

## Homewood Friends Peace and Social Justice Meeting

Minutes of 3/26/17 committee meeting (Approved with changes April 30 2017)

Present: Stan Becker, Kathryn Munnell, Barbara Bezdek (clerk), Jo Brown, Phil Furnas

Meeting opened with silent worship

Minutes of 15 January 2017: Approved with minor corrections. Add that Stan Becker has consulted, on occasion, with Max Obuszewski in selecting movies for the film series.

Added Agenda Item: Submitted by Stan Becker advocating for a Peace Tax Fund, addressed to MD legislators; attached to Minutes.

Business:

### 1. First Friday Movies and Preceding Potluck Dinner.

Clerk had previously circulated the written proposal received from Max Obuszewski to continue the movie series on the same terms as previously. Clerk restated the decision to be made, which is in previous minutes: whether the film series should be continued or dropped as an item of committee business going forward.

Discussion and Decision:

- After discussion it was decided to lay down committee co-sponsorship of the program after the movie in June. The clerk will write to inform Max and the meeting of our decision, advise that Max should make an arrangement for building use not dependent on this committee, and that this committee recommends to meeting for business not to charge a use fee since the film series does not charge or collect a fee.
- Through June 2017, Phil Furnas and Stan Becker will continue their participation in the movie series, provide access and supervise use of the social room.
- Film series announcements may be made by individuals through this period, rather than by committee.

### 2. Peaceable Baltimore Series:

Reflection: The series of 10 TED talks, videos by expert speakers, attracted both Homewood and Stony Run Meeting members as well as outside attenders. TED talks presenting aspects of peace and justice were followed by a group discussion led by Jo Brown who viewed each as foundational in developing a broader consciousness of peace and justice issues facing Baltimore. She reported that some who attended were inspired to take more specific actions as a result of the sessions. The group expressed a desire to continue meeting as a group to deepen the conversation and to formulate specific goals for a more Peaceable Baltimore.

Decision: The committee agreed to sponsor a discussion series based on the reading and discussion of the book [This is An Uprising](#) by Engle and Engle to begin next month. [Subsequently the BQPJC agreed to sponsor the series, at Homewood.]

3. War Tax Legislation and PSJ Committee Support:
  - Discussion: Stan Becker shared his concerns about the inhumane acts of war generally and in particular the killing of innocent civilians in the attack of US and coalition forces in Mosel Iraq conflict. He proposed the committee should urge Friends to object to the priorities of the Federal Budget which allocates 37.5% of our taxes to pay for past and present wars, and advocate that those taxes be deposited into a Peace Tax Fund such as proposed by Congressman John Lewis. This bill, the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund, has been introduced each year for many years. Stan shared a copy of a letter of protest he sends to elected officials every year.
  
4. The Friday Vigil
  - Discussion: This week another African American was murdered by a white man from Baltimore, in New York City. The family of Timothy Caughman, the victim, deserves our deepest sympathy and regret. It was noted that assailant was a graduate of FRIENDS SCHOOL OF BALTIMORE and was a veteran.
    - Decision: We decided not to write a letter of condolence to the Caughman family as this was done by Baltimore Friends School.
  - Discussion: It was pointed out that the vigil on Friday 4/15 coincides with Tax Day. It was suggested that the committee write a flyer about Federal Budget Priorities and the large portion paid for wars and the military. The flyer would be distributed to motorists and pedestrians during the April 15 Vigil to educate motorists about where our tax dollars go. Jo Brown suggested that we might also post an announcement on the Meeting's web page or post a message on the BQPJ Facebook page.
    - DECISION: Our committee agreed to prepare a flyer showing the need for re-allocating Federal Budget priorities, especially with regard to the excessive cost of waging war, and that money should be redirected to critical social and educational needs in our Society, especially in Baltimore. Phil Furnas and Stan Becker agreed to work on the flyer.
  
5. Looking Ahead: Our committee will continue to reflect on the political and policy decisions proposed by the Trump Administration and on Budget Priorities effecting Baltimore. One suggestion was to develop plans to continue the discussion for a more Peace-able Baltimore.
  
6. Next Scheduled Meeting: APRIL 23 -- Joint peace and justice meeting at Stony Run at 8:30 am and a Homewood Peace and Social Justice Committee meeting at 12:30 pm at Homewood

Meeting adjourned with a moment of silent worship.

Recorded by: Phil Furnas