

Cambridge Democratic City Committee Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2005

Cambridge Rindge & Latin High School

KD Mernin, Lisa Bromer, Darleen Bonislawski, Pam Thomure, Gerald Rojek, Mushtaque Mirza, Mary Lou Merhling, Candies Pruitt-Doncaster, Jane Katz-Christy, Karen Klinger, Elaine Giddis, Betsy Dunn, Greg Schmidt, Amy Perlmutter, David Scondras, Jennifer Riggs, Laurie Taymor-Berry, Colleen Clark, Sylvia Bridgeman, Paul Vermouth, Bette Davis, Sam Seidel, Lesley Phillips, Charles Blandy, Jesse Gordon, Alison Thompson, Jesse Stanesa, Trellis Stepter

I. MEETING OPENING

- Trellis opened the meeting and welcomed members.
- The minutes from the December 16, 2004 meeting were accepted.

II. IRAQ WAR VETERANS

- Trellis introduced Lance Corporal Michael Hoffman and Sergeant Kelly Dougherty of the Iraq War Veterans Tour. Michael and Kelly are part of a week long speaking tour in Massachusetts.
- Michael Hoffman was in the first invasion of Iraq in 2003. Michael discussed the impact the war has taken on veterans, their families, and local governments and communities. He talked about his opposition to the war and the impact the war has had on the United States' reputation in the international community. Michael identified a lack of services for veterans at home and the unattended mental health and substance abuse needs of those returning from the war.
- Kelly Dougherty served in the Colorado National Guard and was deployed to Kuwait and Iraq. Kelly discussed the strain on the local communities and families caused by the extended deployment of the National Guard. Many police officers and firefighters have been taken out of their communities, which has created a new financial burden on local governments to provide services for their citizens.
- Kelly expressed concern that there is a backdoor draft created by overuse of the National Guard and Michael predicted reinstatement of the draft if the war does not stop.
- Michael conceded the difficulty in articulating opposition to the war while supporting the soldiers, but suggested that it is not inconsistent and hoped that people will continue to express their opinions.
- CDCC members expressed their support for Michael and Kelly's efforts.
- Additional information can be found on www.moveon.org, www.bringthetroopshomenow.net, www.justicewithpeace.org.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Trellis read the resolution to democratize house rules. The motion was approved with Candies, Jesse, Trellis and Mushtaque abstaining.
- Lesley Phillips announced that members who are interested in joining the progressive agenda committee should contact Elaine Giddis.
- Motion to adjourn is accepted.