

Peaks Island Council Meeting

January 28, 2015

6:30 PM, MacVane Community Center

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

I. Call to Order: Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. Roll Call: Marjorie Phyfe, Mary Anne Mitchell, Lisa Penalver, Timmi Sellers, Timothy Wyant.

Audience Members: 9.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes: Sellers moved that the PIC approve the December 10, 2014 meeting minutes with the simplification of the section describing the selection of PIC Transcriber position to one sentence and the January 14 Budget meeting minutes without any additional changes; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Sellers suggested that we note the number of community attendees. All agreed and numbers of attendees will be noted from here on in.

IV. Chairperson's Report

Committee Updates

Island Advisory Committee – Murray was not in attendance to provide update.

Portland Neighborhood Committee – Mitchell and Penalver attended. Most important update is that the new acting city manager is going to all neighborhood groups, asking about their concerns, and giving feedback. Mitchell and Penalver brought up the safety issues down front at the meeting.

Sober Houses – Mitchell explained that there is a concern in Portland about sober houses “popping up” in neighborhoods. Penalver also brought up that there was also a concern about fire safety in these boarding houses in Portland. See Click Fix Portland – Penalver described this new tool that can be used to take a picture of something of concern and report it on the City of Portland’s website. For example, it can be used to report traffic concerns on Peaks Island. Penalver noted that the more pictures they receive of an incident, the more likely that the City will address it.

Chris Hoppin provided information on a huge bonfire that occurred Sunday, January 4 on the backshore across from 176 Seashore Avenue and formally requested that PIC find out if there had been a summons issued because it was an illegal fire.

Safety Committee – Penalver provided update on how to obtain a cadet to enforce traffic regulations down front during summer and her discussion with the Police Chief regarding what their responsibilities would be. Cost would be \$8,300 for May 1st to August, about 10-12 weeks with a normal five day work week. Discussion on how the cost could be taken up partially by PIC but that business owners may be asked to assist with costs which is what occurs in Portland Old Port. Sellers explained that the cadet can be any person and would receive three days of training, a background check and would report to the City Police Department. Penalver explained that the cadet may be able to give tickets and report illegal activities but will not be able to make arrests. AM questioned why PIC did not encourage the local police to enforce regulations versus paying for a cadet. Sellers quoted from the police job description that the police are tasked to enforce traffic violations. AP asked about the possibility of a “rent-a-cop” for busy times. Wyant was concerned that this may cost more than a cadet. Penalver believes that a cadet could be helpful by managing the car line waiting to get on the ferry. Many AMs feel that the Police Chief needs to encourage the local police to increase their traffic control activity versus paying for a cadet. Penalver informed that the Chief of Police will be here on Peaks Island to meet with citizens on February 24th.

Phyfe described a recent survey that Wyant conducted for PIC last year that was done of community members that showed that enforcement was the biggest concern after a statistician had analyzed it. Phyfe will contact the statistician to confirm. Sellers said that the survey should be made available to the Police Chief. Mitchell suggested that PIC go through the survey in order to determine what they would like the Police Chief to address specifically as well as provide suggestions on how to address them. Sellers offered to review the survey to identify those points. AM suggested that the points are presented as summer concerns and winter concerns. Phyfe suggested that Cindy, the local law enforcement officer, be recognized as the employee of the month. She will look into that further.

Penalver is looking into the possibility of moving bikes that are not claimed at the ferry parking lot through signage, a notice to remove bikes by a certain date, and a new City ordinance that will address this situation. Mitchell thanked Penalver for all the work she has already done having bikes removed that have been unclaimed in the ferry parking lot for a long time.

Mitchell nominated Michelle Brown as the alternate community member to the Maine Island Coalition.

Sellers made the motion to nominate Brown as the alternate community member to the Maine Island Coalition, Penalver seconded, unanimous vote to approve.

Issue of Attendance by Kevin Donoghue, District 1 Representative

Mitchell brought up that, at the last meeting, a letter to Donoghue was suggested asking him to attend PIC meetings. This letter was drafted by Sellers. Murray had suggested to Mitchell that she call Donoghue’s office which she did discussing the points brought up in the draft letter. Donoghue told Mitchell that he would be willing to come out but

that they would have to set up another meeting than the 4th Wednesday of the month since he has a conflict on those date. He suggested that a list of questions be sent to him before this meeting so that he can address them when he attends. Sellers thought that it was great that Mitchell made the phone call but suggested that a letter still be sent that documents the request that Donoghue attend PIC meeting (or an alternate) since it is required in the ordinance. Mitchell offered to also send an email with that request along with a list of items that they would like to talk with him and that they can attempt to accommodate him with an additional meeting after the budget is completed. Sellers passed out a copy of the latest version of the letter and noted that Murray cannot be considered Donoghue's alternate. Mitchell would like to make a few edits to the letter and Sellers agreed.

Sellers motioned to send a letter, Wyant seconded, Mitchell added with a few changes to the letter, unanimous vote to approve.

Formalization of Other New Committees

- Zoning Committees, Members: Wyant and Sellers.
- Environmental Committee, Members: Sellers and Mitchell.

V. New Business

AM brought up that there are no street lights from Island Avenue up Welch Street and the transfer bridge since a week ago Monday which is a safety issue. Mitchell suggested that he report it to the City's Public Works Department.

Mitchell informed that she had been contacted Benjamin Dudley, Moose Ridge Associates, who is working on the Fore Street project and he would like to come out to talk to Peaks Island community members about it. Wyant informed that on February 4th the planning board will be holding a meeting on Peaks Island from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the community center to talk about changes on Franklin Street.

Mitchell received an email from Twain who would like to speak to PIC about his proposal to provide ferry tickets for children to remain children until 13 years of age will be coming up in March. Mitchell explained to Twain how PIC is supporting children's ferry ticket subsidies at this time. Mitchell would like to schedule that.

Mitchell received email about Home Start which help with affordable housing on the Island. A representative from Home Start informed that Home Start is working on a project that will allow for Peaks Island landowners to build additional affordable housing on their property.

Mitchell talked about the seat that is now open on the PIC board and thanked Miner for her service. Mitchell suggested that they have a formal process to get a new board member after the budget is completed sometime at the end of February.

Mitchell directed Michelle as transcriptionist that, when the minutes are downloaded on Nextdoor for community review, information is provided on how to email PIC members for questions or concerns with a list of their emails.

Sellers moved that Phyfe is appointed as active treasurer, Wyant seconded, unanimous vote to approve

VI. Budget Discussion

New requests: community college tickets to ferry, donation to library addition, cadet, and request to help with \$150 transportation costs to bring kids from Trefethen to Children's Workshop to continue child care.

Cadet – Discussion from audience regarding the actual need to spend PIC money for a cadet to replace what the local police should be doing. Wyant explained the need to make a decision soon because the budget is due soon. Mitchell suggested that an ordinance person come out specifically for enforcement of all ordinances and PIC would not have to pay for it. Council is not ready to vote on this at this time. Wyant suggested that it be put at the bottom of the list until all other items are addressed first.

Mitchell and other Councilors does not feel that it is appropriate to put money on the library addition at this time since the project does not have a timeline yet.

Penalver moved to defer the contribution to the library at a later date, Sellers seconded, unanimous vote to approve.

Sellers had requested information from the community regarding donating money to help college and private school kids for ferry tickets. She received responses from eight families that there are 8 college, 3 high school, and 1 private school kids that could benefit from ferry pass subsidies. One family reported that, years ago, they were given free passes like public school kids. Penalver said that this had been a change in city policy, not PIC policy. AM stressed the need to support students.

Penalver moved that they put a line item for college kids ferry transportation subsidy in the budget, Mitchell seconded, unanimous vote to approve.

Phyfe suggested that they go through existing budget to determine actual amounts before deciding on new items. Mitchell suggested that they vote in principal for new items to be added to the budget as in last meeting. Wyant suggested that they fill in the major items first which are transportation and administrative costs. The rest can then be used as discretionary money and allotted to other items.

Mitchell suggested that Penalver provide student numbers to Wyant to help with budget school kid transportation subsidy decisions. Penalver agreed.

Discussion on taxi funding requests. Sellers felt that providing them with \$3,000 for vehicle replacement as they had requested might be a place to cut if necessary. Wyant brought up the fact that PIC already provided a large amount of funding for the new van. Mitchell noted that the taxi is now a 501C3 so will have access to other funds.

AM asked about providing an emergency fund in budget for PIC. Wyant explained that that is under administrative funds.

Mitchell asked Phyfe to find out if senior tickets are covered under the \$5,000 budget line item.

Mitchell suggested that they supply additional funding to transcriptionist for additional monthly meetings.

Michelle was asked to contact transcription alternate for next February 11th budget meeting since she has another commitment that evening.

AM brought up that landowners are now being charged for Portland storm drains charges unfairly and asked PIC members to address this in the future.

Phyfe made a motion that PIC members thank Cheryl Miner for her hard work over the last year to restore the Council's credibility with the City and to reestablish good working relationships with City staff and Department Directors. PIC members wish her good health and success in her new endeavors, Penalver seconded, unanimous vote to approve.

Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

- Start noting number of community participants at meeting,
- Chris Hoppin requested that PIC find out if there had been a summons issued for an illegal fire on January 4th,
- Sellers will go through Peaks Island community survey to note the most prevalent safety concerns in order to inform the Police Chief when he meets on the Island,
- Phyfe will contact statistician that reviewed Peaks Island community survey to confirm that enforcement was the main concern,
- Phyfe will look into how to recognize Cindy, local law enforcement office, as the "employee of the month",
- Penalver will continue to look into how to remove unused bikes from the ferry parking lot,
- Send an email and a letter to District 1 Representative, Kevin Donoghue, strongly requesting his presence at PIC meetings, Mitchell will send her requested edits to the letter to Sellers,
- Mitchell will set up a meeting to discuss Twain's proposal for children's ferry ticket subsidies,

- Penalver will provide student numbers to Wyatt to help develop budget,
- Phyfe will find out if senior tickets and some money goes to the general fund and both are covered under the \$5,000 budget line item,
- Brown was directed to list PIC members email addresses when posting minutes on Island listservs and suggest that any concerns or questions be directed to PIC members instead of on listserv,
- Brown will contact alternative transcriptionist, Kathie Schneider, to transcribe February 11th budget meeting.