to find someone to do that, too
- Larry is primarily interested/involved in youth violence and gangs in Cambridge; he's a minister (CCFC) in his “real life”; his church is not big but growing, lots of students being involved, church founded on notions of social involvement and actively pursues that
- Brian's been here for about a year and a half (predecessor was for 21 years); there's been a lot of change in that time; ordinance says 20 people, but most that have ever been at a meeting is about 12
- meetings are open to the public because is a city business meeting, therefore laws state that should be open to the public; Brian says that “someone can come, but they usually don't”; all the commissions are created by city ordinance
- 6:15 – Emily & Frank arrive
- 616 – Brian starts introductions; Rachel called and can't make it, Grove Harris was here yesterday, but is in Chicago right now, is working on a World Leadership thing; Marty can't be here b/c his partner is terminally ill; Henry Lewis is ill
 - Brian Corr – works here at Commission, “doesn't have anything interesting to say”
 - Sean Hope = attorney in Cambridge w/ office in Central Sq.; met Brian over the summer at several different things; hasn't fully committed to being part of the group yet, but wanted to come and figure out things, see if it's what he wants to commit to – wants to find something meaningful
 - Leigh Hardy – has been on Peace Commission activities since HS, but this is her second meeting
 - Angus Kitchin – “I'm a gate-crasher”
 - me
 - Frank Connelly – has been coming to the meetings for about a year or so; works for substance abuse commission downstairs; born and raised in C, raising his two kids here
 - Larry Kim – from Southern CA, has been living in C for last 8 years; minister – 234 Franklin St.; raising a son here in C (just started walking)
- 622 – Chandra Banks is on her way
- 622 – agenda has changed some to accommodate people leaving, so will start with discussion section

- would be good if there were one or two people who could think about taking on role of note-taker; minutes are required for public meeting, don't really have that now, need it (Brian – don't put that in the article!)
- 624 – 1st thing – idea from Mayor Simmons – Peace Commission might try to organize ecumenical Thanksgiving Peace Service; Emily queried meaning of “ecumenical”;
- 2nd thing – Peace & Justice Award – fairly annually, seems to be fairly divided on whether or not is valuable;
- 3rd – Race and Class work – proposal that PC is involved with, might have some role in in the future
- 4th – Brian wants to try to do a Youth Peace Council, based on work of the Cambridge Arts Council next-door, trying to get people involved with PC
- 626 – 1st thing – BC thinks it's an interesting idea, but doesn't really know what the details could look like;
- LK – immediate thought is that it's a busy time, especially for churches on the Sunday before, so is a matter of timing – where in the schedule it should go, but idea sounds nice
- EH – why is there the idea?
- BC says the mayor has the idea, poss. based off something somewhere else
- SH – likes idea, but seems to him that everyone already has something involved around food, and isn't sure whether a service would have enough of a draw; thinks that perhaps something that would involve food rather than service might be better
- LK – why Thanksgiving? Why not just an ecumenical peace service?
- FC – agrees with LK, thinks that most people already do extra stuff (meals on wheels, etc.) around Thanksgiving
- EH – is this an alternative honoring of history, like in Plymouth?
- BC – doesn't think so; he was talking with mayor about her work to bring together clergy every month for breakfast; since she will probably be on her way out, she's looking for city groups who can keep things going once she's gone; she had an idea, not that she felt it was absolutely crucial; fine with BC if the PC doesn't feel this is exactly right
- SH – Cambridge Black Pastors' Group – pulling together all the church groups in the area; maybe mayor meant that emphasis should be on taking the denomination out of it and organizing it around a holiday; SH says perhaps another holiday might be better
- EH – “not for Thanksgiving” doesn't necessarily kill it; doesn't want to turn off anything coming from Mayor – sees this as an opportunity to develop a connection with the clergy that hasn't been there much in the past
- BC – maybe the International Peace Day? Maybe that's a better day for something to be done; definitely seems that PC shouldn't do this for this Thanksgiving
- EH – wants to make sure mayor hears that PC loves the idea and definitely wants to go forward

-635 – CB introduces herself – Cambridge citizen, parent of 2 Cambridge public school students; employed by school department as conflict mediator for CPS; wonders if she would be here as just a citizen, rather than as a mediator; over past 2 years there have been 140 mediations at C high school, nearly 140 agreements in that time, of which only 9 have been broken, but more than half of those have been fixed afterwards

- 637 – quick reintroductions

- 638 – BC brings CB up to speed on discussion on the Thanksgiving Peace Service

- 639- Peace & Justice Awards – long tradition, tends to be well-received, they are a lot of work; BC has ideas on how to cut down all the work; last meeting seemed to conclude that there isn't the people power before the end of the calendar year; other people with whom BC has been talking are really keen on it, so he wants to know if the PC can get it together between now and the end of April

- FC – anything on the calendar that it can be tied to?

- BC – the Human Rights Commission has decided not to do their event which PC had thought about tying up with, so that anchor is gone

- EH – what about MLK Day?

- BC – might be an idea – “glomming together” or “combining and having synergy, depending on how you think about it”; would people be around?

- EH – who, historically, has been to these awards?

- BC – attendance has varied a lot; last year – was scaled down, 10 indiv. & 4 groups received awards (1 group was mediation team); previous to that was 2006 awards; historical tendency for audience to be composed of friends of awardees meant that it tended to be big, unwieldy, long (3+ hours), food was donated, which was great but involved a lot of work; over years there have been about 250-300 people/groups (since 1996/5) who have gotten awards, so on the one hand there was a set of people who were completely in the know and another set of people who were completely out of knowledge; Globe did run a full-page article once, which helped get people there; has been hosted at a number of places over the years; themes over the years – young people, people working on international issues – but last year there wasn't really a theme, so that's not hard and set; it's up to PC to determine how it should be; the great thing about these has been the variety of awardees; maybe best if PC chooses two main goals, rather than 5 or 6 goals, and then work from them – all about streamlining

- FC – they are giving out awards tomorrow; it's a process – getting nominations, reviewing them, planning event, awarding things; proposes that it be every other year at most; put on the calendar and plan it

- CB seconds his motion

- BC's only “push-back” would be that if they did it smaller/streamlined, doing it every year might be nice; perhaps do P&JA every other year, then do some other small public event in the “off” years, perhaps something with the youth – something with less to-do surrounding it (tix, etc.)

- CB – what could be done for the “off” years?

- 649 – BC moving onwards; he hates chairing, really wants to think about who wants to be the chair

- Race and Class Work – shouldn't be shared; in wake of Prof. Gate's arrest, there was someone at Kellogg heard mayor on TV talking about C as "America's classroom," and encouraged C to apply for funding from Kellogg towards "racial healing", particularly with regards to children; apparently "everybody on the planet" is applying for grant; the YWCA are the ones who are applying (it's for nonprofits), but Mayor's office, individuals, many others are getting involved; "America Speaks" group; if the YWCA got grant, would bring in the America Speaks group come in to facilitate the conversation, or at least the start of it; the question becomes who will carry it on once AS is gone; if the grant does come through, BC thinks it would be really good for the PC to have a role in the work – potentially PC could become a permanent home to work on race & class within the city;

- CB – "this is turned in already?" – in reading it, she thinks that "it could have been put together in a more powerful way, with more players at the table to put it together"; hard to get many people to work with you without obvious, immediate benefits, but could have been an even stronger grant app. had more people been involved;

- BC – the application came up about a month and a half ago, were given a month to turn it in; moving forward, trying to figure out who else should be a part of this; mid-November will find out if they've made it past the first round;

- BC – if they don't get the funding, the fact of the meeting and conversation about it might mean that perhaps something should be done?

- EH – she agrees that the proposal is saying what a lot of people in the C community are already saying, so definitely thinks that something should be taken forward with it regardless of the grant

- BC – the issues are real for the community – some are generally-applicable, some are C-specific; need to figure out what CAN be done, who might be able to do this;

- EH – talking with people who highlight that C has access to resources that similar communities don't have; if we don't get money, might mean it went to a community that doesn't have the same resources C does

- BC – Neighborhood Safety Taskforce – that was something that was brought up during discussion about this grant proposal; hope is that if the grant does come through, might be a step to answering why C still has these issues, despite having all these resources

- LK has to leave, so does SH

- BC – before they leave, wants them to take a look at the flyer and think about the idea for the Cambridge Youth Peace Council stipend; based off the Cambridge Arts Council's successful program

-703 – LK and SH leave

- CB – likes the idea of the CYPC stipends

- FC warns that there will be a lot of competition amongst organizations for kids' attention

- BC – CYPC is very much for kids to do project, he thinks, but what would the PC like them to do?

- CB – would there be a guide?

- BC – maybe getting an intern would work – gives them a project to organize; sometimes feels like if he doesn't just start creating something it will never happen

- CB – suggests working with Harvard MA program, which requires students to work with kids as part of their program; "peace is violence, right?" (meaning that they are two sides of the same coin)

- EH – perhaps intern could plan the "off" year event? the current economic climate means that there are lots of very qualified people looking for work

- general consensus that it would be difficult to find funding to pay

- I mention the federal work-study funding possibilities; EH concurs

- CB points out the mediation program at UMass Boston that is seeking internship placements

- FC points out BU's Divinity School

- BC remembers Harvard Divinity School; the challenge for him is to come up with a discrete project that he wouldn't feel the need to be constantly involved with – he recognizes that it might be his own personality that makes him feel the need to be the involved one; queries if all three remaining members would be interested in working with it

- FC says that he has no experience, but would be interested; mentions that the folks downstairs would probably be helpful; Area 4 a few years ago found out that most of the kids for their similar program didn't come from the C area

- BC says his inclination is that it should be for kids who live in C, not just going to the charter schools in C

- FC disagreed, saying that his previous experience with charter school kids was good.

- 714 – MLK Day event – CB was the one responsible for it being back on the agenda

- BC – what should be involved?

- CB – MLKD stand-out was so reminiscent of the 60s, it was wonderful, having so many people just saying things that were important to them about peace, making a spectacle on Mass Ave to draw attention to it; says maybe its just her background, her parents' experience during the civil rights movement, maybe she is "too nostalgic"; she loves it because she can get out there, do her bit, celebrate, etc., then go back to bed

- FC – mentions the domestic violence stand-out from a few weeks ago; he likes the convenience of being able to be there, the spontaneity from the people walking by getting involved, having the TV there

- CB – really likes, as a pedestrian, walking into events like this, thinks its great, but knows that BC thinks a lot of people are excluded

- BC – went a few years ago, just before he started this job – found it very cold, the fact that it was in the morning on a holiday, so no-one was there; "it was 25 people with a bullhorn"; across the street at the YMCA, there was an

organized indoors event with people reading excerpts from MLK's speeches; the contrast seemed sad; it's not a great day for press coverage, and he ended up feeling like it didn't have much of an impact

- CB – contrasted that with her year, when there were kids (no kids BC's year) and tons of people; agrees that if it's not going to be well-attended, won't be any good

- EH – recommends the King Open event (MLK Open School); it's fantastic, every grade does something; queries as to whether there is a lot of events on in Boston as a whole?

- CB – points out that if BC isn't excited about it, it's not going to go well;

- FC – suggests that perhaps PC offer help to King Open

- EH – thinks that if one school gets help, other schools will ask why they didn't; what does the King School (not the King Open) do?

- FC – didn't BC mention at the last meeting that he was thinking about a day of service in conjunction with MLK Day?

- BC – actually, had been talking about his experience as a door-to-door canvasser for an MLK Day food drive

- EH – what about putting the ecumenical service together with MLK Day? Seems to be more appropriate, particularly since MLK Day is a fairly activist holiday anyway in C

- general joking about doing a Twitter event for MLK Day, using Facebook, everybody sitting in their cars, texting each other "Happy MLK Day"

- FC – if there wasn't a formal get-together on MLK Day, would BC feel obligated to put together some sort of statement?

- BC – it's important that PC does a few public-profile events each year, with a certain number of attendees, but not necessarily a statement

- EH – is concerned that people would be upset if nothing happens

- BC – that's why he thinks the PC should have some sort of event on the day; perhaps at a place of worship, or at a "neutral" place

- FC – if PC did the event in a church and made a point of inviting lots of other denominations...

- BC – what exactly would the ecumenical event be?

- FC – could do things like were done on the steps of city hall in the past,

- CB - readings, perhaps singing

- BC – speeches

- FC – points out that PC has time to plan this

- EH – points out that could bring Mayor back into it, and her connections with the local religious leaders

- BC – a friend of his in DC organized an identical event last year, so of course he can ask his friend about it

- FC – is there any way of bringing the NAACP into the event?

- BC – has spoken with NAACP organizers in the past, but seemed like they were just trying to get PC to help drum up support for their own events

- 735 – BC – P&JA sometime this fiscal year; MLKD seeing if PC can put ecumenical program together to be held at St. Peter's in Central Square, BC talking with his friend

- 736 – Updates

- BC – at last meeting he mentioned that he's been working with a bunch of people in the city trying to get a question on the ballot on nuclear abolition; ballot movement was killed by costs (\$30,000 for all the stuff), but the Council did pass a resolution, which was pretty much the same thing; other communities around the state are considering similar movements, so in the end the PC may have helped get stuff moving

- BC – Holocaust Commemoration – has had their first meeting, discussed potential speakers; traditionally, PC has had a very large role in organizing this in the past, although didn't really last year; would really like to have PC members get involved in the Commemoration, as both would be great, but also because would also confirm to others that PC is actually involved in this sort of thing

- EH – queries what it is

- BC – is around Rom Heshoa (mid-April to early-May), the Jewish memorial day for the Holocaust; the Holocaust Commemoration is the city's event for not just the Jewish Holocaust, but all the other groups who were involved (e.g. Romany, etc.), and has occasionally also involved all other people who have been victims of genocide and diaspora; all the different groups has contributed to a very different-than-normal event, but also introduced a lot of tension over what should be focused on; has been speeches, songs, poems, keynote speakers who are survivors, generally adult survivors, but occasionally hidden children

- EH – what other groups have they connected with in the past?

- BC – doesn't really know, as has only been to meetings; part of challenge is that when you start to include one group, all others want in; challenge is to do something meaningful, without bringing a lot of tension in; for instance, in the end, the agreement was just not to even touch the whole Israel/Palestine problem

- EH – "Sounds... intense."

- BC – it wasn't too intense in the past; his predecessor had occasional tension with the more extreme Zionists, so BC is doing his best to stay neutral

- FC – attended the most recent one, and although it was a bit long, it went well, was touching and appropriate

- BC – his job is to help hold everything together

- EH – could do it if there is a regular meeting, but if not, no

- 748 – EH – Cambridge-El Salvador Sister City Project; SCP met with Brian about relationship with PC; result was that SCP needs to do a lot of looking at their own internal structure so that they can better interact with the city and the PC and its director

- BC explained the SCP; previous director of PC had been very involved in the SCP, and now that she's retired, the relationship hasn't been as clear-cut

- FC – city, too, wants to come up with something more viable with the multiple sister city relationships

- BC – only two of the SCPs have an active community within C; the other 14 are in more nebulous states

- CB – queried of what it meant to be a sister city

- EH – our definition of “sister city” is very different from what the El Salvador city thinks it is

- BC – in general, sister cities are about trade, travel, historical connections, academia; it varies a lot, but most of them have some sort of ongoing connection; C definitely has connections like that with some of its sister cities, but other relationships are more about helping the sister community (for example, with Haiti), while others are more about similarities between the two cities (example of the “science city” in Japan that seemed to line up with MIT/Harvard); he hasn’t been back to look at the written agreement with El Salvador as to what exactly SCP should be doing; SCP sees the official relationship between the two cities is very important, particularly in dealings with the El Salvador govt, perhaps in cases where people have been threatened by the ES govt; kind of relationship that SCP has with the sister city is more church-congregation-like

-757 – CB has to leave; BC says that perhaps we should just stop, then asks EH about Peace Circles convening

- FC – queries whether PC had the Summer of Peace Wrap-up meeting

- BC – did, was good

- EH – says that Police Commissioner Haas should be given a Peace Award

- BC – says that some people have issues with his dealings with Officer Crowley and would be appalled at the notion of giving him a Peace Award

- EH – says that his vision, his “idea of policing”, of putting a police officer in school to prevent arrests, a family section to work closely with families; says that she’s biased because she talked with a homeless liaison police officer who was “the best police officer [she’d] ever met”

- FC – C police have a task force, specifically to address the chronic problems surrounding homelessness, the same people who always get called for

- EH – told story about the police officer who “saved” a chronic homeless alcoholic who followed the guy around for his entire shift, which meant the guy couldn’t drink, and ended up actually going sober and is now a substances-abuse worker; talked about a female police officer (Cathy) who had started to feel really stigmatized as a result of the Gates incident, how it had really set her work back, had been in the midst of a really great collaboration with the Vineyard Church and that had been materially damaged by the Gates incident

- 806 – FC agrees that we should wrap up

- BC points out the next meeting in a month (2nd Wednesday)

- 807 – all agree that JK and SH are an asset to the group, as both activist and as “ins” to the lawyer and church communities

- 808 – meeting adjourned