

Minutes of NWICAIW Meeting July 2, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Jim Spicer. The minutes were approved. Tony reported that there is \$2734 in the treasury, with a \$200 bill due.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Bush Bucks report: They were passed out for the first time over July 4, and passed around at the meeting for those who hadn't seen them. The response was very positive. The NWICAIW is very grateful to Leonard Dreyfus for his complete support of this project.

2. Billboard Project: Tony reported that the first billboard company backed out because the owner of the land on which the billboard stood refused it. They will refund the \$1100. Tony found another company from Seattle who accepted it. It will cost \$2400, slightly more than the first one, but Tony has managed to raise all but \$190 from donors. CAWI (The Chicago Coalition Against War and Injustice) has agreed to pay \$250 toward the second month's rent if it is extended. Steve has put a mockup and donor information on the website. The billboard will probably be installed on Friday, July 7. CBS News might cover it.

3. Report on Events:

July 4, Marquette Park: Kay reported that response was positive and that 500 signatures were obtained on petitions. After collecting signatures all summer, we will copy and forward them on to our Senators and Representative.

Miller Art Fair and Garden Walk, July 15-16: Bud will organize volunteers. Lorri said that she can bring her canopy. Steve T., Julie, and Jim can also work. We can store our materials overnight in Tony's booth, unless we decide to work only Saturday due to insufficient staffing.

Taste of Miller, July 27: Tom Eaton was not present, but he is in charge of this event.

Pierogi Festival, Whiting, July 28, 29, 30: We may try to get the Whiting people to volunteer to collect signatures on petitions, sell our merchandise, and pass out Bush Bucks.

Valpo: Lorri reported that there are a lot of signs going up in Valpo; that they are continuing their Saturday protests at the Courthouse; that they may have a speakers program in August featuring in part an Iraqi Vet and a doctor who served in Iraq; and that they hope to get Valpo or Porter to adopt an Anti-war Resolution.

She also reported that we would need a Popcorn Festival Parade permit if we want to march in it. We would need at least 30 people to be effective. Tony moved that we apply

for a permit. It passed.

Highland vigils: Marshall reported for Nick that there were 10 people there Saturday.

Chesterton: Lorri will take Bush Bucks to Helen to be passed out on July 4 there.

4. There was a discussion about the continuation of vigils in Gary. They will be suspended for now and may be resumed in August, a slow "event" month.

5. Website: Jim reported that the transition from Steve to him will be complete July 6, when he will take over web management.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Jim suggested that we affiliate with the Declaration of Peace. Everyone agreed. Our actions with them will be flexible as we carry on our own actions.

2. Julie suggested that we keep track of Senator Bayh's actions regarding the war. She will do so.

3. Tony will find out production costs for a Black Ribbon, to be passed out, which will be a symbol commemorating the Iraq War dead.

4. Bush will be in Chicago at the Drake Hotel on July 7 in case anyone can go. Marshall will be attending.

5. Fest in the First on Lake Street in Miller takes place on Sept. 7. An organizer is needed. There was discussion, but no decisions were made.

6. Lorri passed out materials about Operation Helmet and explained their mission, which is to raise money for a new type of helmet cushioning for soldiers in Iraq. It reduces the Traumatic Brain Injuries, which have been unprecedented. She suggested that we figure out some way to involve our group in the project. There was discussion, but nothing was decided.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is Sunday, July 23, at 7 PM at Temple Israel in Miller.