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CITIZENS FOR PEACE

Minutes

June 14, 2011

Our meeting opened at 7:10 pm with a welcome by Vice President, Tada Gunter. She thanked the members who helped with two recent events: the Playing for Peace Concert and Arlington Michigan project. The members and guests then listened to a poem shared by our Inner Peace Director, by May Rowland called "Child of Light".

Special Presentation:

We were pleased to welcome Nancy Seubert who coordinates the IHM Justice, Peace and Sustainability Office. Nancy has a Master's degree in Divinity, a BA in Criminal Justice and 16 years experience as an educator and group facilitator on a wide array of Peace and Justice topics. She is here tonight to share the Earth Charter with us.

Nancy stated that the Earth Charter is the most negotiated document in History and was finalized in 2000. Over 4000 organizations worldwide have endorsed it. The Earth Charter is a declaration of fundamental ethical principles for building a just, sustainable and peaceful global society in the 21st century. In essence, the Earth Charter functions as an integrative framework for ethics in action. In addition, the Earth Charter strengthens democratic institutions at all levels and provides transparency and accountability in governance.

The Earth Charter Preamble:

"We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice and a culture of peace. Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of the Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life and to future generations."

The Charter goes on to describe: Earth, Our Home, The Global Situation, The Challenges Ahead and Universal Responsibility. Nancy went on to discuss the various Earth Charter Principles:

- Respect and Care for the Community of Life
- Ecological Integrity
- Social and Economic Justice
- Democracy, Nonviolence and Peace
- The Way Forward

Nancy then asked the group to discuss what they remember and how they felt when Osama Bin Laden was killed. How did you feel about the method of attack? Should he have been given a trial? What values were engaged in his killing? How does the killing of Bin Laden fit into our role in the Middle East? As Christians and/or Peacemakers what do you think of our country's response to the killing? And how does this tie in to the Principles of the Earth Charter?

After some very heartfelt answers and observations were made, the members and guests thanked Nancy for her very thought-provoking presentation.

Business Meeting / Announcements:

- Join us at the July 12th meeting – It will be a Games night, fund-raiser for Moveable Peace. Tada Gunter will be coordinating the event, please see her to volunteer your time. Thank You!
- We'll be purchasing additional books for the Library Peace Collection.
- Judy Cole can obtain additional "Great Peacemakers" books

With no further business to conduct, the meeting closed at 8:30 pm.