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Citizens for Peace Minutes 2-14-12

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CITIZENS FOR PEACE
Minutes
February 14, 2012

Our meeting opened at 7:00 pm with a welcome by President, Colleen Mills. She introduced Inner Peace Director, Sally Peck, who started our meeting with a Buddhist meditation that included the wish: "Peace to all beings, Peace from all beings, Peace to all".

Special Presentation:

Education Director, Rosemary Doyle introduced the members of the Restorative Practices Panel: Bill Sower, B.S; Marcia Lee, M.A; Susan Butterwick, J.D.; Nancy Schertzing, M.S. and Rev. Bill Wylie-Kellerman. Each panel member was given fifteen minutes to inform the group of how Restorative Practices is used in their daily practices and lives. The range of usage was great, spanning usage in the school system, at all levels; the Wayne Mediation Center; addressing community problems in Detroit's Corktown; and the Michigan State University Residence Life.

A question and answer session followed each presentation, with a final thought that Restorative Justice invites an open opportunity to get to the bottom of any situation, by answering the questions: What happened? Who was affected by what happened? How do we heal the harm? This is in sharp contrast to the historical Who did what? How can he/she be punished? Restorative Justice utilizes a proactive approach to solving problems, rather than a reactive approach.

Bill Sower, who has utilized for many years in the schools, left us with documentation on how a Peace Circle is effective in facilitating Restorative Justice, and can be found on www.thesowercenter.com. In a Peace Circle, a Facilitator will guide the process and enforce the guidelines. He/she will speak as little as possible and give ownership to the participants. Accountability and healing are promoted – not blame and retribution. Personal attacks are not allowed and emotions are honored with silence. Above all, participants are told to speak with respect, listen with respect and wait for their turn to talk. There is to be no name-calling or disrespectful body language or behavior.

A Peace Circle Agenda, as outlined by Bill, consists of:

- Prior commitment to accountability & resolution (required)
- Brief opening statement
- Consensual agreement on guidelines
- Identification of harm
- Clarification of issues
- Personal responsibility
- Amends
- Resolution
- Closing summary and acknowledgements

The members and guests thanked the panel for their very informative presentation – and hopeful outlook that Restorative Practices can indeed Restore a Community.

Business Meeting:

- The Treasurer's report was presented by Rick Abdo
- Colleen stated that the Board has been updating our 2012-2014 Strategic Action Plan
- The speaker for our next meeting is Mike Whitty, who will discuss "Making Peace With Detroit"
- See Linda Lieder to pay your 2012 dues – thank you for your support!
- Copies of our 2012 Meeting Schedule are available on the literature table

Colleen thanked all in attendance for joining us, and learning how Restorative Practices is used, and how it can transform the lives of all involved.

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