



Cambridge Peace Commission

Cambridge Peace Commission Meeting Notes

Wednesday, March 10, 2010 • 6:00-8:00 PM

51 Inman St., second floor

Minutes

Attending: Grove Harris, Mushtaque Mirza, Frank Connelly, Leigh Hardy, Larry Kim, Chandra Banks, Matina Williams, Rosalie Rippey (notes)

Staff: Brian Corr

Opening, Note-taker, and Check-in

- **Check-in:** Participants introduced themselves and Rosalie volunteered to be note-taker.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Walk for Haiti

- Saturday, March 27, 2010 from noon to 3 p.m. to benefit *Partners in Health*.
- Brian reported that the day before the earthquake, the City Council had asked to set up a sister city relationship in Haiti.

Forum and Book Signing for City, Save Thyself!

- Wednesday, April 7 at the Cambridge Public Library from 7-8:30 p.m.
- Book reading and talk by Peace Commission founder David Wylie
- Timing coincides with the renewal of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in April/May

2010 Holocaust Commemoration

- Temple Beth Shalom of Cambridge, 8 Tremont Street – Tuesday, May 4, 2010. The keynote speaker will be Holocaust survivor Ingrid Kisluk

Visit of Hibakusha

- A group of Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki) and delegation from Japan will visit Cambridge on May 5 or 6, 2010, possibly at the Cambridge Public Library or Cambridge Rindge and Latin School
- Frank noted that Lesley College has organized something similar – might be good partners for the event

2009-2010 Peace and Justice Awards

- Sunday, May 23, 2010 from 4-7 p.m.
- Possibly at the West Cambridge Youth Center
- Brian's vision would be to make it somewhat smaller than past years—offering maybe 5 awards
- Question re: the types of organizations
- Frank, Leigh, Chandra, Larry, and Rosalie volunteered to be on working group for it.

Updates and Reports

Participation in Anti-Bullying Working Group

- Human Rights Commission and Police Review Advisory Board are asking other commissions (GLBT, Women's, Disabilities & Peace) to share in convening a working group on anti-bullying. Chandra, Grove, and Rosalie asked to be included in future updates.

Men of Color Health Initiative and Men's Health League

- Peace Commission was awarded \$500 to implement a workshop entitled "Peace at home: men talking to men about violence where it hurts the most." The unique focus will be to uncover the health impacts that domestic violence has on men who are perpetrating it.
- Funds will be used for Emerge and MAPS to run a workshop—it's a pilot project. Committee members are invited to share ideas, engage men of color age 18+ who might be interested in this workshop.
- Chandra and Leigh suggested connecting with and learning more about similar programs including "The Good Men Project" and the "Mentors in Violence Prevention" program—MVP program, which trains athletes as mentors for other men to address violence against women. MVP was designed out of Northeastern, supported by college-age athletes who trained high-school-athletes to be team leaders.
- Frank stated that there are \$5,000 mini-grants available from the CHNA 17 group to address health disparities, and offered to send the link to Brian.

Moving Cambridge Forward: Community conversations on race and class in Cambridge

- On January 29 and 30, sixty-five Cambridge leaders came together for a strategy retreat around the issue of racial healing. The goals of the retreat were to review and improve the strategy put forward in our Racial Healing proposal to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and prepare the groundwork for action, whether or not we received funding for that proposal. Participants at the retreat worked together in small groups discussing and developing ideas. Then, using keypad polling and a theming process, participants identified group-wide themes and a range of ideas for taking this effort to the next level.
- The Steering Committee still plans to widen the circle and have a larger session that will help us continue the momentum and broaden the involvement, and build the infrastructure for doing this work in the city. It is reconvening next week to develop concrete next steps and ways to keep our connection alive and the work progressing. We

welcome your thoughts and ideas about how the retreat went and – just as important – what topics, areas of work, or concerns we should be examining

- Brian will provide further information for interested Peace Commission volunteers including Rosalie.

State Ethics Commission Online Ethics Test

- City of Cambridge is requiring that all commission members and volunteers (including those for the Peace Commission) complete the test. All are asked to print off the certificate at the end and return it to Brian by April 1.

Brief Updates:

- Mushtaque celebrated that the Human Rights Commission & Cambridge School Committee worked on getting Eid al-Fitr as a school holiday, making Cambridge the first city in the country to recognize a Muslim holiday.

Closing

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.