

## PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

JULY 28, 2003

A meeting of the Peace and Justice Committee was held on Monday, July 28, 2003, at 4:30 p.m., in the Strathcona Meeting Room, Sub-Ground, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor David Cadman, Chair  
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth, Vice-Chair  
Trustee Jane Bouey, Vancouver School Board  
Commissioner Lyndsay Poaps, Vancouver Park Board  
Thomas Anthony  
David Askew  
Gail Davidson  
Sam Phillipoff  
Kyla Kinzel  
Cara Ng  
John Price  
Peter Prontzos  
Judith Radovan  
Noha Sedky  
Al Wong

ABSENT: Ivan Bulic  
Amanda Camley  
Christy Mori  
Beverley O'Neil

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Denise Salmon, Meeting Coordinator

### Terms of Reference

The Chair reviewed the Committee's Terms of Reference, as approved by Council at its meeting on May 27, 2003.

#### 1. Introduction of Members

During roundtable discussion members provided details on their background and areas of interest as well as thoughts on what each hopes to see accomplished over the term of the Committee (December 1, 2005.) Comments provided included the following:

- creation of Peace and Justice Committee a positive step by the City of Vancouver;
- need to examine root causes of conflict, and concrete steps taken to reduce sources of that conflict in our society;
- interest in seeing connections created at the local level;
- work toward the World Peace Form to be hosted by Vancouver in 2005;
- interest in oppression, and how gender and race play a role in how we treat each other and why we feel entitled to certain things;
- how municipalities can play an advocacy role in work related to the Middle East;
- research methods on how we can work with other cities and examine what they are doing in regard to Peace and Justice;
- responsibility to promote social issues that will make life better for other people, by building on past successes, i.e. the Peace March;
- create a culture of peace in our city - cultural events in the schools that promote peace in our neighbourhoods;

- add to components that work in neighbourhoods and communities, i.e. Neighbourhood Watch;
- historical moment globally and opportune time locally to stand up against war mongering;
- could join cities of peace around the world - work on world peace conference;
- perhaps certain funds from the Olympics could be focussed on peace, i.e. art banners;
- Park Board involved in creating community - has available a wide range of facilities, activities and opportunities, examine ways we can build using these resources;
- focus on various past attempts to create conditions for peace;
- promote participatory democracy;
- commitment to address social justice issues, labour rights and environmental issues;
- need to engage citizens - rather than elitist groups - need to bring forward the power of ordinary people;
- desire to see First Nations issues on top of the agenda;
- involvement with something that can touch, and include, as many people as possible to create a world of peace and justice;
- adopt a sister city in a country besieged by international war
- create an international municipal peace Initiative; and
- look forward to building on work of this committee through the School Board, and try to build a sense of hope.

The Chair also provided background on those members who were unable to attend today's meeting.

## 2. Meeting Dates and Time

The Committee agreed to the following meeting dates, scheduled for the last Monday of every second month at 4:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m. in the Strathcona Meeting Room:

### 2003

Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>

### 2004

Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>  
Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup>

### 2005

Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup>  
Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>

## 3. Goals

The following points were raised in response to a request from the Chair for members to provide their vision of what the Committee will have accomplished by December 2005:

- links formed with citizens of peace all around the world and cities of peace across Canada;
- involvement of parents in promoting the feeling their children do not need to 'play war', toughness is not a requirement - toy guns not allowed in schools or playgrounds as they promote violence;
- promotion and involvement in international monitoring;
- adoption of a new sister city -- in a third world country and/or one besieged by international war;
- to be a well known Committee, with political clout and the ability to influence leaders;
- many peace initiatives established around our city, but not the usual workshop format, with involvement of all levels of community, including high schools and universities;
- international and local connections amongst various communities realized;
- effective nationally;
- Council decides to provide resources related to peace activities;
- root causes of conflict have been examined and people in Vancouver engaged about those issues, who in turn have come up with concrete ways to act on these issues;
- achieved reductions in both gay bashing and putting people down because of their ethnic background, which positively influences the ambience in our city;
- respect given to every citizen, even when doing wrong things;
- opposition launched here in Vancouver, and taken up across the country, to the Federal Government's spending on Star Wars, and in its place an agenda of social issues including, housing, daycare and social needs demanded to the point the where the government realizes it could not go ahead with participation in Star Wars;
- campaign against weapons of mass destruction underway, including a ban on the use of depleted uranium;
- people from all walks of life talking about the incredible work the Peace and Justice Committee is doing, and the international difference it has made;
- instrumental in stopping Star Wars;
- blue print developed for a grassroots aid and education exchange where citizens of Vancouver can get involved in exchanges of assistance, similar to 'Hands of Peace';
- creation of peace markers throughout the city as an art project - with markers symbolic of process that allowed them to happen and celebrations planned around those markers each year;
- citizens at large, including youth, are truly involved, perhaps through small public seminars and public exhibitions;
- something tangible has been developed to allow First Nations People to regain their identity - Canadian armed forces stop targeting this group for recruitment - aboriginal youth instead are trained to be community workers;
- issue of sexuality and sexual orientation will be dealt with;
- rehabilitation resources provided to address addiction problems and prostitution decriminalized;
- Vancouver is a child friendly place, starting with daycare initiatives, including ensuring every child has good food;
- the 2010 Olympics will be an 'Olympics for Peace' with an end to war at least during the Olympic period, similar to first Olympics in Greece;

- people around the city will be heard talking about the success and accomplishments of this Committee; and
- a visual document will be available to provide a blue print for other communities to follow the success of Vancouver's Peace and Justice Committee.

#### **4. Public Participation**

Due to lack of time, Committee members agreed to postpone discussion of this item to the September meeting.

#### **5. Correspondence**

##### **a) Letter dated July 8, 2003 from the United Nations Association in Canada, regarding the Vancouver Citizens Peace Award**

The Committee discussed the nomination put forward by the United Nations Association in Canada, Vancouver Branch-- the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, P.C. - for the Vancouver Citizens' Peace Award.

After lengthy discussion, the Committee agreed to postpone decision on this item until its September meeting to allow members to bring forward additional names worthy of consideration. The Chair advised nomination would require Council's approval, and requested a short biography and rationale for awarding of the award be included. The Committee so agreed.

The Chair further suggested details of potential nominees be circulated in advance via email to allow for a final decision at the September 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

##### **b) Letter dated July 28, 2003, from the National President of Veterans Against Nuclear Arms (VANA) requesting a committee member speak at a Vancouver Art Gallery event commemorating the destruction of Nagasaki**

The Chair called for volunteers to attend this event. Al Wong volunteered to represent the Committee at the event. The Committee so agreed.

#### **6. New Business**

##### **a) Commemoration of Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki**

A member suggested the Committee request the Mayor write letters to the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorating the destruction of these two cities in August 1945, and express interest in working with them towards Peace. All members so agreed.

Al Wong volunteered to draft a motion to be forwarded to the Vice-Chair and brought forward to the Regular Council Meeting on July 29<sup>th</sup>, for action by month-end.

##### **b) Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Signs for Vancouver**

Committee members suggested a motion be brought forward to Council requesting the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone signs previously posted in Vancouver be reinstated right

away. All members so agreed. The Chair agreed to bring this motion forward to the next Regular Meeting of Council.

**c) Four Pillar Approach to Drug Problems in Vancouver/Prostitution**

The Committee requested a brief update on these issues. The Chair advised he would look into having a staff member present to provide the Committee with an update on the Four Pillars Approach at the September meeting.

**d) Member Tasks/Projects**

The Chair requested each member put forward a project/task they would like to work on for presentation at the September meeting of the Committee:

Councillor Cadman

- will develop a resolution for Star Wars with counterpoint of social issues

Al Wong

- will research and prepare database directory of peace and social justice groups in the city

David Askew

- prepare a list of contacts with other municipal councils around British Columbia who are interested in working toward peace and justice within their local governments

John Price

- interested in world peace forum conference idea - will work with Gail Davidson to bring this forward (the need for further reflect at the September meeting on "where we are as individuals and as a group in terms of peace issues" was suggested, and agreed to)
- will provide the Committee with a recent publication by the Canadian Resource Network on the question of North Korea

Noha Sedky

- suggested the City put out a statement - opposition to war initiatives; first step is to link with those cities opposed to such initiatives and establish those connections (Gail Davidson offered her assistance, as she has relevant information at hand)

Gail Davidson

- will draft an announcement to send to cities on Noha's list identifying "who we are and our reasons for connecting with you"
- will work on world peace forum conference proposal with John Price
- will bring back to next meeting draft resolution for cities against war in general
- will also try to expand on Sister City idea

Thomas Anthony

- interested in working with Beverley O'Neil in looking at aboriginal justice concerns, trying to bring some focus to the issues

Jane Bouey

- will communicate with other committees of Council, School Board and Park Board to determine which ones are currently working on social justice issues

Peter Prontzos

- will look into setting up a website (to include some of the initiatives talked about by the Committee and links to other more detailed sources of information). The Chair indicated he would look into setting up a City site
- will scope out what is happening in the world of peace in terms of international meetings and conferences

Kyla Kinzel

- will walk the street and talk to people and friends telling them about the Committee, and enquiring how best to stimulate citizen participation

Cara Ng

- will draft a definition of what is meant by the term 'justice', for discussion on how we want to manifest our mandate
- will explore the Liberia/African situation in more detail and converse with an African group being established at UBC this year

Judith Radovan

- will interact with neighbours
- will learn how to surf the Web

**e) Agenda Items/Distribution of Minutes**

In response to a question from a Committee member, the Chair advised those wishing to add items to the agenda email him directly with the details, with a copy to the Meeting Coordinator.

At the request of the Committee the Meeting Coordinator confirmed minutes would be emailed.

**f) Brief Wrap Up Evaluation of Meeting**

In response to a question from the Chair, members provided many positive comments on the success of the first meeting of the Peace and Justice Committee.

**Next Meeting:**

Monday, September 29, 2003  
4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Strathcona Meeting Room, Sub-Ground, Vancouver City Hall

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The Committee adjourned at 7:30 p.m.