

## MINUTES

The meeting convened at 7:04 pm with Chairperson Steve Freedkin presiding.

### ROLL CALL

Present: Leslieann Cachola, Elliot Cohen, Steve Freedkin, Rita Maran, Mark McDonald, Thom Seaton, Michael Sherman, PhoeBe ANNE (sorgen), Anne Wagley, Jonathan Wornick, Jamie Wright

Absent: Donald Brody

LOA: Jane Litman

### COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

1. Sharon Girard regarding Music for Peace.
2. Alan Moore regarding the establishment of a US Department of Peace.
3. Nancy Cross, Clean Air Transportation Systems, regarding what the City of Berkeley can do to improve accessibility and fairness in housing to those who need it most.
4. Pamela Sihvola, Committee to Minimize Toxic Waste, regarding the Bevatron Demolition.
5. Maung Nyunt Than, Burmese American Democratic Alliance, regarding a request to honor Daw Auang San Su Kyi on her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### ACTION ON MINUTES

#### **February Meeting**

**M/S/C** (*Seaton, sorgen*) to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of February 7, 2005. **Ayes:** Cachola, Cohen, Freedkin, McDonald, Seaton, Sherman, sorgen, Wagley, Wornick; **Noes:** None; **Abstain:** Maran, Wright; **Absent:** Brody.

Commissioners Maran and Wright abstained from the vote because they were not present for the February meeting.

#### **March Meeting**

**M/S/C** (*Seaton, sorgen*) to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of March 7, 2005 with minor corrections. **Ayes:** Cohen, Freedkin, Maran, McDonald, Seaton, sorgen, Wagley, Wornick, Wright; **Noes:** None; **Abstain:** Cachola, Sherman; **Absent:** Brody.

Commissioners Cachola and Sherman abstained from the vote because they were not present for the March meeting.

## **ACTIONS TAKEN**

### **Emergency Item**

**M/S/F** (*McDonald, Cohen*) to overrule the Chairperson's determination that the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Plan for the Proposed Demolish of Building 51 and the Bevatron could not be added to the agenda as an Emergency Item. **Ayes:** Cohen; McDonald, Sorgen, Wagley; **Noes:** Cachola, Maran, Seaton, Sherman, Wornick, Wright; **Abstain:** Freedkin; **Absent:** Brody.

Commissioner Freedkin abstained from the vote because he made the determination that the item could not be added to the agenda.

### **Peace Lantern Ceremony**

**M/S/C** (*Freedkin, Sherman*) to adopt a Resolution (Attachment A) recommending that the City Council endorse the Fourth Annual Peace Lantern Ceremony, taking place in Aquatic Park on August 6, 2005. Further, that the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) Board also adopt a Resolution recommending that the City Council endorse the Fourth Annual Peace Lantern Ceremony, taking place in Aquatic Park on August 6, 2005, and encourage BUSD students to submit drawings illustrating their visions of a peaceful world for display at the ceremony. **Ayes:** Unanimous; **Absent:** Brody, Seaton.

### **Frequency of Commission Meetings**

**M/S/C** (*Cohen, Sorgen*) to have the chairperson prepare a letter, using the input provided by Commissioners, to the City Manager with a cc to the City Council expressing that we feel that reducing our meeting schedule to quarterly would be impractical and would produce no real cost savings. We do, however, have some alternative ideas that may be helpful. **Ayes:** Unanimous; **Absent:** Brody, Seaton.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, May 2, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the North Berkeley Senior Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Manuel Hector Jr., Secretary  
Peace and Justice Commission

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Resolution Endorsing the Fourth Annual Peace Lantern Ceremony  
and Urging the City Council and School Board to Endorse**

Peace and Justice Commission – April 5, 2005

WHEREAS, Berkeley Municipal Code § 3.68.010 states, in part: "The [Peace and Justice] commission shall perform the following functions: (A) Advise the Berkeley City Council and the Berkeley Unified School Board on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice, including, but not limited to the issues of ending the arms race, [and] abolishing nuclear weapons... (C) Help develop proposals for the City Council and the School Board for actions in furtherance of the goals of peace and justice, and help publicize such actions in the community"; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, August 6, 2005, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, residents of Berkeley and vicinity will come together at Aquatic Park in Berkeley for the fourth annual Peace Lantern Ceremony in remembrance of the victims of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (August 9, 1945) during World War II, and of all victims of war; and

WHEREAS, the ceremony is a beautiful and moving tradition that has been imported from Japan by many cities in the United States and throughout the world, and Berkeley's event drew the participation of approximately 100 people in 2002, more than 300 in 2003, and more than 400 in 2004, including several City Council members; and

WHEREAS, the event is an excellent family activity in which children as well as adults can decorate and prepare lanterns for floating on the Aquatic Park lagoon; and

WHEREAS, organizers of the 2005 event will invite Berkeley schoolchildren to submit Peace Pictures depicting their visions of a peaceful world, for display at the event; and

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission endorsed the previous annual Peace Lantern Ceremonies, as did the City Council and numerous Berkeley-area peace and justice organizations; and

WHEREAS, this annual event, initiated by a member of this Commission, is one element of a lively, ongoing exchange of peace activists between Berkeley and Japan in the past four years, including several delegations visiting Berkeley from Japan and three members of this Commission speaking at peace conferences in Japan; and

WHEREAS, all costs of producing the event have been borne by the individuals and community organizations participating in the event, and no funding is requested from the Commission or the City.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Berkeley Peace and Justice Commission endorses the fourth annual Berkeley Peace Lantern Ceremony.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission recommends that the City Council endorse the Ceremony.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission recommends that the Berkeley Unified School Board endorse the Ceremony, and encourage children in the school district to participate in the Peace Pictures activity.