

## PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 27, 2004

A meeting of the Peace and Justice Committee was held on Monday, September 27, 2004, 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  
David Askew  
Thomas Anthony  
Ivan Bulic  
Amanda Camley  
Gail Davidson, Co-Chair  
Sam Phillipoff  
Christy Mori  
Cara Ng  
Beverley O'Nei  
John Price  
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)

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Denise Salmon, Meeting Coordinator

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of July 26, 2004, were approved as circulated.

#### 1. Public Participation Invitee: Mr. David Morgan

The Chair welcomed David Morgan, National President, Veterans Against Nuclear Arms (VANA). Mr. Morgan referred members to the "Summary of Launch-On Warning Facts" circulated with the agenda, and a graphic chart of historic nuclear crises and provided additional details related to:

- the combined explosive power of US and Russian strategic N-weapons;
- the impacts of even one quarter of this firepower;
- the threshold for Nuclear Winter;
- the fact missiles are on hair-trigger-alert and ready to launch-on-warning, right now;
- dangers of an accidental missile launch, which are real and on-going; and
- the need to de-alert all these missiles, which is the most urgent task facing the human race.

Mr. Morgan noted the urgency to begin work now, and suggested this issue should factor largely in the 2006 World Peace Forum.

Committee members urged Mr. Morgan to:

- work with the P&J Website subcommittee to ensure the “Launch-On-Warning” facts are posted at the P&J website: <http://www.peaceandjustice.ca>;
- explore the possibility of VANA hosting, within the context of the 2006 World Peace Forum, a focal point on “Launch-on-Warning” with honorary members of VANA invited to take part; and
- work with VANA members on a proposal (including suggestions from VANA on invitees) for submission to the World Peace Forum Society’s Call for Proposals (as set out in Bulletin #1), for a “Launch on Warning” workshop.

The Committee thanked Mr. Morgan for his presentation.

## 2. Sub-Committee Updates/Reports

### a) Citizens’ Peace Award Sub-Committee

Subcommittee members advised an update would be provided at the November meeting. Members also noted the need to move ahead with the nomination process for the Citizens’ Peace Award, per the procedures approved earlier, to ensure the award is presented for this year.

### b) Peace and Justice Website Sub-Committee

Noha Sedky advised the website <http://www.peaceandjustice.ca> is now active. Items for posting, i.e., Launch on Warning Summary”, etc. can be forwarded to either Peter Prontzos or Ms. Sedky.

The Chair advised of a unanimous resolution adopted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and also by the municipality of Cambridge regarding the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Members agreed this should be available on the P&J website.

### c) Public Participation Sub-Committee

The Committee had before it for consideration the minutes of the August 9, 2004, subcommittee meeting and a draft of the Directory of Peace and Justice Organizations. The sub-committee sought support from the Committee to:

- approve a recommendation to Council regarding the establishment of a millennium peace park; and
- approve the final design of the Peace and Justice Committee banner.

Items discussed included:

#### Directory of Peace and Justice Organizations

Amanda Camley advised an updated version of the Directory, which will include environmental organizations, will be forwarded to members shortly. Once complete, the directory will be circulated with a cover letter to various organizations, with suggestions for its use.

**Peace and Justice Banner**

The Committee agreed to approve the final design of the banner as circulated with the agenda. Amanda Camley advised she would confirm costs, and the Chair and Vice-Chair agreed to look into possible funding sources. Note was made of the need to include the Union Made logo on the banner.

**Millennium Peace Park**

Sam Fillipoff, with the aid of circulated material (on file in the City Clerk's Office) provided the Committee with background on the proposed Grandview/ U'uqinak'uuh Community Schoolyard Revitalization Project and specifically, the proposal to establish a Millennium Peace Park adjacent to the community garden and children's park, prior to the 2006 World Peace Forum.

During discussion, Committee members expressed support, in principle, for the proposal, but also highlighted the need for the proposal to come from the community, and questioned if the location was central enough for visitors and tourists to the City. Note was also made that the City has a designated Peace Park located at Burrard and Cornwall.

Mr. Fillipoff explained the Park was to be called Millennium Peace Park due to the fact the Millennium SkyTrain line runs adjacent the site.

MOVED by David Askew  
SECONDED by Sam Fillipoff

THAT the Peace and Justice Committee recommend that the City of Vancouver establish a Millennium Peace Park, as presented this day, adjacent to the community garden and children's park at Grandview/U'uqinak'uuk School, said Park to be established prior to the 2006 World Peace Forum.

-not put

MOVED by David Askew  
SECONDED by Sam Fillipoff

THAT the Peace and Justice Committee support in principle the creation of the Millennium Peace Park at Grandview/U'uqinak'uuk School; and

FURTHER THAT Sam Fillipoff, Ellen Woodsworth, the Park Board and School Board liaisons, and other relevant parties meet to examine how best to move forward with this proposal.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**School Banners**

Sam Fillipoff provided details on the status of Street Banner program, and noted a committee had been struck on the initiative, with representatives from the City, School Board, Park Board and the Elementary and Secondary School Teachers Associations.

Mr. Phillipoff sought agreement from the Committee that both he and David Askew will officially represent the Committee at those meeting. The Committee so agreed. The need to further explore locations available for flying the bnners during 2006 was noted. Councillor Woodsworth advised she is looking into this matter.

**d) World Peace Forum Sub-Committee**

John Price provided details of the financial arrangements (draft budget circulated at meeting and on file) and proposed structure of the World Peace Forum Society, and noted the partnership would include the World Peace Forum Society and the Simon's Foundation. The Peace and Justice Committee is a sponsor of the project. Mr. Price sought the Committee's agreement to this arrangement. He further noted the Joint Steering Committee, which will coordinate the work, includes three members of the Peace and Justice Committee and three members of the World Peace Forum Society. The Simon's Foundation is also represented.

Committee members discussed the budget, staffing and partnership aspects, and impacts, if any, on the work of the Peace and Justice Committee. It was noted Tania Aguila has been appointed Office Administrator for the Society, and applications for the Coordinator position are currently under review. The Call for Proposals has also gone out for the Communications Specialist. Note was made of the Society's inaugural retreat on October 17<sup>th</sup>, and its Conference on November 27 and 28, 2004. It was also noted the Peace Messenger Cities have agreed to meet in Vancouver in 2006, and it is hoped the Mayors for Peace will meet here in 2006 as well. The need for women's and aboriginal peoples' involvement in the Forum was also stressed.

John Price agreed additional ideas on networking/contacts could be forwarded to him.

MOVED by John Price  
SECONDED by Peter Prontzos

THAT the Peace and Justice Committee endorse the World Peace Forum, as detailed this day, and the Simon's Foundation as partners of the World Peace Forum Society.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**e) Other Cities and Councils Liaison Sub-Committee**

As work of the World Peace Forum has duplicated much of the work originally envisioned for the Other Cities and Councils Liaisons Sub-Committee, Noha Sedkey suggested this Sub-Committee be disbanded. The Committee so agreed.

**f) Justice Sub-Committee**

Gail Davidson circulated, for the Committee's information, a copy of a document prepared by Pivot, entitled "Towards More Effective Police Oversight" and a related Notice of Motion prepared by the Sub-Committee for consideration at the Committee's November 29, 2004, meeting.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

Whereas the Peace and Justice Committee, on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2004 directed the Justice sub-committee to review and report on the policing issues raised by Pivot Legal Society

And Whereas, in response to a request from the Justice Sub-committee for additional information, Pivot Legal Society prepared the report, *Towards More Effective Police Oversight (July 2004)*;

And Whereas it is a fundamental principle that the police in a democratic society be accountable to civilian authorities;

And Whereas the Justice Sub-Committee has reviewed this report and endorses the six recommendations, namely;

- Independent Civilian Investigations
  1. That British Columbia expand the budget and powers of the Office of the Police Complaints Commission to enable it to conduct timely, thorough independent civilian investigations of public complaints against municipal police officers, with unrestricted access to all police evidence and witnesses necessary for the investigation.
  2. That when such an investigation determines that a police officer has engaged in professional misconduct that is not criminal, the findings of the investigation should be referred directly to a police complaints tribunal for disciplinary action. The role of this tribunal should be styled after the Quebec Comité de déontologie policière, and its adjudicators should be selected by an *ad hoc* committee consisting of one former police officer, one former judge, one sitting member of the provincial government, one sitting member of the municipal government and a representative of the Ombudsman of BC.
  3. That when such an investigation determines that a police officer has engaged in professional misconduct that is criminal, the findings of the investigation should be presented to a provincial court judge who will rule on an *ex parte* basis whether a *prima facie* case has been made for the laying of charges, the normal procedure for private prosecutions per *s. 507 of the Criminal Code of Canada*. If charges are approved, a special prosecutor should be retained by Crown Counsel to prosecute the case.
- Sensitivity Training
  4. That the Vancouver Police Department work with local community groups to develop a sensitivity training program aimed at educating Downtown Eastside officers about the realities of living as a drug addict, a sex-trade worker, or a homeless person, and benefits of harm reduction as a crime prevention and health protection technique. The program should educate officers about their options when dealing with marginalized persons, and encourage them to find alternatives to arrest that create opportunities for long-term change in such persons' behaviour or lifestyle.

- Integrity Testing
  5. That the Vancouver Police Department establish an integrity testing program in the Downtown Eastside aimed at reducing instances of misconduct by Vancouver Police Department officers in their interactions with marginalized persons.
- Elected Police Board
  6. The City of Vancouver commission a feasibility study to examine directly elected police boards, and enter into discussions with the provincial government about ways to increase the level of local representation and accountability in our Police Board.

**Now Therefore be it Resolved** that the Vancouver Peace and Justice Committee endorse the recommendations set out above, and;

**Be it Further Resolved** that this resolution and its recommendations be forwarded by the Peace and Justice Committee together with the report *Towards More Effective Police Oversight* to Vancouver City Council for appropriate action.

Notice

**g) Star Wars Agenda Sub-Committee**

Peter Prontzos provided updates as follows:

- October 2<sup>nd</sup> - Day of Action Against US "Ballistic Missile Defense"; and
- October 4<sup>th</sup> - Mel Hurtig will speak on his latest book "Armageddon - The Shocking Truth about Canada, Missile Defense, and Star Wars" on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. at the Canadian Memorial Church.

The Vice-Chair suggested Committee members may wish to attend such events with the P&J banner and World Peace Forum brochures for handout.

The need for a higher profile on ballistic missile defence was noted, and Gail Davidson agreed to draft up wording for a proclamation opposing same for the Mayor's Office.

After further discussion, it was

**MOVED** by Gail Davidson  
**SECONDED** by Peter Prontzos

WHEREAS the minority Liberal government continues to pursue participation in the Ballistic Missile Defence system, a first step in the weaponization of space, and;

WHEREAS the Liberal government has indicated it believes that its minority cabinet alone can decide this issue without consulting parliament, and;

WHEREAS the global peace movement, including the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, is united in its opposition to this provocative, expensive and unworkable system, and;

WHEREAS this U.S. system is a missile magnet that threatens the safety of Vancouver citizens, and;

WHEREAS this costly and unnecessary system will divert monies from the necessary funding of cities and municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Committee work actively to prevent the Canadian government from joining in the US missile system, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT we call upon Vancouver City Council to adopt a resolution clearly indicating:

- its opposition to BMD;
- its willingness to work with other local governments to stop this military adventure; and
- that no such plan be adopted without a full debate and free vote in parliament.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### 3. Cities for Peace

Gail Davidson drew the Committee's attention to a proposed resolution (circulated with the agenda) from Marin county regarding protection from exposure to radioactive or radiological weapons.

### 4. Updates/Upcoming Events

#### a) UBC Africa Network Presentation

DATE: Tuesday, October 12th  
TIME: 1:00 p.m.  
PLACE: SUB Council Chambers (Rm. 206)  
TOPIC: Darfur: an urgent appeal for the current humanitarian crisis

#### b) Afghanistan Since September 11<sup>th</sup>

Amanda Camley advised Hassina Sherjan will speak at UBC on reality and conditions in Afghanistan since September 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### c) The World As It Could Be Made

As part of the Langara Lecture Series, Peter Prontzos will speak on "The World As It Could Be Made":

DATE: Wednesday, September 29th  
TIME: 12 noon  
PLACE: Alice MacKay Room, Central Library.

**d) War Resisters Speak Out**

DATE: Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup>  
TIME: 1:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Room B144, Langara college

FEATURING: Brandson Hughey and Peter Prontzos

**e) "OUTFOXED"**

As part of Media Democracy Day, October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Vancouver Public Library, Downtown Branch, will host Vancouver's premier screening of "OUTFOXED"; 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Alice MacKay Room.

**f) Genocide, War Crimes and the West: History and Complicity**

Peter Prontzos announced a newly published book "Genocide, War Crimes and the West: History and Complicity" edited by Adam Jones.

**g) Peace Education 2004: Building a Culture of Peace  
October 1-3**

Councillor Woodsworth noted the website: [www.bc-peace-ed.org](http://www.bc-peace-ed.org) and advised of the following Conference venues:

DATES: October 1 - UBC  
October 2 - SFU Burnaby campus  
October 3, Britannia Centre, Canuck Family Place

**5. New Business**

**a) War Resisters Monument in Nelson**

The Committee discussed the need to address this matter, but due to the lateness of the hour, agreed to bring this item forward for discussion at the next meeting of the Committee.

Peter Prontzos advised he had written a response to a Vancouver Sun Article, copies of which will appear in both the Sun Newspaper and on the Globe and Mail's website.

**Next Meeting:**

DATE: Monday, November 29, 2004  
TIME: 4:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Strathcona Meeting Room  
Sub-Ground, City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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