

**Peaks Island Council
October 2013 Meeting Minutes (Approved)**

**Wednesday, October 23, 2013 at 6:30pm
MacVane Community Center**

Present: Eric Eaton, Ted Kelleher (Treasurer), Cheryl Miner (Vice-Chair), Mary Anne Mitchell, Marjorie Phyfe, Mike Sylvester (Chair),

Absent: Jimal Thundershield

Others Present: Elizabeth Capone-Henriquez (Secretary)

I. Call to Order

Chair Sylvester called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

II. Roll Call

Councilor Thundershield was not present. No vote was taken regarding his absence.

III. Review of Minutes

Kelleher moved that the PIC accept the September minutes. Sylvester seconded and the motion passed 6-0-1 with Mitchell abstaining.

IV. Police & Fire Dept. Report

A member of public present, Chris Hoppin, asked that the PIC pass a resolution about the fire problem on public lands on islands of the City of Portland. He said that in the past people had to ask for permission from the Fire Dept. before having a fire. Hoppin said that as member of the CERT (Emergency Response Team) he is concerned. The PIC engaged in a lengthy discussion of the issue. PIC members identified that the part of Maine State Law that is relevant as Title 12, Chapter 807 7 93-25. The related City ordinance is Section 10-92, paragraphs 8 and 9.

Kelleher moved that **the PIC asks that the Police and/or Fire Dept as appropriate post prominent notices about the rules for open burning on public land on Peaks, including any rules regarding permits.** Phyfe reminded the PIC that clarity about to whom, within the City, that a PIC resolution is addressed has been an issue in the past. In response, the PIC agreed to call this resolution **“Resolution of Recommendation to City Manager Regarding Fires on Peaks Island”** and that **a copy of resolution with PIC Chair’s signature would be printed and given the City Manager.** Sylvester ended debate. Sylvester seconded Kelleher’s motion and **the motion passed unanimously.**

V. PEAT Award – Cheryl Miner

Miner shared that PEAT (Peaks Environmental Action Team) was just given an award from the Island Institute at their Annual Energy conference, for PEAT’s weatherization project on Peaks. She thanked Mitchell and PEAT for their hard work

on the project. Mitchell shared that over 100 homes have participated in weatherization and that the contractor who does the work is back on the island again. **Homeowners who choose to have an energy audit done this year may be eligible for rebates from Efficiency Maine.** Sylvester thanked PEAT for bringing an island fellow (Maggie Small) to Peaks to work on environmental issues.

VI. Chairperson's Reports

A. Committee Updates/Appointments

Skate Park Committee – Chris Hoppin

Hoppin reported that the committee is comfortable with the section of Trott-Littlejohn that it has identified and continues to explore its options.

Neighborhood Advisory Committee – Mary Anne Mitchell

Mitchell went to the City Manager's Neighborhood Advisory Committee, where the heads of all neighborhood groups get together. Two presentations were given: 1) **Portland Connect** seeks to build partnerships among education, civic, philanthropy, businesses, etc to improve education "cradle to career"; 2) **Growing Portland**: John Spritz, presented on an initiative focused on business development in Portland.

B. Budget-Related Items

Need-Based Ferry Ticket Program

Mitchell updated those present that there have been many positive comments made about the program and that tickets are being widely dispersed to lots of people.

VIII. New Business/Announcements/Public Comment

A. "The Butler" Cigarette Disposal: Mitchell reported that a local restaurant owner in Monument Square (Sparta Cafe) designed a product called the Butler, a place to put cigarette butts, which includes information about how they affect the environment. Mitchell hopes to bring "The Butler" to Peaks. This has not been funded by City.

B. Budget Question: A member of the public asked when the PIC will begin discussion about the transportation budget. The response was early December. A parent whose child is involved in PAYSA (soccer league) shared that the Peaks Island soccer team played an intramural soccer game with Long Island recently. The event was well received and she shared the hope that the PIC might fund transportation so that island teams could play each other more in the future.

C. Closing Comments: Sylvester noted that this was the final PIC meeting for councilors Kelleher, Sylvester, and Eaton. Kelleher declined to speak. Eaton shared some of his prepared comments on his 3 years on the PIC; Sylvester shared several comments and reflections about his time on the PIC; Phyfe added her own reflections on the PIC in recent years.

IX. Next Meeting – Not reviewed.

X. Adjournment

Eaton moved that the meeting be adjourned. Sylvester seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm.

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ACTION ITEMS:

Murray (pending from September meeting): Find out if public comment will be taken about the fire issue at the City Council Public Safety Committee meeting in a few months; find out if there is a legal place on the island for private contractors (e.g. landscapers) to dump the brush of their customers.

PIC Chair/Acting Chair: Print, sign and deliver to the City Manager a copy of the **“Resolution of Recommendation to City Manager Regarding Fires on Peaks Island”**.