



Pikes Peak Justice & Peace Commission

2016 Annual Report

Administration

Board of Directors

Board of Directors: Victoria Stone (Chair), Melissa Marts (Treasurer), Pat Hansen (Secretary), Carrie Baatz, Samantha Barlow, VJ Brown, Debra Fortenberry, Ruthie Markwardt, Jeremy Nelson, Laurie Works. Samantha resigned in February to take a job in Denver – she recruited VJ, another El Pomar fellow, to fill her vacancy. Carrie and Laurie resigned in June and July. Ruthie worked on staff as Assistant Peace Camp Director and then joined the board.

Staff

Scott Olson was Executive Director through Sept. 23, when he resigned over differences with the board. Steve Saint, Associate Director of Media and Communications, assumed Scott's duties until the board hired Anjali Kapoor in late December. Laura Gordon served again as part-time accountant, but resigned at the end of the year to prepare for the arrival of her baby.

Office

The PPJPC has had an office in Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 601 N. Tejon St., for the past three years. The benefits are low rent-\$250/month, large office space and free use of meeting rooms. The disadvantage is that outside doors are kept locked so visitors must be let in and public visibility is low.

New Mission Statement

The board developed a new, shorter mission statement for the PPJPC: “The Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission educates, advocates and cultivates peace, justice and sustainability in the Pikes Peak Region, engaging our world.” We also wrote a Vision Statement (what we hope to see from our efforts): “A peaceful, just and sustainable community in the Pikes Peak Region as a model for the world.” Finally, a set of key values were articulated: Courage, Integrity, Respect, Inclusivity, Peaceful Action, Environmental Consciousness.

Finances

Our revenue for 2016 was \$64,230.33 with expenses of \$54,143.58 for a net income of \$10,086.75. This is first time the PPJPC has ended in the black since ???

Fundraising

Grants

We received grants from the Sisters of Saint Francis (\$1,000), First Congregational United Church of Christ (\$1,500) and ???

Business Donations

For the second year, Scott Olson lined up business sponsorships for our annual Peace Breakfast. This year’s sponsors were CW Botanicals ?? El Pomar Foundation (\$500), Ent Federal Credit Union (\$1,000), Manitou Chiropractic ?? and Murphy Constructors (\$2,250).

Public Outreach Projects and Events

The PPJPC was one of 72 non-profits accepted to be in the Indy Give! 2016 campaign. We raised \$8,317.66. We participated in a Give! Happy Hour and Karma Hour (both at Bristol Brewing Co.) and held a Winter Wonderland Give! event in partnership with Hillside Community Center and Seeds Community Cafe.

About 400 people attended the All People's Breakfast and we received \$800 for Peace Camp scholarships. We also raised \$800 at our second annual Mother's Day for Peace Brunch at Seeds Community Cafe. New and existing members donated \$6,526 in conjunction with our annual International Day of Peace Breakfast on Sept. 21. On Colorado Gives Day (Dec. ?), we received \$?? and another \$?? from Community Shares donations.

Justice Media

Active for Justice

Active for Justice was published quarterly, using a smaller newsletter format (*Active for Justice Express*) for the last two quarters. The January-February-March featured a cover story by Arshad Yousufi explaining how Islam opposes terrorism, with a double-truck on Colorado's Water Plan. The April-May-June cover story framed the controversial Sit-Lie Ordinance in the context of the upcoming Housing Solutions Summit, with a double-truck on ballot issues. The July-August-September edition cover detailed the water pollution crisis threatening Venetucci Farm. The October-November-December edition cover reviewed the Housing Solutions Summit with an eye towards another summit in early 2017.

eWeekly

The *eWeekly* is sent to about 2,000 people every Monday. We have emails for about 300 members – 37 percent of them open the *eWeekly* on average and about 3 percent click on a link for further reading or to reply to us by email. About 14 percent of the 1,300 non-members on our list open the newsletter and 2 percent click on a link. We have about 300 students on

our list – 9.5 percent open the *eWeekly* and, again, about 2 percent click on a link.

Justice and Peace Hour

Scott Olson continued the “Justice and Peace Hour” live radio show every Tuesday from 12-1 p.m. on KCMJ radio. In February, the station added radio broadcast to its Internet-only operation. In July, Scott ended the show after KCMJ founder Dave Gardner was terminated.

Social Media

We continue to maintain a website, nine Facebook pages, a Twitter feed and *eWeekly*. Five hundred forty-eight people have “Joined” our Facebook Group Page and 740 people “Like” our Facebook Fan Page. Most of the social media conversation takes place on the Group Page.

Membership

At the end of 2016, the PPJPC had ?? members.

Peace & Nonviolence

All People’s Breakfast

Again, 400 people attended the All People’s Breakfast on Jan. 18. Guest speaker Gwen Brown of Something New talked about radical love. The breakfast raised \$1,600, which was split evenly with NAACP Colorado Montana Wyoming State Conference. The money will be used for Peace Camp scholarships and the Peace Camp Director’s salary.

Mother’s Day Brunch

Mother’s Day was originally meant to be a day celebrating peace. The PPJPC hosted our second annual Mother’s Day for Peace brunch with Seeds Community Café to take Mother’s Day back.

Middle East Peace Project

The Middle East Peace Project lost key members to the Peace Corps and other out-of-town moves and decided to disband. The \$921 they have raised to advance peace in the Middle East will be spent in appropriate ways by the board. One idea was to help sponsor a Syrian refugee family to resettle in Colorado Springs, but no such family applied to come here.

Peace Camp

Peace Camp was held July 26-29 at Broadmoor Community Church. Seventy-nine children grades 1-8 attended. Directors Walli Carranza and Ruthie Markwardt helped teach children about peace with self, community, world and nonviolent resolution skills to ending conflict.

Peace Breakfast

Once again, the PPJPC celebrated the International Day of Peace on Sept. 21 at St. Paul Catholic Church. The Colorado Springs Children's Chorale performed before 250 people. Lyn Harwell of Seeds Community Café gave the keynote speech.

First Strike Theatre

Last year - after a decade of hiatus - our troupe of politically irreverent performers developed a show satirizing the Army's ongoing attempts to expand the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site in Southern Colorado. They performed at our 2016 annual meeting and sparked interest in having the PPJPC support a full First Strike revival by hiring Mary Sprunger-Froese as a part-time staff member. While negotiations over funding another staff position eventually stalled, we remain supporters of the arts in the cause of social change.

Legislative Advocacy

The PPJPC sponsored a workshop with Friends Committee on National Legislation field organizer Maiya Zwerling to explore legislative advocacy.

Social & Economic Justice

Urban Experience

The PPJPC conducted an Urban Experience for St. Patrick Church youth and D-11 teachers. We also led a one-hour Urban Walk in conjunction with the Pikes Peak United Way's "31 Days of Homelessness." A total of ?? people participated. We continued efforts to build an Urban Experience Team with several people trained to promote, arrange and lead future classes.

Homeless Advocacy

Opposition to the city's proposed sit/lie ordinance gave birth to a new organization, the Coalition for Compassion and Action (CCA). Led by Trygve Bungaard of 1st Congregational Church, the group not only organized civil disobedience around the ordinance, but formed a group willing to go out on the streets and help homeless people. Steve Saint spoke at the initial launch gathering and we publicized CCA events and news.

People's Access to Homes (PATH) continued to meet throughout 2016 under Carrie Baatz's leadership, focusing mainly on finding land and funds for a self-governing homeless encampment and/or tiny-house development. In September, PATH convened a Housing Solutions Summit.

In June, the community was outraged by the rape of an injured homeless woman along Monument Creek. Melissa Marts and the Women's Resource Agency convened some meetings to address issues of violence and safety on the streets.

Finally, a new community umbrella organization of groups fighting homelessness - the Continuum of Care - published the first draft of a strategic plan to end homelessness. The PPJPC is a member of the CoC

and is working with PATH on tactical plans to create more affordable housing.

Civil Liberties Coalition

In April, the Colorado office of the ACLU dissolved local chapters like the one in Colorado Springs to focus energy on the Denver office. The local ACLU group was led for years by many PPJPC members who felt there should be some ongoing grassroots group. We supported several events aimed at continuing the activism around civil rights, including a September discussion with local police on "Freedom And Safety In Colorado Springs."

Sustainable Living

Sunrise Garden

We enjoyed a second year of managing the vegetable garden at the Hillside Community Center, in partnership with Pikes Peak Permaculture and Seeds Community Café. Volunteers not only planted and harvested food, but built a lasagna garden and sheet mulched half the open area infested with weeds. We held gardening classes and weekend "village markets" with produce and baked goods.

Repeat Boutique

The Repeat Boutique crew revived this shop-swap event in April. The J&P netted \$500.

Colorado Springs Biofuel Cooperative

One of members helped produce our first 10 gallons of biodiesel from waste vegetable oil, using his own processor. Our next step is to collect 25 gallons of waste oil in order to brew a batch in the processor built by a former intern.

Green Cities Coalition

The PPJPC continued to share our post office box and telephone number with the Green Cities Coalition, and promote GCC events in our *eWeekly*. The GCC was started by PPJPC members and was spun off in 2012.