

Peace Commission Meeting
Minutes
December 9, 2008

I. Appreciations of Betty

This was a very moving, heart-felt go-around. Betty's wisdoms – about this work, about people, about how to be an activist on so many different levels – will all be missed. This was Betty's last meeting.

II. Changes in membership of the Commission and identifying new members

Nancy Seymour and Linda Brion-Meisels both announced their intention to step off the Commission in the first part of 2009.

Thoughts on recruitment:

- Are the folks at the Peace and Justice Awards a pool for Commissioners?
- Invite a person with the press to sit on the Commission so that we get more coverage.
- Might want more rotation in positions than has occurred in recent years.

III. Establishing a retreat planning committee

It was decided that the planning of a retreat would be better timed after Brian clarifies his own vision for the Commission and new members of the Peace Commission are recruited, given that vision. One person suggested that the timeline follow the seasons: Winter – a time for Brian and members of the Commission to reflect, think, and plan. Also a time to recruit. Spring – a time to have a retreat and to set some immediate goals and timelines with the new and returning Peace Commissioners and Brian.

Brian was invited by those around the table to sit down with members of the Commission individually to brainstorm ideas about the future of the Commission. It was suggested that he consider a 1 year plan as well as a 5 year plan.

IV. Report and discussion of the 2008 Peace and Justice Awards.

A. There were many positive things said about the event, in terms of the space, the food, and the turnout. These minutes, however, reflect only suggestions and decisions made:

- Limit the talking of recipients.

- Use clearer 'time' signs.
- Avoid use of term 'dinner' [or maybe purchase soup (e.g., from Food not Bombs) or have hard boiled eggs (Grove is definitely willing to bring eggs! 😊)]
- Formal photos aren't necessary. Use candid shots.

V. MLK Junior Day

Project Idea 1: Photo Album for President Obama of the celebrations happening in Cambridge.

Have schools send in a photo.

Project Idea II: Have the City Council vote on a declaration wishing the new president well and celebrating his inauguration in the spirit of Martin.

Send out sign up sheets to past Awardees and/or others and attach the signatures to the declaration.

The term "Links of Hope" was used – first in discussion of paper chains and then just as a metaphor in terms of connections and the community.

VI. In the new year.....

Next meeting is January 15th at 5:45.

Items for January agenda:

- Go through the list of former awardees to identify potential new Peace Commissioners.
- Share photos of the Awards Presentation event

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Brion-Meisels