

## PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 24, 2003

A meeting of the Peace and Justice Committee was held on Monday, November 24, 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  
Thomas Anthony  
David Askew  
Ivan Bulic  
Amanda Camley  
Gail Davidson  
Sam Phillipoff  
Christy Mori  
Cara Ng  
John Price  
Peter Prontzos  
Noha Sedky  
Al Wong

ABSENT: Trustee Jane Bouey, Vancouver School Board  
Commissioner Lyndsay Poaps, Vancouver Park Board  
Kyla Kinzel  
Beverley O'Neil  
Judith Radovan

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Denise Salmon, Meeting Coordinator

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of September 29, 2003, were approved as circulated.

### 1. Citizens Forum

Al Wong referred Committee members to the relevant material circulated with the agenda and provided an overview of his proposal for citizens' forums, which would engage ordinary citizens of Vancouver in justice and peace issues.

Members suggested Mr. Wong's proposal could fit in with the suggestions put report in the report from the Public Participation Sub-Committee, which would be discussed later this evening. Note was also made of lack of City resources to coordinate events, as opposed to the Committee's ability to assist others with their events. Accordingly, it was agreed to continue discussion on this item following presentation of the sub-committee's report.

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Following the sub-committee presentation, discussion resumed on Mr. Wong's proposal. Although resolution was not reached, it was suggested options to engage ordinary citizens, which do not require money, might be further explored. Committee members also suggested completion of the earlier agreed to data base of peace and justice groups be undertaken by the Public Participation Sub-Committee.

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## **2. Sub-Committee Updates/Reports**

### **a) Citizen Peace Award Sub-Committee**

The Chair noted Irene MacInnes will be awarded the 2003 Citizen Peace Award at the December 2<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting. The event will take place at 3:45 p.m., with a reception and light refreshments to follow. Members discussed the logistics of the event and made suggestions for the 2004 Peace Award.

The Chair provided additional background on the selection process for the previous awardees, and a member suggested the Citizen Peace Award Sub-Committee (Councillor Woodsworth, David Askew, Amanda Camley and Al Wong) examine those terms of reference and come back with recommendations for a full Committee discussion. Councillor Woodsworth agreed to be the convenor for this project.

### **b) Peace and Justice Web Site Sub-Committee**

Peter Prontzos circulated a hard copy of the new Peace and Justice WebPage and requested the Committee's input. Members discussed the capacity of the site, and the need to include members' names on the front page. In response to questions, Mr. Prontzos advised:

- the Committee can choose what information is displayed on its WebPage;
- links to announcements of significant events can be provided from the WebPage; and
- the Clerk's Office has approved expenses for a unique domain name.

Councillor Woodsworth advised the City of Vancouver also offers Community WebPages that are available to the public for posting non-commercial community events.

Mr. Prontzos requested those with any additional comments or interest in working on the WebPage project contact him after the meeting.

### **c) Public Participation Sub-Committee**

Before the Committee was a report (circulated at the meeting and on file) from the Public Participation Sub-Committee (Tom Anthony, David Askew, and Peter Prontzos), which put forward a set of recommendations for the Committee's consideration. Mr. Askew noted the recommendations relate back to the Committee's mandate.

Discussion ensued on appropriate methods of involving the public, with consideration given to the Committee's lack of resources, finite amount of time available and amount of work involved to follow through with some of the Sub-Committee recommendations. The need to encourage communication through written format, with speakers invited under specific circumstances was also suggested.

The Committee agreed on the need to move forward with the directory of contacts as previously discussed, and also the need to seek out and liaise with like-minded councils and councillors. The importance of integrating peace activities into existing city structures was also noted.

After lengthy discussion, the Committee agreed its definition of public participation includes:

- links with other peace and justice groups in Vancouver, including schools, community centres, community neighbourhood houses, places of worship, etc.;
- input from other groups and the public regarding the Peace and Justice Committee's actions to achieve its mandate;
- links with other cities and city councillors across the Province who are working toward peace and justice; and
- sponsoring seminars regarding peace and justice issues.

The Committee also agreed to strike an "Other Cities and Councils Liaison" Sub-Committee comprised of the following members: Councillor Woodsworth, David Askew, Ivan Bulic, Amanda Camley, Gail Davidson, Sam Phillipoff and Noha Sedky. Ms. Davidson agreed to convene this sub-Committee.

RESOLVED,

THAT the Peace and Justice Committee adopt the following recommendations of the Public Participation Sub-Committee, with amendments as agreed to this day, as a framework for the Committee's public involvement process:

That the Peace and Justice Committee:

- a. arrange to communicate with representatives of other peace and justice organizations for the purpose of explaining the PJC's mandate, and seek input regarding its implementation;
- b. continue to seek out and liaise with like-minded councils and councillors in towns and cities of BC;
- c. where appropriate, sponsor seminars about peace and justice issues;
- d. arrange, or integrate occasional informal social events over the course of its mandate to reach and involve people who are not likely to attend seminars and conferences and engage with citizens of Vancouver in whatever ways possible in the world movement for peace and justice;
- e. may invite, or agree to hear speakers or delegations (criteria to be applied by co-chairs) where:
  - a person or representative of an organization with time critical relevant information is available and can provide this information directly and more effectively to the committee in person rather than by other means;
  - the committee deems it important to provide a brief forum for an outstanding person or organizational representative; and
- f. reach out to other community events to try and integrate a peace and justice theme within these events.

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

Before the Committee were the October 9, 2003, minutes from the World Peace Forum Sub-committee, a draft proposal for the World Peace Forum, and a widely distributed letter, signed by Councillor Woodsworth, which requested feedback Vancouver hosting a World Peace Forum in 2005. John Price advised the vast majority of respondents favoured the event.

Mr. Price distributed a further sub-committee report dated November 24<sup>th</sup> (on file) which contained five specific recommendations for discussion. Members discussed spending the majority of the Committee's time and resources on this one event versus attempting to build into it some long term continuity, and the need to come to an agreement on this issue before proceeding further.

After due consideration, the Committee unanimously agreed:

- A. THAT the Peace and Justice Committee respond to those who have written regarding the World Peace Forum 2005 proposal, outlining the challenges and preconditions necessary for such a venture and inviting their concrete proposals about how to meet the challenges.
- B. THAT the Committee request Mayor Campbell write Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima offering to work with the Mayor's network in its upcoming campaigns in order to identify points of common interest.
- C. THAT the Committee continue to engage in the consultation process with local NGO peace activists to develop a concrete proposal.
- D. THAT, where appropriate, the Committee make use of the Peace and Justice Committee website to solicit broader input.
- E. THAT the Committee encourage City Councillors, Peace and Justice Committee members and peace activists to attend the World Social Forum in Mumbai, India, where peace issues will be a major focus of discussion; and  
  
FURTHER THAT the Committee recommends a member of City Council, if possible, attend the forum in Mumbai.
- F. THAT, based on input from people who have responded to the proposal, the Committee take that feedback into account in continuing to refine objectives for the event, and continue to explore the possibilities of holding this World Peace Forum Conference.

### **3. Members Tasks/Projects**

#### **a. Aboriginal Role**

This item was postponed to a future meeting, as Beverley O'Neil was unable to be present.

NOTE FROM CLERK: Ms. O'Neil subsequently advised she has spoken with Chief Ed John and will continue to pursue this project further.

#### **b. Space Preservation Treaty**

Before the Committee for information was a motion passed by Council on October 21, 2003, regarding the Space Preservation Treaty. Committee discussion followed, and the need for a Star Wars Agenda Sub-Committee was agreed to. Peter Prontzos and John Price volunteered as members.

#### **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. Following discussion at its September meeting the Committee agreed to place this item on its November agenda.

Councillor Cadman noted the Co-Chair would be involved with setting the agenda, and more importantly, be the public face of the Committee, and respond to media enquiries.

Accordingly, after due process, the Committee unanimously agreed there be two Co-Chairs - Gail Davidson and Noha Sedky.

#### **5. Correspondence**

The following correspondence was received:

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

NOTE FROM CLERK: See Item 2 a) for follow up on this matter.

#### **6. Enquiries and Other Matters**

##### **a. Fundraising for School in Northern Uganda**

Christy Mori noted she is collecting empty ink cartridges to recycle, as part of a fundraising campaign called 'Garbage for Peace', with proceeds to go to a school in Northern Uganda.

##### **b. Peace and Justice Committee Flag and Banner Proposal**

In response to a suggestion from Al Wong that the Committee have its own flag or banner, it was noted no funds exist to pursue such a proposal. However, a member suggested the Committee may wish to solicit a peace design, and explore how this could be linked with the City's street banner program.

##### **c. Peace Cities Network**

Noha Sedky referenced a draft letter (circulated at the meeting and on file) she was requested to write inviting cities around the world to join a network of peace cities. It was agreed this letter be forwarded to the World Peace Forum Sub-Committee for follow-up.

**d. Peace Education in Our Schools**

Gail Davidson suggested arrangements be made for an education person to address the Committee on peace education initiatives in our schools. Sam Fillipoff agreed to look into inviting Pat Clark, BCTF to the January meeting.

**e. Hunger Strike Against FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas)**

Councillor Woodsworth provided details on this matter and referred to a letter from Steven Kisby. It was agreed to continue discussion of this matter at the January meeting.

**Next Meeting:**

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

The Committee adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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