

Peaks Island Council Meeting

January 14, 2015

6:30 PM, MacVane Community Center

Community Budget Meeting

In Attendance: Cheryl Miner, Marjorie Phyfe, Mary Anne Mitchell, Lisa Penalver, Timmi Sellers, Kathleen Hayward, Timothy Wyant.

Call to Order: 6:35 p.m. by Mitchell who explained that this meeting is dedicated to discussing PIC budget items for next fiscal year

Introductions from audience

Ideas for budget from participants received during introductions:

- Ferry yearly pass for college students
- Ferry yearly pass for high school students attending private school/needs-based
- Support for Peaks Island skateboard park
- Funding for taxi (ITS)
- Policing on the Island (i.e. on busy weekends) with improved enforcement of parking and of golf carts
- Winter Safety Issue: Create a staging place for the taxi on a flat area nearer to ferry (note by Mitchell – benches are on State land so Taxi would need to apply – Charles said he would ask at next CBL meeting, Norm will check with public safety about moving taxi down near benches)
- Rent Plante's barge during the two hours that CBL is not running (need to discuss with Plante)

Mitchell reviewed what was funded last year which included:

Budget Discussion with People Attending: Discussion ensued regarding if board should vote on what should be included for this year or just a review. Wyant said that they could vote in principle.

Hayward asked for more clarification on increased Island policing. AM (Audience Member) would like more traffic help. Mitchell discussed the benefits of having a cadet down front during high traffic periods. . Mitchell clarified that it would be the responsibility of the Island business or PIC to pay for the cadet. Miner said she was quoted \$7,400 for by the police chief for a calendar year cadet and explained that the City FY runs from July 1 to June 30 not from January through December. Miner suggested to have 1/2 the cost come out of the FY15 budget and 1/2 the cost out of the FY16 budget since the cadet would only be needed during the summer. Mitchell suggested to provide some money from the PIC budget for the cadet. Sellers

said that last year when this was brought up, they could have deputized volunteers that could have legal status to direct golf carts, traffic, etc. They would have to be trained. AM said that the position should be paid and should be someone that has been in a leadership position. Mitchell said that it needs more research because it would cost a lot of money and that they would be responsible. AM asked if the research could include hiring someone and what hours would be best to have them available. AM brought up that the implications of taking responsibility for this position and their actions if they are volunteers.

Island Taxi: Norm Proulx asked the PIC for \$15,000 to go into the 2015 operating budget and discussed what that included: maintenance and repairs, operations manager, financial manager, senior coupon program, vehicle replacement fund. Norm provided budget information to board that broke down needed funds and profits. Norm discussed the senior coupon program providing free rides to seniors with funds taken out of the general fund. AM asked what the drivers earned. Norm explained that they give 30% of their fares to the taxi fund. Mitchell said that the taxi is being used more and more providing a good service to the community. Penalver asked about fundraisers. Norm said that they are listed as income. Penalver asked about providing a shuttle service for luggage to cut down on cars being transported to Island for this purpose. Norm explained that, in the summer, taxis have to make two trips sometimes. Norm explained program "Keep Peaks Green" whose goal is to try to minimize cars on the Island. Hayward asked about past year's budgets to compare line by line changes. Norm will make those available to the board.

Mitchell moved to support the Island Taxi, seconded by Penalver, with unanimous approval with discussion about price later.

Year Round Pass for Students: Last year 56 students obtained year round passes. Miner clarified that this was just for public school. AM asked about college students. Mitchell explained that, if they go to college students, PIC would have to offer passes to other secondary students. Research needs to be done to see what that might cost. AM explained that there is a handful of private school kids that do not get a pass and it is thought that private school kids can afford a pass but that is not necessarily true. If PIC is funding people going to college, then PIC should consider private school kids also which can add up to 3 or 4 thousand dollars. AM asked which number from budget represents high school kids' passes. Wyant explained Line A (\$5,000) represents the extension of the school year passes of all middle and high school public school students to year round passes. Cost is \$84 per student. Line L (\$500) is the cost of extending the same amount (\$84) to private school kids

AM asked how much money the City will be providing. Mitchell said that they are going by what Murray said which was the City will provide a total budget for PIC of \$40,000. The full budget request for PIC to the City is due at the end of February. AM voiced that the City of Portland should be responsible for getting students off the Island to support education for Island children. Phyfe said that in the past the City had provided money for the transportation of Peaks Island private school students but stopped this practice about ten years ago. .

Discussion about how other Islands move students and what grades are available on the Island. Discussion from audience that City funds are just not available for student passes for private school passes and that the State should help. AM suggested that the public school kids get supported by the City and additional funds from PIC can be used for private school kids. Mitchell's view is that PIC should help with private school kids but that needs to be discussed by the board at a later date. AM said that public transportation does not discriminate against private vs. public school kids but CBL cannot get involved on any social or political issues – it needs to be a discussion between the City and Peaks Island. Sellers said that she would be willing to talk to the school board member that represents this Island about this issue.

AM suggested that there should be less money given to students that won't be using it over the summer and give them the Needs Based Tickets for jobs.

Mitchell motioned to maintain student base passes on the budget, seconded, with unanimous approval.

Skate Board Park – PIC gave \$1000 to the Portland Park Department that is in a fund being maintained by the recreation which will be made available when needed.

Update by Chris Hoppin: still working on acceptable design for park and what each design would require. Location – far, right corner of Trott-Littlejohn agreed on by City. On hold now because there is still work that needs to be completed by the contractor who had worked on the sewer. Looking for other sources of funding. AM asked if a match of the \$1,000 or more could be supplied by PIC. First phase should start by June. Discussion about why the current skate board park cannot be on PILP land.

Penalver moved to again support the park, Hayward seconded, with unanimous approval.

Wyant moved to continue to support Administration fund, Hayward seconded, with unanimous approval.

Needs Based Tickets – Mitchell provided history of tickets that go to those who live on the Island in financial need. Started out with seven providers but now it is down to four providers for streamlining. AM asked how they know when and who uses them. Mitchell explained that there is a record in general as to how many go out but not by the name of the person. It is a self-regulating program by those who are handing them out. Review of how many tickets were used by Miner. The tickets are now good until the end of April. AM was glad to hear that there are car ferry tickets available. Mitchell tried to get winter car rates to buy the car ferry tickets for the Health Center but no response from CBL.

Penalver moved to fund needs based ticket and talk about money later, Wyant seconded, 6 members approved.

Fuel and Tax Assistance or PITEA – Cynthia provided information to the board requesting funding.

Miner motioned to support PITEA, Sellers seconded, with unanimous approval.

Food Pantry – Susan Handley did not have time to create a budget but will later for the board but had provided information that they use about \$600 a month.

Hayward motioned to support the Food Pantry, Penalver seconded, 5 members approved.

Vouchers for Elementary School Students – 10 year olds get \$50 a quarter vouchers for ferry passes. Mitchell feels that some of the money should be used for high school students and that younger students could use the Need Based Tickers. Not all parents use the funds. Discussion on need of this budget item and if should still be supported but funded at a lesser amount. Sellers suggested that research is done to see how many of these vouchers were actually used.

Penalver moved to continue to support 10 year old voucher, Sellers seconded, with unanimous approval.

Penalver moved to continue supporting school student voucher subsidies, Wyant seconded, with unanimous approval.

Bike Passes – For summer and year round passes to take bikes to the City for free obtained at the library.

Penalver moved to support the bike passes, Miner seconded, with unanimous approval.

Mitchell said that research needs to be done on private school students, secondary students, college age students, cadet program for the Island.

Discussion that there is no more need for funding for the Ice Pond acquisition since it has been bought.

PI Academy - Beau helps Peaks Island students that do better in a more supported educational program and receive a State-issued high school diploma. Money has been provided for two years in a row. Miner was concerned about the number of tickets they receive for field trips at one time which can go up to 30. Mitchell explained how the school functions and that the tickets are used for several field trips throughout the year, not just one, and also for frequent afternoon sporting events on the mainland. Mary Anne will get in touch with Beau to find out the current situation.

Mitchell adjourned at 8:34 p.m., Sellers seconded.