

NOTICE OF MEETING
PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE
A G E N D A

DATE: Monday, November 24, 2003

TIME: 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
(sandwiches will be provided)

PLACE: Strathcona Meeting Room
Sub-Ground, City Hall

***Note to Members: Please advise Denise Salmon at 604.873.7269
if you are unable to attend this meeting***

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of September 29, 2003, to be approved.

1. Citizens Forum

As agreed at the September meeting of the Committee, Al Wong will speak to this matter. The attached proposal dated September 4, 2003, from Mr. Wong, refers.

2. Sub-Committee Updates/Reports

a. Citizen Peace Award Sub-Committee

b. Peace and Justice WebSite Sub-Committee

Here is a link to the Peace and Justice Website:

<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/committees/peacejustice/>

Please come to the meeting prepared to make comments.

c. Public Participation Sub-Committee

d. World Peace Forum Sub-Committee

The attached minutes dated October 9, 2003 refer.

Attached for discussion purposes is a draft proposal from the sub-committee entitled Vancouver International Peace Forum 2005 "bringing together the other super power".

Also attached is a letter dated October 25, 2003, which has been distributed by Councillor Woodsworth and refers.

3. Members Tasks/Projects

a. Aboriginal Contact Update

Beverley O'Neil will provide an update.

b. Space Preservation Treaty

Attached, for the Committee's information, is Council's October 21, 2003, motion on the Space Preservation Treaty.

4. Election of Co-Chair

Council, at its meeting on May 27, 2003, agreed that one of the citizen members of the Peace and Justice Committee be chosen as Co-Chair. After discussion at its September meeting the Committee agreed to place this item on the November agenda.

5. Correspondence

The following correspondence has been received:

- a. Letter from the City Clerk's Department advising of Council's action related to the Vancouver Citizen Peace Award

6. Other Business

a. Fundraising for School in Northern Uganda

Christy Mori will provide further details.

b. Peace and Justice Committee Flag and Banner Proposal

Al Wong will provide further details.

9. New Business

Next Meeting:

DATE: Monday, January 26, 2004
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Strathcona Meeting Room
Sub-Ground, City Hall

**Supports Item No. 1
Peace & Justice Committee Agenda
November 24, 2003**

Date: September 4, 2003

Re: Peace and Justice Committee - Involvement of Ordinary Citizens/ AK25630

I would like to put forward the following proposal for consideration, at the September 29 Committee meeting, as an effective means to fulfil one of the five mandates of the Committee, viz., to work closely with peace and justice organizations in the City to promote peace and justice. This strategy will also deliver a continual high-profile relevancy for the Committee in engaging the ordinary citizens of Vancouver in justice and peace issues.

Proposal:

The Committee/City to back up a series of "Citizens Forum on Justice and Peace Issues" at intervals of approximately every month.

Expected Outcome:

Ordinary citizens would be engaged and energized in the issues of justice and peace.

Ways and Means:

The Committee/City would facilitate and publicize an open public gathering of local speakers (e.g., from various local organizations) and a photo/poster exhibition each month, as designed and produced by various local peace and justice organizations. The deployment of local citizens as featured speakers would be encouraged.

The meeting facility would be provided gratis by the School Board and/or the Park Board.

The School Board would undertake to provide further publicity of these events at the secondary school level.

Suggested Example Program:

The suggested example program is designed to highlight a broad spectrum of justice and peace issues, linking the people of Vancouver and the people in other parts of the World. (candidate participating local organizations):.

- Oct/03.....Depleted uranium usage in Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq
(stopwar.ca, _____, _____)
- Nov/03.....The plight of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory
(ISM-Vancouver, _____, _____)
- Jan/04.....Canadians fighting America's war in Afghanistan
(_____, _____, _____)
- Feb/04.....Racial profiling and secret trials in Canada
(Adala, _____, _____, _____)
- Mar/04.....Justice for the aboriginal people
(_____, _____, _____)
- Apr/04.....Environmental justice
(Western Canada Wilderness Committee, _____, _____)
- Jun/04.....Trade and the exploitation of women and children workers in "sweat shops"
(_____, _____, _____)
- Aug/04.....Hiroshima and Nagasaki
(Veterans Against Nuclear Arms, _____, _____)
- Sep/04.....The secret war in Southeast Asia
(BC Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines, _____)
- Oct/04.....Canada's armament industry
(_____, _____, _____)
- Nov/04.....The continuing secret war in Central America
(_____, _____, _____)

- Jan/05.....

MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON PEACE FORUM

Held October 9, 2003 at Vancouver City Hall

In attendance: Kyla Kinzel, Jef Keighley, Elsie Dean, Gail Davidson,
Tatsuo Kage, John Price, Ellen Woodsworth, Winnie Chang,
Thekla Lit, Joseph Tong, Jane Bouey, Al Engler, Jean Rands,
Irene Macinnis, Mabel Elmore

1. Introductions/Agenda

Everyone was introduced and the agenda adopted.

2. VCPJ Committee Report

John Price reported on the resolution adopted by the Peace & Justice Committee at its meeting on September 27th. Some concerns expressed by the committee were that the forum would divert resources and energies from other priorities both here and in developing countries. As well, there is a possible conflict with Habitat in '06 and civic elections in '05.

Was the idea worth pursuing? The decision was to move incrementally to determine what kind of support there is locally and nationally.

A round-table discussion was then held on the aims and purpose of such a forum. The following points were made on why a forum should be held:

- The world situation has changed with the war in Iraq, the war on terrorism, etc. which has led to new instability;
- The national missile defence plans have led to an escalation of nuclear threats;
- It is necessary to consolidate the recent gains of the anti-war movement and reinforce Vancouver's re-established role as a city of peace;
- We must build friendship among the peace-loving people in the world and in the U.S.;
- The ground-up peace movement must find a way to develop long-term strategies and build an effective international network for peace work;
- Interest in such a forum would have to be built around the world and could include a mayor's conference of mayors from the 166 cities >who have passed peace resolutions;
- Education on peace must be done in advance of a forum;

- People from the east and west must come together to develop common strategies and look at their history together;
- It should be a forum not a conference (conference fatigue);
- There is a need for face-to-face meetings for the development of >social relations, not just internet relations;
- The forum should encompass non-traditional ways of involving >people through art and culture, etc.;
- There is a need to focus on the impact of the cost of militarism >on our social programs;
- Peace is not a national issue, but a global one and should be >developed so there is a "bloc" of countries for peace.

3. Division of Labour and Report Preparation

Ideas were discussed regarding the organization of the forum including:

- co-sponsorship with the Parks and School Boards;
- working with BCTF and teachers to develop art projects, etc.
- the need to let people know that the forum is being discussed >and to get feedback on the idea;
- possible discussion with the World Social Forum folks.

It was decided that four sub-groups of the sub-committee would be formed to prepare the report for November 24th to the VCPJ Committee, as follows:

- a. the "aims" of the forum - Irene*, Elsie, John, Gail
- b. the "shape" and timing of the forum - Lyla*, Tatsuo, Al, Jean, Jef and Ruth
- c. international contacts for support - all but especially Thekla and Joseph
- d. budget - Jane*

(*indicates coordinator)

4. Next meeting

Set for Wednesday, November 5th at 5.00 pm.

5. Adjournment

**Supports Item No. 2 d.
Peace & Justice Committee Agenda
November 24, 2003**

The following is a draft proposal that has yet to be finalized or approved. It is for your reference and will provide Peace and Justice Committee members with an idea of what the sub-committee has been discussing.

A Draft Proposal

**Vancouver International Peace Forum 2005
"bringing together the other super power"**

A. GOALS

With the world awash in weapons of mass destruction, it is too dangerous a time for war to remain as a legitimate institution. It is time to put it on the table for dismantling. All over the world ordinary people, Civil Society, have voiced their opposition to war and militarism and are becoming a strong force that could bring peace and justice for all peoples.

Goals for A International Peace Forum:

1. Bring together the varied peace organizations and movements to create a foundation for unity and a worldwide solidarity network able to develop a specific plan of action to achieve global peace and justice.
2. Provide an umbrella under which movements and organizations working on separate peace issues can come together and make the links _ peace & justice in the Middle East and the many other regions of conflicts and war, Nuclear abolition, non_ weaponization of space, disarmament, redress for victims of crimes against humanity, peace education, poverty and militarism and others, in order to strengthen, through unity, our goal of achieving peace in the world.
3. To develop effective networking and communications systems between peace groups to enhance their ability to work in concert on peace issues.
4. During the pre_forum period encourage all peoples to participate in Projects for Peace and peace education.

WHY A WORLD PEACE FORUM : TIME TO MOVE BEYOND WAR

Never before have the world's peoples faced such a momentous decision. We can come together, to create a world of peace, equality and trust, or we will continue to face endless wars, militarism, hostility and ultimate destruction

We are living under the threat of 50 000 nuclear weapons encircling the globe and the continued development of new biological and chemical weapons. The new US Missile Defence System is the beginning of the weaponization of space leading the world to a new arms race.

Today worldwide military spending is over US\$1 trillion per year. The new United Nations report, The World Social Situation 2003, highlights the link between poverty and war. It points out the wars in the last two decades have set back economic development by destroying industry, agricultural areas, social services and the environment and that the war on terrorism undermines the war on poverty. War is no solution. Death, destruction, chaos and hostility have escalated since the attacks on Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq and in the Israeli/Palestine conflict.

Can people reverse this calamitous situation?

In the fervent belief that war is no longer an option, throughout the world a grassroots movement of people for peace is gaining momentum. In 1986, Vancouver was recognized by the United Nations as a city of peace. Vancouver has been a frontrunner by endorsing and facilitating the 'Walk for Peace' that drew tens of thousands of people to the streets and endorsement of ten other municipalities in the lower mainland. British Columbia, Vancouver and scores of other British Columbia cities, towns and communities have declared themselves nuclear free zones. Vancouver as well as 32 other Canadian cities and 162 US cities opposed the bombing of Iraq and were joined by countless smaller communities.

Local governments have come together with their citizens in expressing concern about the effect of war and militarism on their communities. The strong sentiment for peace amongst the people of British Columbia makes Vancouver City the ideal venue for a world peace forum.

The will for peace is a strong motivating force. It is time for the world's people to come together to create and agree on a step by step plan for stopping hostilities _ a plan that will begin the process of converting the use of world resources from militarism and destruction to peaceful uses.

A World Peace Forum would:

Bring together diverse peoples of the world _ indigenous, environmentalists, churches, youth, students, children, trade unions, artists, veterans and others _ to exchange ideas, share, strategize, build trust and consolidate a truly global movement

Link with the Mayors and Cities for Peace movements.

Examine the current relationships between of the world movements for peace and justice
Encourage popular peace education to put the question of peace front and center on the world stage,

Construct a space for analysis of the world situation, gather facts and ascertain the truth in matters concerning peace and conflict and make it know to the public

Develop a strategy to deal with foreign military bases and mercenary armies employed by corporations.

Strategize on how to end impunity, deal with war crimes, redress and reconciliation.

Develop plans for grassroots' contribution in peaceful conflict resolution

Draw up and make proposals to strengthen the United Nations,

Review treaties and covenants negotiated through the United Nations and campaign for governments to sign and ratify.

Agree on new treaties i.e. peaceful use of space, disarmament agreements, nuclear free world etc.

Develop and present ways to utilize the peace dividend to fund human needs,

The people are for peace

Trudeau, when Prime Minister of Canada, recognized the power of the people when he declared, "Only the deaf cannot hear the clamour arising all over the world against the arms race."

The power of the people recognized:

During the massive protests around the world against the bombing of Iraq, the New York Times named the people "the other super power."

U.S. Air force officials acknowledged that politics, not technology is the main obstacle to developing weapons in space. This was clearly explained by Major Kurt Stevens in the Air Force Space Command's planning directorate, "The bottom line is that you've got to develop the public and congressional support so that they understand the need for the Anti_Satellite Warfare (ASAT)."

It is the people, working together, who will lead the international community towards a world beyond war. Global peace is an achievable goal

B. POSSIBLE STRUCTURE AND TIMING OF PEACE FORUM

Part 1: Timing

The Sub_committee considered two options for the dates of the conference and have no firm conclusion as to which one is preferable. The advantages and disadvantages of each are listed below.

March/05 (Possibly Easter Weekend)

End summer/05 ?toward end of Aug.?

(Hiroshima: Aug. 6, End of WWII: Aug 15.)

Advantages:

- _ possible influence on provincial election
- _ university students available
- _ K_12 schools in session
- _ greater availability of hotel space
- _ less cost for hotels/air fare
- _ Japanese peace boat available (?)
- _ peace camp for kids
- _ camping facilities available

Disadvantages:

- _ weather
- _ people working on election
- _ less public impact (due to prov. election)

Advantages:

- _ better weather making Vancouver more attractive
- _ provincial election over
- _ good lead_up to civic election
- _ university facilities available
- _ community centers & schools open

Disadvantages:

- _ fewer university students
- _ no K_12 students

_ spring break may interrupt

Part 2: Activities

General ideas include:

- _ touching as many people as possible, especially those who would not normally be involved
- _ have small events in parks so people in communities could be involved
- _ involve bicycle community in critical mass rides
- _ have an interactive peace camp for kids which could involve children of tourists
- _ have social events, art events
- _ need focus on themes such as Pacific rim or US relations

Who would be participating?

- _ City Council
- _ Parks Board
- _ School Board
- _ Business groups
- _ Arts community
- _ NGO's) from B.C., Canada, and
- _ Ethnic and cultural groups) abroad
- _ International organizations

General Framework

The Forum would last 5 to 7 days. Each day would have a specific theme, such as:

- _ Militarism & poverty
- _ US relations
- _ Asia/Pacific
- _ War crimes, Redress and Reconciliation
- _ Aboriginal issues
- _ Women and Children
- _ Human Rights

Each day, around the theme, there would be:

- _ displays
- _ videos
- _ speakers/forums/panels
- _ workshops including art, theatre
- _ children's activities
- _ occupational group meetings (eg. unions)

A gala dinner or other large event would be the culmination of the forum on the second last day. Hosted by Larry Campbell and other national and international leaders who are available. Performances by children at event.

Part 3: Location

The forum would take place throughout the downtown core at the following locations:

- SFU Harbour Centre
- UBC Robson Square
- Plaza of Nations
- Wosk Centre
- The Centre (Performing Arts)
- VPL
- Queen Elizabeth Theatre/Playhouse
- Art Gallery
- Convention Centre at Canada Place
- Emily Carr Institute
- Chinese Cultural Centre
- Chief Dan George Centre
- Parks

Locations throughout the downtown would encourage walking and allow for shuttle buses and bicycles being available between venues.

C. BUDGET

The People's Summit on APEC, the 1997 forum in Vancouver, had an approximate budget of \$450,000 of which nearly half was used to help delegates from Southern countries come to Vancouver. An international peace forum on a large scale would require at least a similar amount and Southern partners have indicated they would not sponsor an event sponsored in the North would provide subsidies for those coming from the South.

Sources of potential funding include Canadian and international NGOs, governments at various levels. In order for planning to proceed, some core commitments are necessary. Elections in year 2005 (provincial and municipal) may limit ability of some NGOs to contribute.

D. ORGANIZATION

The forum would be a joint activity of the City of Vancouver and NGOs. It would probably require a host committee, a pan-Canadian advisory group, and an international advisory group.



**CITY OF VANCOUVER
COUNCILLORS' OFFICE**

COUNCILLOR ELLEN WOODSWORTH

**Supports Item No. 2 d.
Peace & Justice Committee Agenda
November 24, 2003**

October 15, 2003

Dear Friend:

Do you think the City of Vancouver, in partnership with cities and activists from Canada and around the world, should host a world peace forum in 2005?

On September 29, Vancouver City's Peace and Justice Committee approved the idea in principle and is now requesting feedback from local-global activists and from cities regarding this proposal. We want to know what you think before going any further.

Do you think U.S. militarism is threatening people around the world? The illegal invasion and occupation of Iraq has unleashed untold suffering and weakened international controls over aggression. The deployment of National Missile Defence (Star Wars) threatens us with a new arms race; and the U.S.-led world arms trade is once again on the rise. Militarism not only threatens us and our childrens' safety, its costs are robbing cities and other levels of government of the funds necessary for social programs and sustainable human development.

Do we need a time and place to talk directly to one another? People and whole cities across the globe have mobilized--the spring demonstrations against the invasion of Iraq were the largest in world history. The internet was an indispensable tool in organizing efforts but can the Internet replace face-to-face, people-to-people dialogue? Is it not time to take stock, to bring together representatives of the "other superpower", the world's peoples, to tell their stories, to sing, to dance, to strategize and to march for peace together?

Is Vancouver City the place to do this? It does have a progressive city council that has a mandate until November 2005. And the city has a tradition of peace activism. But perhaps such an event should be held elsewhere?

Can we together gather the resources necessary to put on such an event and to help peoples of developing countries, or the South, come to Vancouver?

On November 24, the City's Peace and Justice committee will be making its recommendation to city council. Let us know before then what you think. Please send your views to clrwoodsworth@city.vancouver.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

Ellen Woodsworth
City Councillor and Vice-chair
Vancouver City Peace and Justice Committee
clrwoodsworth@city.vancouver.bc.ca
604.873.7245

EW/cs

New Business

3. Space Preservation Treaty (File 1263)

MOVED by Councillor Cadman

SECONDED by Councillor Woodsworth

WHEREAS, the termination of the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty on June 13, 2002, permits research, development, testing, manufacturing, production and deployment of space-based weapons, thereby promoting an arms race in space;

AND WHEREAS, the Space Preservation Treaty will establish a permanent ban on all space-based weapons, on the use of weapons to destroy or damage objects in space that are in orbit; and the permanent termination of research and development, testing, manufacturing, production and deployment of all space-based weapons;

AND WHEREAS, the Space Preservation Treaty will establish an outer space peacekeeping agency to monitor outer space and enforce the permanent ban of space-based weapons;

AND WHEREAS, the Space Preservation Treaty permits space exploration, space research and development, testing, manufacturing or deployment that is not related to space-based weapons or systems, including civil, commercial, or defence activities such as communications, navigation, surveillance, reconnaissance, early warning, or remote sensing;

AND WHEREAS, the Space Preservation Treaty facilitates investment in clean, safe and sustainable technology, products and services to support expanded, cooperative, non-weapons space ventures and the consequent stimulation of the national and world economy;

AND WHEREAS, the Space Preservation Treaty preserves the peaceful, cooperative uses of space for all residents of Vancouver and prevents harmful health and safety impacts on residents from space-based weapons testing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Vancouver City Council urge the Prime Minister of Canada to sign the Space Preservation Treaty and have the House of Commons of Canada ratify it;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Vancouver City Council urge the Government of Canada to convene a treaty-signing conference for the Space Preservation Treaty, as Canada did in the treaty-signing conference in December 1997, where 122 countries signed the Convention Banning Land Mines, known as the Ottawa Convention;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT, this resolution of Vancouver City Council be sent to the President and Executive of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for information.

CARRIED

(Councillors Ladner and Sullivan opposed)

(Councillors Green and Louis absent for the vote)



CITY OF VANCOUVER
CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT
Legislative Services

Supports Item No. 5 a.
Peace & Justice Committee Agenda
November 24, 2003

FILE NO. In Camera

REPLY ATTN.

October 8, 2003

Chair and Members
Peace and Justice Committee
City Hall
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Chair and Members:

On October 7, 2003, Vancouver City Council (In Camera) approved the following:

- A. THAT the City resume its partnership in the presentation of the Vancouver Citizen Peace Award in conjunction with the United Nations Association of Canada - Vancouver Branch.
- B. THAT Irene MacInnes be granted the 2003 Vancouver Citizens Peace Award.

Yours truly,

Charlene K. Imai
Meeting Coordinator
Phone: 604.871.6355
City Clerk's Office email: info@city.vancouver.bc.ca