

PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

JANUARY 31, 2005

A meeting of the Peace and Justice Committee was held on Monday, January 31, 2005, at 4:30 p.m., in the Strathcona Meeting Room, Sub-Ground, Vancouver City Hall.

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

ABSENT: Trustee Jane Bouey, Vancouver School Board (Civic Business)
Kyla Kinzel
Commissioner Lyndsay Poaps, Vancouver Park Board (Civic Business)
Cara Ng
Beverley O'Neil
John Price

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Denise Salmon, Meeting Coordinator

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of November 29, 2004, were approved as circulated.

1. Sub-Committee Updates/Reports

a. Justice Sub-Committee

i) "Towards More Effective Police Oversight"

The Chair advised that, after consultation with the City Clerk and City Manager, the report prepared by Pivot Legal Society, entitled "Towards More Effective Police Oversight (September 2004)", along with the Peace and Justice Committee motion of November 29, 2004, should be referred directly to the Police Board as the appropriate agency for dealing with this matter.

Following discussion on Council's role in relation to the Police Board, it was

MOVED by Councillor Woodsworth,

THAT the report prepared by Pivot Legal Society, entitled "Towards More Effective Police Oversight" (September 2004), along with the Peace and Justice Committee motion of November 29, 2004, be referred to the Police Board.

CARRIED

(Ivan Bulic and Gail Davidson opposed.)

b. World Peace Forum Sub-Committee

The Committee at its meeting on November 29, 2004, accepted, in principle, the "World Peace Forum 2006 - A Working Vision" document, and agreed the Committee Chairs be entrusted to develop a final draft for review by the Committee.

Accordingly, the Vice-Chair referenced a revised version of the document entitled "Cities and Communities: Working together to Stop War and Build a Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World" (circulated to members only) and advised this will be a joint submission to Council from the World Peace Forum Society and the Peace and Justice Committee. The report is targeted to go forward to Vancouver City Council on March 15, 2005.

Sam Fillipoff requested members submit any final comments on the report to the World Peace Forum Society at admin@worldpeaceforum.ca. Members also discussed the need to garner support from as many organizations as possible when the report goes before Council and also highlighted the importance of having as many groups and individuals as possible endorse the event.

Also before the Committee for discussion was a document from the sub-committee (circulated at the meeting and on file) which outlined tasks accomplished to date, and also noted the need to now redefine its role in relation to the whole World Peace Forum structure in preparation for the Forum. After brief discussion, the Committee agreed to postpone decision on the future of the World Peace Forum Sub-Committee to allow for further discussion amongst members.

Discussion followed on potential funding sources for the event and the working relationship between the World Peace Forum Society and the Peace and Justice Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Cadman

THAT Committee members be requested to submit their comments by Wednesday, February 2nd, to admin@worldpeaceforum.ca and charge the Joint Steering Committee with finalizing the World Peace Forum document entitled "Cities and Communities: Working together to Stop War and Build a Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World" for submission to Vancouver City Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Citizen Peace Award Sub-Committee

The Chair noted Vancouver City Council, at its meeting on December 14, 2004, approved criteria for the Citizens' Peace Award, and accordingly, the advertisement has now been placed in local papers. Deadline for nominations is February 28th, and it is hoped the award will be made at the April 26th Council meeting.

d. Peace and Justice WebSite Sub-Committee

Noha Sedky advised of recent updates to the Peace and Justice Committee website <http://www.peaceandjustice.ca> Gail Davidson suggested a Newsletter prepared by The Lawyers Against the War may be appropriate for posting on the WebSite.

e. Public Participation Sub-Committee

David Askew reviewed the notes from December 13, 2004, subcommittee meeting (circulated with the agenda). Additional items discussed included:

World Peace Forum Announcement

The sub-committee sought support to request the City of Vancouver send an announcement of the World Peace Forum 2006 to its citizens with the July tax notice. Members agreed to follow up on this matter once the World Peace Forum report has Council approval.

School Banners

The Vancouver School Board peace banner project is currently underway with twelve high schools designing and constructing peace banners to be hung on city streets during 2006. Support from Local Business Improvement Area Society's will be sought for local area banners.

Youth Millennium Project

Sam Fillipoff advised of a meeting with the Youth Millennium Project at UBC to find ways of supporting the WPFForum through work with students in Vancouver area schools.

Millennium Youth Park

Mr. Askew provided an update on the Millennium Peace Park, and advised a meeting has been arranged with Engineering staff to discuss this proposal.

Peace and Justice Banner

Amanda Camley provided an update on the banner and advised, to ensure a Union Label appears on the banner, arrangements have been made for work to be done in eastern Canada. At the request of the Committee, Ms. Camley advised she will make completion of the banner a priority, to enable it to be used for the March 20th Peace March.

Peace March

Mr. Askew agreed to prepare wording for the Citywire WebPage urging City staff to attend the Peace March. The Clerk will follow-up with logistics of posting this information.

f. Star Wars Agenda Sub-Committee

Peter Prontzos and Gail Davidson suggested a letter writing campaign directed to the Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence as the most effective means to urge the Federal Government not to participate in Star Wars. A member suggested electronic email, with a letter sent to each member of Parliament, circulated to various email lists and copied to the media. Vancouver's resolution on Star Wars could be included.

The Committee agreed to endorse the idea of a letter writing campaign. Ms. Davidson and Mr. Prontzos agreed to follow up on this matter.

g. Hiroshima Day Sub-Committee

The Committee, at its meeting on November 29, 2004, struck the Hiroshima Day Sub-Committee and agreed to collaborate with the World Peace Forum Society and Stopwar.ca to organize the commemoration for the 60th anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima on August 6th, 2005.

Ivan Bulic volunteered to convene a meeting of the Sub-committee to discuss coordination efforts and move forward with planning the event.

2. Enquiries and Other Matters

a) Federal Appeal Process for Refugees

Tom Anthony circulated a petition and background material related to the need for a Federal Appeal Process for Refugees, and also sought a motion from the Committee to forward this petition to City Council with the request that Council ask the Federal Government to immediately implement the Refugee Appeal Division approved by Parliament in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act of 2002.

The Committee endorsed in principle Mr. Anthony's proposal and requested he compile supporting material pertinent to the Vancouver area, and work with Councillor Woodsworth on specifics of the motion that will be brought forward to Council. The need to coordinate speakers for this motion was also noted.

Next Meeting:

DATE: ***Monday, March 14, 2005 (note revised date)***
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Strathcona Meeting Room
Sub-Ground, City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 6:15 p.m.
