

## PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 28, 2005

A meeting of the Peace and Justice Committee was held on Monday, November 28, 2005, at 4:30 p.m., in the Strathcona Meeting Room, Sub-Ground, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Gail Davidson, Co-Chair  
Thomas Anthony  
David Askew  
Ivan Bulic  
Amanda Camley  
Sam Phillipoff  
Kyla Kinzel  
Lizz Lindsay  
Christy Mori  
Peter Prontzos  
Noha Sedky, Co-Chair  
Al Wong

ABSENT: Trustee Jane Bouey, Vancouver School Board (Civic Business)  
Councillor David Cadman, Co-Chair (Civic Business)  
Commissioner Lyndsay Poaps, Vancouver Park Board (Civic Business)  
Cara Ng  
John Price  
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth, Vice-Chair (Civic Business)

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Denise Salmon, Meeting Coordinator

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of July 25, September 26, and October 13, 2005, were approved as circulated.

### 1. Public Participation Invitee

This item was withdrawn from the agenda as Michelle Mason, North Vancouver film-maker, and producer of the award-winning documentary, "Friendship Village" was unable to attend the meeting.

### 2. Sub-Committee Updates/Reports

#### a. Citizens' Peace Award Sub-Committee

On November 1, 2005, Vancouver City Council awarded Greenpeace the Vancouver Citizens' Peace Award.

Al Wong suggested the need to clarify what the Vancouver Citizens' Peace Award is and who sponsors it, as this could influence future interest of certain groups/individuals in making nominations for the award. Members agreed, as this was the last meeting of the term, this may be an item for future members' discussion.

**b. Hiroshima Day Sub-Committee**

No report at this time.

**c. Justice Sub-Committee**

No report at this time.

**d. Peace and Justice WebSite Sub-Committee**

Noha Sedky commented on the need to continue with the web site until a Council decision is made regarding the re-establishment of the Peace and Justice Committee. The Clerk was requested to follow up on this matter.

**e. Public Participation Sub-Committee**

Sam Fillipoff reviewed notes from the Public Participation Sub-Committee meeting of September 15, 2005, (referred from the September 26th meeting due to lack of quorum) and provided highlights of current/upcoming projects which included:

- Vancouver School Board has set up working groups and schools will go ahead with design of banners for City poles, as well as develop a peace education curriculum; the BC Teacher's Federation is organizing a peace conference to coincide with the Peace Forum;
- Park Board has sponsored a small peace group at the Kitsilano Community Centre to support the activities of the World Peace Forum:
  - January 18th keynote speaker is Mel Hurtig. Councillor Cadman is expected to provide an overview of the World Peace Forum, and the event will conclude with the Chants for Peace Yoga group (7:00 - 8:30 p.m.);
  - February 15th, Allan Connolly, Physicians for Nuclear Disarmament, will speak;
  - April 20th, Rebirth of Peace - will be a spring-time celebratory type event; and
  - May 29th tba.

Peter Prontzos provided details of a working group at Langara College. The education work covers a number of themes, including war resisters, healing, early childhood education and the psychology of peace. The group will coordinate with, but be independent from, the World Peace Forum.

**f. Arms Race Sub-Committee (formerly Star Wars Sub-Committee)**

No report at this time. Peter Prontzos noted the critical time in terms of arms trade, and the need to focus on this issue during the upcoming federal election campaign.

**g. World Peace Forum Sub-Committee**

Sam Fillipoff provided details of:

- the November 28th working groups' retreat hosted by the World Peace Forum Society; and

- the November 22nd review by the Board of Directors and members of the Joint Steering Committee, wherein discussion evolved around what can realistically be delivered with resources and budget currently in place.

Mr. Fillipoff advised the Forum is a go, with an international peace education conference envisaged as the core agenda; the City has also committed to host the Peace Messengers Cities and Mayors for Peace events. At issue is lack of funding to allow for delegations from the south to attend the conference.

Noha Sedky advised the main theme will be Cities and Peace, with focus on three pillars of sustainability: Culture of Peace; Environment and Peace; and Social Justice and Peace. Tom Anthony reported members of the Faith and Spirituality Working Group had raised concerns related to budget, lack of focus and unclear themes for the event. Al Wong advised no First Nations Leader is currently participating in the Forum, and spoke of the difficulty in engaging the First Nations to link into the Forum.

### 3. Correspondence

#### a. Letter dated August 13, 2005, from Ms. Keiko Ito regarding Donation of Peace Pole

Members advised this item had been discussed at the informal September meeting. At that meeting Councillor Woodsworth advised she would follow up with Ms. Ito, and suggested the ideal place for the Peace Pole would be City Hall. Councillor Cadman was to report back. The Committee so agreed.

#### b. Letter dated August 11, 2005, from Jeremy Gilley, Director, Producer, Writer regarding September 21, World Peace Day

Members advised this item had been discussed at the informal September meeting, and it was agreed Amanda Camley would forward the correspondence to the World Peace Forum Society for follow up.

The Committee also agreed this matter should be forwarded to the new Council, and therefore,

RECOMMENDED,

WHEREAS the United Nations General Assembly, by resolution, agreed that International Day of Peace shall be observed on September 21 each year, with this date to be brought to the attention of all people for the celebration and observance of peace; and

WHEREAS the International Day of Peace shall henceforth be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, an invitation to all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day; and

WHEREAS the General Assembly invited all member states, organizations of the United Nations system, regional and non-governmental organizations and individuals to commemorate, in an appropriate manner, the International Day of Peace, including through education and public awareness, and to cooperate with the United Nations in the establishment of the global ceasefire;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT the Peace and Justice Committee support the intent of the UN Resolution on the International Day of Peace and request the Council of the City of Vancouver to declare September 21st as an International Day of Peace.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- c. Letter dated September 20, 2005, from Canadian Students for Darfur Government, requesting to appear before the Committee

Amanda Camley volunteered to follow up with Mr. Hejazi on his request. As the Committee is dissolved as of December 5th, and no further meetings are scheduled, the Committee noted the follow-up will be as a courtesy, and no further action taken.

- d. Letter dated October 6, 2005, from the Project Coordinator, Korean Veterans Association of Western Canada Chapter, regarding their Korean War Memorial Project

The Committee noted they are an advisory body with no budget, and due to time constraints, there was insufficient time to examine the Korean Veterans Association's sponsorship request in enough detail to make a recommendation to Council.

Therefore, it was agreed this request be returned to the Mayor's Office, with no further action taken by the Committee.

#### 4. New Business

- a. Re-establishment of Peace and Justice Committee

MOVED by Sam Fillipoff  
SECONDED by Peter Prontzos

THAT Vancouver City Council be requested to re-establish the Peace and Justice Committee as soon as possible in the New Year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. World Peace Forum

MOVED by Ivan Bulic  
SECONDED by Tom Anthony

WHEREAS the City of Vancouver's Peace and Justice Committee was instrumental in developing the World Peace Forum 2006;

AND WHEREAS the Peace and Justice Committee is working with the World Peace Forum Society on planning for the World Peace Forum;

AND WHEREAS City Council supports holding a World Peace Forum in Vancouver in 2006;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Peace and Justice Committee recommend that the City of Vancouver work with the World Peace Forum Society to ensure that the World Peace Forum is held in Vancouver in 2006.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**c. Citizens' Peace Award**

MOVED by Ivan Bulic  
SECONDED by Tom Anthony

WHEREAS Council reinstated the Vancouver Citizens' Peace Award in 2003;

AND WHEREAS the City of Vancouver's Peace and Justice Committee have recommended recipients for the Citizens' Peace Award;

AND WHEREAS Vancouver citizens have a distinguished history of working for peace;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Peace and Justice Committee recommend that the City of Vancouver recognize the efforts of Vancouverites working for a more peaceful and just world by continuing the annual awarding of the Vancouver Citizens' Peace Award.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**d. Councillors Cadman and Woodsworth**

WHEREAS Councillors David Cadman and Ellen Woodsworth were Council representatives to the City of Vancouver's Peace and Justice Committee;

AND WHEREAS Councillors Cadman and Woodsworth's leadership, dedication and commitment on issues of peace and justice were crucial to the work of the Committee;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the volunteer members of the Peace and Justice Committee express their appreciation and deep gratitude to Councillors Cadman and Woodsworth for the leadership and support they have given to the Committee.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

**e. Meeting Coordinator**

MOVED by Peter Prontzos  
SECONDED by Amanda Camley

THAT the Peace and Justice Committee express its gratitude for the professional manner in which Denise Salmon has carried out her duties in support the Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**5. Enquiries and Other Matters**

**a. Cities for Peace**

The Committee referred to an email from Councillor Woodsworth (on file) wherein she suggested the need for the World Peace Forum to host a workshop on the needs of cities for peace in order to rebuild starved neighbourhoods. As the Committee is dissolved as of December 5th, members suggested those interested could work with Councillor Woodsworth to prepare comments to be forwarded to WPF working groups, pending a decision on the future of the Peace and Justice Committee.

**b. Interest in Hosting 2nd World Peace Forum**

The Committee received for information an email from the Co-coordinating Committee of the World Peace Forum which indicated two cities, Nanjing (site of next World Urban Forum) and Cheju Island (Korea) may be interested in hosting a 2nd World Peace forum in 2008, and raised the question of how the WPF process might be continued.

The Committee adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

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