

## PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MARCH 29, 2004

A meeting of the Peace and Justice Committee was held on Monday, March 29, 2004, at 4:30 p.m., in the Strathcona Meeting Room, Sub-Ground, Vancouver City Hall.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Ellen Woodsworth, Vice-Chair  
Thomas Anthony  
David Askew  
Ivan Bulic  
Amanda Camley  
Gail Davidson, Co-Chair  
Sam Phillipoff  
Kyla Kinzel  
Cara Ng  
Beverley O'Neil  
John Price  
Peter Prontzos  
Noha Sedky, Co-Chair  
Al Wong

**ABSENT:** Councillor David Cadman, Co-Chair (Civic Business)  
Trustee Jane Bouey, Vancouver School Board (Civic Business)  
Christy Mori  
Commissioner Lyndsay Poaps, Vancouver Park Board (Civic Business)  
Judith Radovan

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Denise Salmon, Meeting Coordinator

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of January 26, 2004, were approved as circulated.

#### 1. Public Participation Invitee: Mr. Alfred Webre

Gail Davidson, Co-chair, introduced Mr. Alfred Webre, J.D., M.Ed. - Institute for Cooperation in Space (ICIS) and companions - Mr. Frank Martin, grandson of Mungo Martin and Twalka. Mr. Webre (speaking notes circulated and on file) and friends provided the Committee with an update on activities opposing MD and the supporting the Space Treaty and offered their support for the World Peace Forum initiative proposed for 2006.

The Committee thanked the delegation for their presentation.

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

##### a) Citizens' Peace Award Sub-Committee

Before the Committee for discussion was a draft document setting out the purpose and suggested criteria for the Citizens' Peace Award. David Askew and Al Wong provided comment on the process, and Committee members offered their support, with agreement the timing for the event should not be locked into the first week of May.

Councillor Woodsworth advised she would confirm with the Chair the next steps in the process in preparation for awarding the 2004 Citizens Peace Award.

RESOLVED,

THAT the Peace and Justice Committee adopt the draft Citizens' Peace Award document dated March 16, 2004, with the proviso that reference to the first week of May be removed from Criteria Item No. 2 to read:

2. The City of Vancouver shall solicit nominations from the citizens of Vancouver by advertisement in local newspapers. The closing date shall be 30 days after the published solicitation.

**b) Peace and Justice Website Sub-Committee**

Noha Sedky noted a mock-up of the Peace and Justice Committee website had been emailed to all members for viewing and comment, and further noted a directory of organizations and resource pages is envisaged for the completed website. The need for a linked separate page for the World Peace Forum was also suggested. Ms. Sedky advised any number of email addresses could be provided; currently there exists an email address for the Peace Forum, and also a general purpose email. The need to come to an agreement on who would monitor mail to these addresses was discussed, and subsequently both Ms. Sedky and Peter Prontzos agreed to monitor Peace Forum emails on a regular basis.

The following comments were noted during discussion:

- who would control the content, and ensure legality of materials posted to the website;
- the need to keep the focus on Cities for Peace and use the website as a useful tool to reach out and network with other peace cities;
- possible liaison with, or linking to, the Working TV Group, to eliminate duplication of reporting on media events; and
- perhaps something other than a dove image could be incorporated into the webpage graphics, as this image is considered religious in some cultures. An olive branch or the word 'peace' in other languages are options.

Ms. Sedky and Mr. Prontzos thanked the Committee for their input and requested any additional comments be forwarded to them.

**c) Public Participation Sub-Committee**

Before the Committee for information were the sub-committee's February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting notes which provided background and recommended actions on the following items:

- Citizens' Peace Award
- Film Festival - Sponsorship of Peace and Justice Films
- VPJC Banner
- Liaison with School Board, Park Board and NGO's
- City Banners

Committee members noted the lack of volunteer hours available to pursue the ever increasing workload being generated by various sub-committee proposals. In reference to the sub-committee's recommendations that the VPJC request a budget of \$25,000 from the City, the Chair noted the lack of City funds to address this request, however advised funding requests for a specific purpose could be examined.

The Committee took action as follows:

**Citizens' Peace Award**

(see Item 2a)

**Film Festival - Sponsorship of Peace and Justice Films**

Amanda Camley provided brief background on progress to date regarding sponsorship of Peace and Justice Films. Before the Committee for discussion was a draft proposal (circulated at the meeting and on file) to engage in a community partnership and sponsor the documentary film "The Fourth World War", by filmmakers Jacqueline Soohen and Richard Rowley, at the DOXA Festival May 25-30. Ms. Camley noted this would provide a good opportunity to reach out to those who do not attend rallies and similar events.

Discussion followed and Committee members agreed on the need to view the film prior to sponsorship commitment. Ms. Camley advised arrangements would be made for viewing the film.

After due consideration, the Committee unanimously agreed:

THAT the Peace and Justice Committee support, in principle, the sponsorship of "The Fourth World War" by filmmakers Jacqueline Soohen and Richard Rowley at the DOXA festival May 25-30, 2004, subject to an approved screening.

**VPJC Banner**

The following points were noted:

- at which events should the Peace and Justice Committee's banner appear; who will carry the banner, and what wording or slogan is appropriate;
- the need to confirm with the City Clerk if the words "City of Vancouver" are appropriate for use on the banner;
- agreement on proposed banner wording "Building a City of Peace and Justice"; and
- the need to further investigate the banner proposal.

RESOLVED,

THAT the Public Participation Sub-Committee be requested to investigate further its proposal for a VPJC Banner, with a perspective toward name, appropriate wording, design cost estimate and legal opinion, with a view to having a banner for activities the Committee sponsors or needs to have a public face at, such as appropriate demonstrations, marches and events.

### **Liaison with School Board, Park Board and NGO's**

Committee members expressed concern with the difficulty both the Park Board and School Board liaisons are experiencing in regard to their attendance, due to other meeting commitments.

After brief discussion, it was agreed Sam Fillipoff would draft a letter for the Chair's signature regarding possible options to allow for representation from these Boards.

Discussion ensued on the need for a distribution list of NGO's, city governments, and individuals. Thomas Anthony advised of the large data base the Committee for Social Justice has available, and his willingness to pursue this matter further. The value of the stopwar.ca list was also noted. Amanda Camley also volunteered to work on the list.

### **City Banners**

Following points were noted during discussion:

- potential for School Board involvement - have students offer designs for peace and justice banners;
- a good summer time community centre project for children;
- further discussion required on where banners should be displayed around the city; and
- Kyla Kinzel agreed to work with community centres on this proposal.

**RESOLVED,**

THAT the Peace and Justice Committee proceed with developing a process for developing banners that would be generated by public schools and community centres of Vancouver.

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

Before the Committee for discussion was the document dated March 1, 2004, prepared by the Sub-Committee entitled "Vancouver A City for Peace and Justice: Towards a World Peace Forum in 2006", and an accompanying statement for the Committee's review prepared by Noha Sedky and Peter Prontzos. Ms. Sedky and Mr. Prontzos provided highlights of the statement which included the following ideas for implementation of the Forum:

- Issue Vancouver Peace Appeal
- Creation of Worldpeaceforum Web Site
- Organize a "Cities for Peace" Forum in the fall, 2004
- Next Step
- Campaign 2005: International Outreach
- World Peace Forum 2006 (May or June)
- Organization
- Funding

Points noted during discussion included:

- the need to monitor feedback on the March 1<sup>st</sup> document;
- changes have been made to the document per the committee's earlier comments to reflect a stronger justice bias;
- a major issue is funding commitments - is there funding for such a forum;
- start up funds from the Mayor's office has been discussed;
- the City requires an assessment of what such a forum would imply to the city as a whole, including tourist and economic issues, as well as policing costs;
- the need to clarify whether this will be a City of Vancouver initiative or joint activity; and
- the need for the City to come together with the World Peace Forum Society.

After lengthy discussion, and note by one member of his opposition to all Olympic references in the document, the Committee agreed on the need to bring this initiative forward to Council, after the addition of a seventh point to read as follows:

- The possibility of working with the World Urban Forum (Spring 2006) be explored.

Councillor Woodsworth suggested she discuss the best way to approach this goal with the Chair, who has not yet had an opportunity to read the document.

RESOLVED,

THAT the Peace and Justice Committee support the City for Peace initiative prepared by Ms. Sedky and Mr. Prontzos (circulated at the meeting and on file), as amended this day to include a 7<sup>th</sup> bullet as follows:

- The possibility of working with the World Urban Forum (Spring 2006) be explored; and

FURTHER THAT this document be a basis for discussions with the City of Vancouver.

CARRIED

(Alan Wong opposed)

#### e) Other Cities and Councils Liaison Sub-Committee

The sub-committee members advised they will report back once responses are received on the Peace Cities Network material recently distributed.

#### f) Justice Sub-Committee

The Committee, at its meeting on January 26, 2004, agreed to strike a sub-committee to examine, as required, concerns raised in a letter from Pivot Legal Society. Accordingly, before the Committee for approval was a draft letter of response dated March 1, 2004, prepared by the sub-committee.

After brief discussion, the Committee

RESOLVED,

THAT the draft letter prepared by the Justice Sub-Committee, as amended this day, be forwarded to Pivot Legal Society.

**g) Star Wars Agenda Sub-Committee**

Peter Prontzos provided the Committee with an update on work to date, noted key dates, including the March 20<sup>th</sup> Day of Action and an April 7<sup>th</sup> event at the downtown Library - "Rushing to Armageddon" and distributed related material for the Committee's information (on file). Al Wong advised individual postcards could be forwarded to the Prime Minister - without charge. Note was made of the book "Weapons in Space" by author Karl Grossman and Kyla Kinzel offered to arrange for a small book display at her place of work.

**3. Peace and Justice Committee - Meeting Times**

As the current meeting dates set for the Committee conflict with scheduled meetings for both the Park Board and School Board representatives, Councillor Woodsworth requested this item be placed on the agenda.

The Committee earlier in the meeting agreed to draft a letter to both the Park Board and School Board to determine if a solution can be found to enable representation from both these Boards.

**4. Updates/Upcoming Events**

**a) Canadian Coalition to Oppose Missile Defence (CCOMD)**

Peter Prontzos provided an update.

**b) Proposal for a Federal Department of Peace**

Councillor Woodsworth made reference to a document that had been forwarded via email to all members entitled "Proposal for a Federal Department of Peace", prepared by the Victoria Working Group for a Federal Department of Peace.

The Committee agreed Councillor Woodsworth would attend the event on behalf of the Committee.

**c) Waiting for Martin**

David Askew noted a new film entitled "Waiting for Martin", directed and produced by Magnus Isacson and Sophia Southam, would be shown on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the Vancouver East Cinema. A discussion with the film's star, David Bernans, will follow.

**d) Rushing to Armageddon**

Peter Prontzos advised Mel Hurtig will speak on Militarism of Space "Rushing to Armageddon" on Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Alice McKay Room, Vancouver Public Library.

**5. New Business**

**a) Frank Paul Motion**

Ivan Bulic sought the Committee's support for a motion to be forwarded to Council requesting an inquiry into the death of Frank Paul, as this is an issue of fundamental justice.

After discussion, the Committee

RESOLVED,

THAT Ivan Bulic prepare a draft motion requesting an inquiry into the death of Frank Paul;

FURTHER THAT Councillor Woodsworth discuss with fellow Council members the logistics of bringing this forward to Council.

**b) Peace and Justice Committee's new email address**

Noha Sedky noted the need for someone to monitor the Committee's new email address. The Committee discussed options for follow up on this task, with agreement as follows:

- Al Wong volunteered to monitor the email for the next two months; and
- after that time a member from each of the following sub-committees will be the designated monitor:

Public Participation - David Askew  
World Peace Forum - John Price  
Other Cities and Councils Liaison - Gail Davidson  
Justice - Gail Davidson  
Star Wars Agenda - Peter Prontzos

Ms. Sedky advised she will provide direction on how to access the email.

**Next Meeting:**

DATE: Monday, May 31, 2004  
TIME: 4:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Strathcona Meeting Room  
Sub-Ground, City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*