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Citizens for Peace Minutes 1-9-12

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CITIZENS FOR PEACE
Minutes
January 10, 2012

Or meeting opened at 7:00 pm with a welcome by President, Colleen Mills. She introduced Inner Peace Director, Sally Peck, to start our first meeting of the year with a meditation on Peace.

Special Presentation:

We were pleased to have Kevin "Mr. Peace" Szawala join us this evening to discuss the Moveable Peace Project of 2011 and share the Budget Priorities Road Show report. He explained that the project unites people from across Michigan in an effort to focus our state's attention on peace, social justice, environmentalism, nonviolence and responsible government. In their travels across the state, to farmer's markets, art fairs, concerts and community festivals, Kevin and the team spoke to many citizens about the issues important to them. He has complied and executive summary of the many concerns that was presented to Rep. John Conyers. As Part of our presentation, he shared the results of the penny-poll display, with priorities from Michigan citizens, as follows: The Question: Where do you want your tax dollars to go?
The Results, in order of import: Health & Safety, Responding to Poverty, Interest on the Public Debt, Pentagon Spending, Government Operations, Energy-Science-Environment, Supporting the Economy, Education, Housing, Preventing War.

Kevin stated that "The Moveable Peace Initiative aims to enable Michigan to move closer to a culture of peace and wider prosperity by starting conversations in the communities across the state, with the goal of working toward solutions to current social, financial and international issues. By listening to citizens' concerns and working to become a part of the structure of our state government so our collective voice is heard when it comes to social justice needs, Moveable Peace will help reverse the injustice here in Michigan. Therefore, the end vision is to establish a Commission for Peace & Justice here in the state, which makes Michigan the first state in the country to have a commission like that, focused specifically on social justice and human needs."
For more information about Moveable Peace, visit www.moveablepeace.org or www.facebook.com/MoveablePeace.

The group thanked Kevin and the team for their efforts and a discussion of the results ensued. Kevin thanked all in attendance and mentioned that plans are underway for 2012. He invited all interested to participate and meet at the upcoming planning meeting on January 14th, from 9:30-3:00 at the Unitarian Universalist Church in East Lansing.

Business Meeting:

- Colleen thanked the members who have volunteered to be officers in the past, and asked the membership to vote on the 2012 Board, nominated as follows:
  President – Colleen Mills
  Vice-President – Tada Gunter
  Treasurer – Rick Abdoo
  Secretary – Linda Lieder
  Directors – George Mills, Rosemary Doyle, Sally Peck, Dotti Ochala, Gloria Gonek, Ann Abdoo, Bob Frank Maureen Ladasz and Sheretta Wellons
  The members approved the slate and all in attendance were thanked with w round of applause.

- The Treasurer's report was given by Rick Abdoo
- See Dotti Ochala to review the revised movie list
- Rosemary Doyle reported on the Peace & Conflict discussion group that will meet in Jan, Feb and March
- See Linda Lieder to pay your 2012 dues. ($20.00) As a thank you, each member will receive a folder full of information to make 2012 a year of peace.
- Colleen wished all in attendance a Happy New Year and looked forward to seeing everyone at our many events!

With no further business to conduct, the meeting closed at 9:00 pm.