

PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 6, 2006

A meeting of the Peace and Justice Committee was held on Monday, February 6, 2006, at 4:30 p.m., in Committee Room No.1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: David Askew, Acting Chair
Councillor David Cadman, Vice-Chair
Thomas Anthony
Ivan Bulic
Amanda Camley
Sam Fillipoff
Lizz Lindsay
Christy Mori
Cara Ng
Noha Sedky, Co-Chair
Al Wong

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Peter Ladner

ABSENT: Gail Davidson, Co-Chair
Trustee Colin Hansen, Vancouver School Board (Civic Business)
Christy Mori
John Price
Peter Prontzos

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Denise Salmon, Meeting Coordinator

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of November 28, 2005, were approved as circulated.

1. Sub-Committee Updates/Reports

a. Citizens' Peace Award Sub-Committee

The Committee agreed to move forward with preparations for the 2006 Citizens Peace Award per the criteria approved by Council on December 14, 2004, as set out below:

1. The Award shall be open to any person, persons, organization or organizations with verified residency (or for organizations, headquarters) in the city of Vancouver.
2. The City of Vancouver shall solicit nominations from the citizens of Vancouver by advertisement, in local newspapers. The closing date shall be 30 days after the published solicitation.
3. The nomination must have the written support of at least three residents of Vancouver.

4. The nomination documentation shall include only a letter of transmittal plus an absolute maximum of 3 pages of supporting text, pictures or charts. The minimum text font allowed is 12 points with minimum 1/2-in border on all sides of an 8-1/2 in x 11-in sheet.
5. All qualified nominations shall be reviewed by members of the appropriate sub-committee of the Vancouver Peace and Justice Committee. The sub-committee shall submit a summary of all nominations received and 3 short-list recommendations for the consideration of the Peace and Justice Committee, at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled meeting of the Peace and Justice Committee.
6. The Peace and Justice Committee shall select one finalist from either the 3 short-list recommendations or the general list of all nominations received, for subsequent ratification by the City Council at the earliest possible date.
7. The Award shall be made annually by the City of Vancouver on or about the third Tuesday of September at the appropriate Council meeting. Presentation to be made at Council and followed by a reception to which local peace and justice activists and organizations are to be invited.

To avoid summer break issues, the Committee agreed the City Clerk's Office be requested to solicit nominations for the Award in the first week of May, with the award made either on September 12, or 26, per Council's approved criteria.

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

No report at this time.

e. Public Participation Sub-Committee

Sam Fillipoff provided an overview of, and circulated documents related to, local activity for the World Peace Forum/International Peace Education Conference, which included:

- an IPEC Peace Proposal;
- Doukhobor's burning of arms: a backgrounder; and
- a schedule for the Peace Dialogue Series underway at the Kitsilano Secondary School.

The Committee also discussed the status of the Peace Banner project, wherein selected street banner designs from five secondary school students will be displayed along Cambie Street, from City Hall to the Cambie Bridge. Mr. Phillipoff advised of recent discussions with the City's Street Decorating Committee, and the Committee agreed on the need to obtain written confirmation regarding placement of the banners.

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

Members noted the Nuclear Disarmament Committee is organizing a small conference at UBC during the World Peace Forum, and Peter Prontzos is working on an event in April, with Noam Chomsky as the featured guest speaker.

g. World Peace Forum Sub-Committee

The Committee agreed on the need for an informal discussion related to City Council's February 2nd decision, in a vote of 6 - 5, to rescind its welcome to host the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities and Mayors for Peace in conjunction with their presence at the World Peace Forum 2006.

Members stressed the need for a Press Release to reassure the media that the World Peace Forum will go ahead, and also discussed the need to explore options for participation from both the Mayors for Peace and the International Peace Messenger Cities. Councillor Lander provided additional comments related to this matter.

The Committee noted its mandate is to provide advice to Council on ways:

- to establish closer working relationships with cities which are working for peace and justice;
- to work closely with peace and justice organizations in the City to promote peace and justice;
- to collect and exchange information and liaise with other municipalities involved in peace and justice initiatives;
- to consider what initiatives can be taken by municipalities acting together, to further the aim of reducing the possibility of war and ensuring justice;
- to establish Vancouver as a city of peace and justice.

Accordingly, after lengthy discussion, it was agreed the following motion be forwarded to Vancouver City Council:

MOVED by Tom Anthony
SECONDED by Lizz Lindsay

WHEREAS the Peace and Justice Committee at its meeting on February 6, 2006, discussed Council's decision that the City will not host the Conference of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities in June;

AND WHEREAS the City of Vancouver is a member of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities (IAPMC) and Mayors for Peace, and as a member supports the goals of the (IAPMC) which are:

- To promote understanding between people
- To enable the promotion of solidarity between them
- To spread their spirit of peace, tolerance and mutual respect
- To combat war, hunger and natural disaster in the service of humanity in dignity and respect;

AND WHEREAS on March 31, 2005, the City of Vancouver committed to support the World Peace Forum to be held in Vancouver in 2006;

AND WHEREAS on March 31, 2005, the City of Vancouver extended an invitation to host a meeting of the Association of International Peace Messenger Cities and the Mayors for Peace in Vancouver in conjunction with the World Peace Forum;

AND WHEREAS Mayor Campbell, while attending the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Conference in May 2005, in New York City at the UN, extended an invitation to the (IAPMC) and the Mayor's for Peace to convene in Vancouver June 23-28 , and Councillor Woodsworth, designated by the City of Vancouver, went to Hiroshima for the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and issued invitations on the Mayor's behalf and as a consequence of that there are 200 Hibakusha survivors who have booked their tickets for the event;

AND WHEREAS the Mayors for Peace have initiated an Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons by the Year 2020, which they call Vision 2020. Witnessing the strain on the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty by the failure of the nuclear weapons nations to fulfill their treaty obligations for nuclear disarmament and recognizing the dangers that nuclear weapons arsenals pose to cities, the Mayors for Peace created their emergency campaign. The campaign calls for initiating negotiations for nuclear weapons abolition in the 2005, concluding these negotiations by the year 2010, and completing the process of eliminating nuclear weapons by the year 2020. This Campaign brings the issue of nuclear disarmament to cities throughout the world through the commitment of mayors and their councils who have a responsibility to protect their constituents from nuclear annihilation;

AND WHEREAS the February 2, 2006, Council decision to withdraw the invitation to the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities and the Mayors for Peace could negatively impact the World Peace Forum as well as Vancouver's reputation as a host of events of international stature such as the Olympics;

AND WHEREAS community groups and organizations including the Vancouver School Board, the Vancouver Park Board, the Vancouver Library Board, the World Peace Forum Society and others have indicated considerable support for both the World Peace Forum and the meeting of Mayors for Peace;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver's Peace and Justice Committee recommends that Council reconsider its February 2, 2006, decision on this matter and reconfirm the March 31 invitation to the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities and the Mayors for Peace to meet in Vancouver June 23-26, 2006, at a cost not to exceed \$50,000.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee also discussed the need to make a public statement regarding its intent to make this statement to Council, either through an open letter to the Mayor and Council and/or a Press Release by the Committee above the names of the Co-Chairs.

Accordingly, it was

MOVED by Ivan Bulic
SECONDED by Noha Sedky

THAT the Co-Chairs, on behalf of the Committee, issue a public statement announcing the Peace and Justice Committee's World Peace Forum recommendation made this evening, and;

FURTHER THAT Sam Phillipoff be identified as the media contact.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. New Business

None.

3. Enquiries and Other Matters

None.

The Committee adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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