

PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

JULY 27, 2004

A meeting of the Peace and Justice Committee was held on Monday, July 27, 2004, at 4:30 p.m., in the Strathcona Meeting Room, Sub-Ground, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT Councillor Ellen Woodsworth, Vice-Chair
Councillor David Cadman, Co-Chair
David Askew
Amanda Camley
Gail Davidson, Co-Chair
Kyla Kinzel
Christy Mori
Cara Ng
Peter Prontzos
Noha Sedky, Co-Chair
Al Wong

ABSENT Thomas Anthony
Trustee Jane Bouey, Vancouver School Board (Civic Business)
Ivan Bulic
Sam Fillipoff
Beverley O'Neil
Commissioner Lyndsay Poaps, Vancouver Park Board (Civic Business)
John Price
Judith Radovan

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Denise Salmon, Meeting Coordinator

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of May 31, 2004, were approved as circulated.

1. Sub-Committee Updates/Reports

a) Citizens' Peace Award Sub-Committee

Al Wong, sub-committee member, noted the need to move forward with this initiative, and make the process transparent and democratic. Discussion followed on the involvement of the United Nations Association of Canada. The Vice-Chair advised Council, at its meeting on October 7, 2003, had reaffirmed the Association's partnership in the presentation of the award and further noted Councillor Cadman had also approached the Association regarding the UN's participation in the joint award.

Options suggested for seeking nominations for the 2004 Citizens' Peace Award included:

- posting a notice on the website;
- community newspaper ads; and
- utilizing the Peace and Justice groups directory (prepared by Public Participation sub-committee).

Gail Davidson agreed to follow up on this matter with Councillor Cadman.

b) Peace and Justice Website Sub-Committee

Peter Prontzos and Noha Sedky provided a progress report on website construction and sought input from members on:

- site content;
- wording for an introductory paragraph on the first page;
- suggested links to other peace and justice organizations;
- inclusion of resolutions passed by Council which have been generated by the Peace and Justice Committee; and
- a description of the World Peace Forum Society, with a link to their website.

Ms. Sedky requested members forward to her information asap, as the webmaster is now between semesters and able to dedicate time to the project. The Committee agreed a thank-you letter acknowledging the webmaster's work would be appropriate. Peter Prontzos agreed to draft the letter.

c) Public Participation Sub-Committee

The Committee, as its May 31, 2004, meeting agreed to postpone, until its July meeting, discussion on the following item, as set out in Sub-Committee's April 13th meeting notes:

- Ways to Proactively Achieve the Committee's Mandate.

Accordingly, sub-committee member David Askew, provided an update on the cost and design of the Peace and Justice banner (draft design circulated at the meeting), and introduced the banner's designer - Garth. Garth sought the Committee's further guidance on size, colour, and how better to visually represent the words "Peace and Justice".

Suggestions included:

- blue and white lettering, angular rather than flowing;
- approximately 2 feet by 6 feet to allow for use at various events;
- some kind of design/border above or below the words;
- similar look to the Committee's website: www.peaceandjustice.ca; and
- website address included along the bottom.

The Committee agreed on the following:

- The words "Peace and Justice Committee" would be both prominent and dominant, on the banner.

Mr. Askew further advised of the need to identify (on the banner) the Committee as an "Advisory Committee to Vancouver City Council". Amanda Camley noted additional comments could be forwarded to her following the meeting.

Garth thanked the Committee for their input and agreed to forward design options to members for approval. The Meeting Coordinator was requested to follow up on funding options for the banner.

d) World Peace Forum Sub-Committee

Noha Sedky, provided a progress report on preparation for the World Peace Forum in 2006, and circulated a draft organizational framework (on file in the City Clerk's Office) for the Committee's information. It was noted the World Peace Forum Society has now posted job openings for both an Office Administrator and a Co-ordinator position. Ms. Sedky also advised of the need to nominate three members of the Peace and Justice Committee as alternates to current Steering Committee members: Noha Sedky, Ellen Woodsworth and David Cadman. It was agreed the sub-committee would name the three alternates at its September 8th meeting.

Ms. Sedky also drew the Committee's attention to the World Peace Forum 2006 Bulletin #1 dated June 30, 2004 (circulated with the agenda), and noted the need to make the bulletin available to as many as possible, including student and community newspapers, libraries, and if edited for length, a number of internet sites.

The Committee then discussed the goal of the forum: "to help consolidate the capacity necessary for communication, coordination and action on a global scale to stop war and end global militarism". The need to move forward with a "Request for Proposals" for a convention or event organizer for the Forum was agreed to. Accordingly, it was

MOVED by Gail Davidson
SECONDED by Peter Prontzos

THAT the Peace and Justice Committee submit the following "Request for Proposals" to Council for approval:

World Peace Forum 2006

The Peace and Justice Committee of the City of Vancouver is seeking a qualified convention or event organizer on a contract basis to work on ancillary tasks related to the World Peace Forum and to prepare a report to the Committee for review by City Council on the feasibility of holding a World Peace Forum in 2006 in conjunction with the World Urban Forum, a project endorsed in principle by City Council. The report should include:

- An assessment of the interest at the national and international level in supporting and participating in such an event;
- A recommended format, duration and theme;
- A draft budget, including estimated costs and proposed sources of revenue;
- Proposed strategies to attract sponsorships and partnerships from the non-profit and private sectors; and
- A preliminary work plan to achieve the goal of a World Peace Forum, including critical milestones and decision points.

A draft of the report must be submitted to the Peace and Justice Committee by October 1, 2004, to be considered by City Council at its October 19th meeting, as set out in the Council resolution endorsing this study.

Special consideration will be given to applicants with a demonstrated record of event and conference organization and a history of involvement in non-governmental organizations, especially those working in the area of peace and social justice.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e) Other Cities and Councils Liaison Sub-Committee

No updates at this time.

f) Justice Sub-Committee

As a follow up to the Committee's May discussions with John Richardson, Pivot Legal Society, Gail Davidson advised Mr. Richardson has provided additional background information on policing issues. This information will be circulated to Justice Sub-Committee members, for report back to the next regular meeting of the Committee.

g) Star Wars Agenda Sub-Committee

Peter Prontzos provided an update on Canadian participation in the US "Ballistic Missile Defense" in relation to the newly elected federal government, and noted it is hoped the national campaign will soon be back on track.

Gail Davidson added that Whistler City Council is involved in anti Star Wars strategies, and also advised cities passing resolutions against Star Wars are now supporting both the Treaty Signing Conference and opposing Canadian participation.

2. The Other September 11: Chile, 9/11/1973

Al Wong sought the Committee's input on requesting a proclamation from the Mayor's Office related to recognition of the September 11 coup d'etat of the democratically elected government of Chile in 1973.

The Chair advised if the Chilean community has events planned, they could send a letter to the Mayor's office requesting such a proclamation.

3. Updates/Upcoming Events

a) Hiroshima Day

A commemoration and concert (admission is free) will be held:

DATE: Friday, August 6, 2004
TIME: 7:30 p.m. (doors @ 7:00 p.m.)
PLACE: National Nikkei Heritage Centre
6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby, BC

b) World Urban Forum

Councillors Cadman and Woodsworth will attend the World Urban Forum in Barcelona, Spain the week of September 12-19, 2004.

c) Los Angeles Peace Conference

Gail Davidson announced the Fellowship of Reconciliation 2004 National Conference in Los Angeles, California, August 5-9, at the Occidental College.

d) World Peace Council - Cuba

Councillors Cadman and Woodsworth will meet with the newly-elected President of the World Peace Council in the near future.

e) Hans Blix

Councillor Cadman advised Hans Blix, Chairman of The Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, will be in Vancouver in the fall and may be available for a public lecture.

f) Women Mobilizing Women for Peace

Gail Davidson announced an event organized by Mobina Jaffer arising from the Year 2000 Security Council Resolution Re Women Mobilizing Women for Peace, July 27th, 6-8 p.m., at the YMCA.

4. New Business

None.

Next Meeting:

DATE: Monday, September 27, 2004
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Strathcona Meeting Room
Sub-Ground, City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 6:30 p.m.
