

PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MAY 31, 2004

A meeting of the Peace and Justice Committee was held on Monday, May 31, 2004, at 4:30 p.m., in the Strathcona Meeting Room, Sub-Ground, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor David Cadman, Co-Chair (Civic Business)
Thomas Anthony
David Askew
Trustee Jane Bouey, Vancouver School Board (Civic Business)

Gail Davidson, Co-Chair
Sam Fillipoff
Christy Mori
Cara Ng
Beverley O'Neil
John Price
Peter Prontzos
Al Wong
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth, Vice-Chair

ABSENT: Ivan Bulic
Amanda Camley
Kyla Kinzel
Commissioner Lyndsay Poaps, Vancouver Park Board (Civic Business)

Judith Radovan
Noha Sedky, Co-Chair

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Denise Salmon, Meeting Coordinator

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of March 29, 2004, were approved as circulated.

1. Public Participation Invitee: Mr. John Richardson, Pivot Legal Society

The Committee, at its meeting on March 29, 2004, agreed to invite a representative from Pivot Legal Society to address the Committee on issues raised in their December 10, 2003, letter.

Accordingly, Mr. John Richardson, Executive Director, Pivot Legal Society, referenced specific events related to the conduct of Police officers as follows:

- Jeff Berg
- Frank Paul
- Police Force at cancelled Guns 'n Roses concert
- Britannia
- Woodward's
- Stanley Park Six
- Missing sex trade workers;
- Don Baker - failure to report from sex trade workers;

and put forward four proposals as a means to address these issues:

- get a grip on the problem (obtain available evidence);
- address issues of internal investigations;
- governance of Police Board; and
- encourage development of new vision.

Committee discussion followed on the City's authority in relation to the Police Board, police department hierarchy and/or alternative models used in other provinces, and other groups/organizations who could assist, including relationships with academia. Committee members suggested the need to bring together a public forum or symposium with a broad spectrum of speakers as a potential next step to pursue this matter.

The Committee thanked the delegation for the presentation.

NOTE FROM CLERK: See Item 2f for additional details.

2. Sub-Committee Updates/Reports

a) Citizens' Peace Award Sub-Committee

Sub-Committee members noted the need to move forward with this initiative. The Chair advised he would contact the United Nations Association to get them on Board, and in response to a member's query, advised he would seek clarification in regarding to the UN's participation in the joint award.

NOTE FROM CLERK:

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

THAT the City resume its partnership in the presentation of the Vancouver Citizen Peace Award in conjunction with the United Nations Association of Canada.

b) Peace and Justice Website Sub-Committee

Peter Prontzos advised the Website is still undergoing occasional revision, but is now functioning. Mr. Prontzos also agreed to examine further what would be appropriate to include on this website and on the City's official Peace and Justice website.

Gail Davidson advised the sub-committee had discussed content issues, and noted links would be provided to "Cities for Peace" organizations, and also include a section highlighting peace initiatives by other Canadian cities.

c) Public Participation Sub-Committee

Before the Committee for information were the sub-committee's April 13th meeting notes and agreed actions on the following items:

- Film Sponsorship
- Letter to School Board and Park Board Reps

- **VPJC Banner**
Note was made on the need to identify the Peace and Justice Committee as an Advisory Committee to Council. Discussion followed on possible funding sources for completion of the banner. Councillor Woodsworth advised she would look into funding sources, but would first require design approval from the City, and a cost estimate for the finished banner.
- **City Banners (Flags)**
Commissioner Bouey provided details of the anticipated process for creation/selection of banners, with display targeted for the spring of 2005. The need to liaise with the City department responsible for City Banners (Flags) was noted, and Sam Fillipoff agreed to follow up on this. Councillor Woodsworth also advised schools could initiate banner programs with local communities, and some business improvement areas (BIAs) may be interested.
- **Directory**
- **Follow up to Citizens Peace Award**
- **Ways to Proactively Achieve the Committee's Mandate**
The Committee agreed to postpone discussion on this item to its next meeting.

d) World Peace Forum Sub-Committee

John Price referenced Vancouver City Council's motion of May 18th, as follows:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver affirms itself as a City of Peace, that will continue to participate in the Mayors for Peace initiative and the Peace Messenger Cities initiative by endorsing in principle the holding of a World Peace Forum in 2006 in conjunction with the World Urban Forum;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Vancouver's Peace and Justice Committee be called upon to work with the international community to meet and assess the feasibility of holding a World Peace Forum in conjunction with the World Urban Forum in 2006 and report back to Vancouver City Council within six months with recommendations to hold a World Peace Forum in 2006 and to carry the Athens Olympics Peace Appeal endorsed by 187 nations forward to the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

Mr. Price advised the World Peace Forum Society had now been established and met recently regarding its six-month plan for action. The Committee agreed with the sub-committee's recommendation that Councillors Cadman and Woodsworth and Noha Sedky serve as members of a Steering Committee which will coordinate between the World Peace Forum Society and the Peace and Justice Committee. The Steering Committee will also consist of three members of the WPF Society.

Discussion followed, and concerns were raised regarding the mechanism for input into this process, and what would be decided at the proposed October retreat. John Price provided further details regarding the Society's membership, referred Committee members to the circulated draft wording for a pamphlet on the World Peace Forum, noted the need for additional staff resources, and the importance of commitment of resources which would allow the conference to proceed.

e) Other Cities and Councils Liaison Sub-Committee

Gail Davidson advised the response to the Peace Cities Network letter distributed to UBCM members has not been overwhelming (letters circulated at the meeting and on file), and noted the need for a follow-up letter, to specific individuals in municipalities, setting out peace initiatives the City of Vancouver has undertaken and seeking specific action from those municipalities. Ms. Davidson also advised of her efforts to connect with Vancouver's sister cities, three of which belong to the Peace Messenger Cities Network, and sought members' input regarding possible initiatives with these cities. The need to build better linkages to networks currently in place was noted. Councillor Woodsworth advised the sub-committee is currently working on a "friendly list" of Mayors and Councils around Canada.

John Price referenced material obtained on a recent visit with the assistant to Hiroshima's Mayor Akiba, the President of Mayors for Peace. Mr. Price also provided highlights from a document dated January 2004, entitled "2020 Vision An Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons", and advised this material would be circulated to Committee members via email. Reference was made to the upcoming Boston Peace Forum, and the need for representation at this type of forum. The importance of the City of Vancouver endorsing this emergency campaign was also noted.

f) Justice Sub-Committee

NOTE FROM CLERK: See Item 1 for additional details.

As a follow up to discussions with Mr. Richardson, Pivot Legal Society, (see Item 1) the Committee agreed on the need to have the Justice Sub-Committee provide a report back on policing issues discussed this day, including a summary of the eight cases referenced by Mr. Richardson, and comment on his suggested solutions to this matter.

Discussion ensued on the Police budget, reporting hierarchy, and the legislated boundaries within which Council is bound. The Committee agreed to decide on next steps once the Sub-Committee has brought forward its report and recommendations which should be mindful of the discussion held this day.

g) Star Wars Agenda Sub-Committee

Peter Prontzos provided details on the Canadian Campaign to Oppose Missile Defence and noted its importance as an election issue. The need to work with the media and ask questions at all-candidates meetings was also noted, with reference made to upcoming events, including:

- June 12th "Wake-Up Call" Day of Action on Missile Defence;
- June 23rd Public Forum;
- Peter Mansbridge interview with Jack Layton at the Vancouver Public Library; and
- David Askew (NDP candidate) brown bagger on Co-op Radio on June 7th.

4. Correspondence

- a) Letter (email) dated April 22, 2004, from Elisabeth van Assum, offering to assist the committee with its work on the World Peace Forum.

It was agreed members of the World Peace Forum Sub-committee would follow up with Ms. van Assum.

5. Enquiries and Other Matters

- a) Rape of Nanking

John Price advised of the following:

BC Alpha film showing of "Rape of Nanking"
Ridge Theatre
June 19th, 2:00 p.m.

- b) "Wake-Up call" Day of Action on Missile Defence

Gail Davidson advised of the following:

Canada-wide "Wake-Up Call" Day of Action on Missile Defence
June 12th

- c) Hans Blix

The Chair 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.

Next Meeting:

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

The Committee adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

* * * * *