

## PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MARCH 27, 2006

A meeting of the Peace and Justice Committee was held on Monday, March 27, 2006, at 4:30 p.m., in the Strathcona Meeting Room, Sub-Ground, Vancouver City Hall.

Gail Davidson, Co-Chair  
Thomas Anthony  
David Askew  
Councillor David Cadman, Vice-Chair  
Ivan Bulic  
Sam Fillipoff  
Lizz Lindsay  
Cara Ng  
Peter Prontzos  
Noha Sedky, Co-Chair

ABSENT: Amanda Camley  
Trustee Colin Hansen, Vancouver School Board (Civic Business)  
Christy Mori  
John Price  
Al Wong

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Denise Salmon, Meeting Coordinator

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of February 6, 2006, were approved as circulated.

### Vary Agenda

The Committee agreed to Vary the Agenda to deal with Item 2.a. and a related Item 4.a. prior to other items on the agenda. The minutes are set out in agenda order for clarity.

### 1. Sub-Committee Updates/Reports

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

The Meeting Coordinator provided an update on preparation for the 2006 Citizens' Peace Award, and advised the tentative date for the Award Ceremony is the September 26 Council meeting. Following brief discussion, the Committee agreed to:

- use wording similar to that used in the 2005 Advertisement;
- continue to use the original Award with recipient names now to be placed on the reverse side of the award;
- to request Communication staff to place the Ad in mid-May in relevant papers; and
- to discuss applications at the Committee's July 31st meeting and forward its recommendation to Council for approval thereafter.

The Meeting Coordinator was requested to follow-up as required with Communication staff.

**b. Hiroshima Day Sub-Committee**

Councillor Cadman advised 200 Hibakusha survivors are expected to attend the World Peace Forum event and a related exhibit will be on display at Storyeum.

It was also noted the placement in Vancouver and Hiroshima of two memorial busts of Kinuko Laskey, an epicenter survivor of the atomic bomb blast in Hiroshima, is now in question, as it had been hoped a presentation could be made to the Mayor of Hiroshima, but his visit to Vancouver is now in question.

**c. Justice Sub-Committee**

The Committee discussed the need to move forward on issues of police violence, reform of police boards and more democratic participation on them. Tom Anthony agreed to arrange a meeting of the Justice Sub-Committee for further discussion on these matters, including an examination of what proposals might be forthcoming based on the Opal Report, now that Mr. Opal is Attorney General.

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

Noha Sedky advised that the Peace and Justice web site is still up and running. Discussion followed on the need to remove the link to the World Peace Forum's website. It was agreed to await the result of the Committee's requested meeting with Council members, as a follow up to Council's March 9th directive that the Committee cease any involvement with the World Peace Forum.

**e. Public Participation Sub-Committee**

Sam Fillipoff provided an update on:

- the IPEC Peace Proposal asking school children to surrender toys of violence for creation of an art piece for display at the Museum of Anthropology;
- the schedule for the Peace Dialogue Series underway at the Kitsilano Secondary School, with the next events scheduled for April 20th and May 29th.

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

Peter Prontzos sought approval from the Committee to rename the Arms Race Sub-Committee the "Foreign Policy Sub-Committee" and expand its mandate to include such issues as peacekeeping and the militarization of Canadian foreign policy in general. Following discussion, the Committee agreed any issue of reconfiguring should be left until the Triple R review is complete. Members also noted specific items could be placed on the agenda for discussion when required, apart from items specific to sub-committees.

MOVED by Peter Prontzos  
SECONDED by Tom Anthony

THAT the Arms Race Sub-Committee be renamed "Foreign Policy Sub-Committee".

withdrawn

The motion was withdrawn with the consent of the Committee.

## 2. Correspondence

### a. Letter from the City Clerk, regarding World Peace Forum 2006 Funding Request

The Committee had before it a letter dated March 14, 2006, from the Office of the City Clerk, which set out Council's motion of March 9th, regarding the World Peace Forum 2006, and drew the Committee's attention to:

- D. THAT Council direct the Peace and Justice Committee to cease any involvement in the planning, organization and delivery of the World Peace Forum.

Ivan Bulic read from a draft letter in response, and sought Committee approval to forward same to Vancouver City Council. Committee members referenced a number of projects currently underway related to the Forum, and agreed Council's directive:

- raises serious questions about the role of the Peace and Justice Committee;
- contradicts Council's approved mandate for the Committee; and
- jeopardizes continued work of the Committee.

The following points for inclusion in the letter were noted during discussion:

- the role of the City now that the GVRD has issued an invitation to host the General Assembly of International Association of Peace Messenger Cities (IAPMC);
- the spirit of Council's January 17th motion, passed unanimously, that the Committee continue as constituted pending the outcome of the Triple R Review, is contradictory to the March 9th directive;
- the need to clarify the relationship between the Committee and the WPF as members of the Committee currently sit on the Joint Steering Committee;
- concern regarding Council's decision to defer a decision on Councillor Cadman's attendance at the Executive Board meeting of IAPMC; and
- the need for an urgent meeting with the Mayor and Councillors to discuss the matters raised this day.

Ivan Bulic agreed to work with Councillor Cadman to prepare briefing notes on Peace Messenger Cities, Mayors for Peace and the School Banner project, in preparation for the anticipated meeting with the Mayor. Sam Phillipoff, Tom Anthony, and Peter Prontzos offered to attend the meeting if the Co-Chairs were unavailable.

MOVED by Sam Phillipoff  
SECONDED by Tom Anthony

THAT the letter as presented verbally to the Committee, and amended this day per Committee discussion, be forwarded to Vancouver City Council.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT  
(Councillor Cadman not present)

### 3. New Business

None.

### 4. Enquiries and Other Matters

#### a. Peace Messenger Cities

Sam Fillipoff referenced a motion passed by the GVRD Board of Directors at its meeting on March 24th, and unanimously endorsed by UBCM, regarding an invitation to Mayors for Peace and Peace Messenger Cities. The need to reference this unanimous vote in the letter to be sent to Council (as agreed to in Item 2a above), was agreed to. Committee members stressed the importance of ensuring Vancouver remains a Peace Messenger City, and referenced the connection between the Olympics and the Peace movement globally.

#### b. Vancouver School Board Peace Initiatives

Sam Fillipoff provided an update on the Vancouver School Board's banner design peace initiatives project, which a number of schools are participating in. Four designs will be chosen for display along Cambie Street from City Hall to the Stadium during the World Peace Forum. A source of funding for printing the banners and for their installation and removal by Engineering staff is not yet in place; this could be raised at the meeting requested with the Mayor and Council.

#### c. Events with Hans von Sponeck

Peter Prontzos advised of two upcoming events with Hans von Sponeck, former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations:

- Vancouver Public Library Main Branch, March 25th, 7:30 p.m.; and
- Langara College, March 25th, 12:30 p.m. (Room 136B).

#### d. Use of Peace and Justice Committee Banner

A Committee member noted the absence of the Peace and Justice Committee's banner at the March 18th Peace March, and although not discussed by the Committee, it was seen as a missed opportunity.

Committee members noted the need for a policy guideline on appropriate use of the banner, with note that its use implies endorsement on the part of the Committee. Councillor Cadman advised he will locate the banner for use at the April 20th event at Kitsilano Secondary School.

Members agreed to circulate draft guidelines, via email, for approval of banner use at future events.

e. Full Complement of Committee Members

It was noted both City Council and the Park Board had yet to appoint liaisons to the Peace and Justice Committee.

The Committee adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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