

Peaks Island Council Meeting

February 25, 2015

6:30 PM, MacVane Community Center

In Attendance: Mary Anne Mitchell, Marjorie Phyfe, Lisa Penalver, Timmi Sellers, Timothy Wyant, Kathleen Hayward, Mike Murray, Officer Cindy Taylor.

I. Call to Order: Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

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

Public in Attendance at Start of Meeting: 14.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Penalver motioned to approve the January 28th Meeting Minutes, Timmy seconded, all approved

Phyfe motioned to approve the January 14 Budget Meeting Minutes, Hayward seconded, unanimous vote to approve.

IV. Chairperson's Report

Committee Reports

Neighborhood Meeting with City Manager - Timmi reported about the meeting which focussed on supporting Sober Houses and updating the definitions of all the different kinds of housing in Portland which are based on definitions from the 1990's. The major concern is safety of boarding houses. The fatal fire which occurred was in a lodging house and what is driving the updating of the definitions. What will affect us is the definition of housing and lodging zoning because they are different for residential areas on Islands. Also, Air B&B's are not being regulated at this time and Sellers noted that there is some concern on Peaks regarding Air B&Bs on the Island.

Maine Islands Coalition Meeting - MIC meeting will be held in Augusta tomorrow and will focus on substance abuse on the Islands. The Island Institute has also requested applications for an Island scholar. Five other organizations on Peaks have submitted project proposals so Mitchell requested to please get the word out to any college age people that would be interested in being an Island Scholar and applying for one of these positions.

City Casco Bay Island Meeting - Mike Murray explained that only two Island represents showed up (from other Islands) and nothing of interest to Peaks Island needs to be reported. Next meeting will be the third Wednesday of every other month.

Current Business

Bicycle Ticket Funds -

Penalver suggested that bicycle tickets be placed back in the general fund to provide more agility to use the funds for other options like the cadet or traffic signage.

Phyfe requested more clarification on why the funds should be taken from the bike program versus taking the funds from other programs. Sellers feels that it is a bit of a luxury because of the greater safety and transportation issues that need to be addressed.

Penalver motioned that the bicycle ticket funds of \$500 be placed back in the general funds, Sellers seconded, opened for public discussion.

Public discussion that many people like the bicycle program and should stay as a PIC program. Mitchell explained that the bike program does not affect the traffic issue on the Island since the tickets are used to take bicycles to and from Portland. Sellers noted that she just received the library records on how many bicycle tickets were provided last year and she will review them.

Penalver called for the vote, 2 approved, 2 opposed, 1 abstained.

Final Vote on the Budget -

Hayward motioned to approve the Budget, Penalver seconded, opened for public discussion.

Public discussion on budget details and clarification by PIC council members as to how the funds are allocated especially regarding distribution and use of Casco Bay Line tickets and how to address the bigger transportation issues down front. Sellers noted that the funds provided by the City to PIC do need to be used, to a great extent, for transportation. Mitchell suggested that new ideas for use of PIC funds, such as increasing taxi assistance and vehicle reservations for Casco Bay Lines, can be brought up before the Council next year early on in the 2017 budget development process.

Phyfe informed that she will be voting against the budget because there needs to be better records on how the Casco Bay Line tickets are distributed and used. Mitchell will work with Mike Murray to provide the Treasurer with the student and needs-based ticket records.

Sellers, Hayward, Sellers, Mitchell, and Penalver voted to approve the budget, Phyfe was opposed.

(Note: Budget is to be submitted to the Finance Committee and the Portland City Council; vote likely sometime in May 2015)

See ADDENDUM: FY 2016 budget in these meeting minutes.

Twain's Time to Present Proposal -

Penalver moved that PIC should allow Twain to make a brief presentation at a future PIC meeting regarding his idea to change Casco Bay Line's designation that 10 year old children should be charged as adults as he had requested, Sellers seconded, opened for public discussion.

Public discussion on concern that this is a Casco Bay Lines budget issue, not a Peaks Island issue, and very complicated and should not be allowed at PIC at this time without other members of Casco Bay Line present. Mitchell agreed that PIC does not have the knowledge or background information to thoroughly address this issue although it does affect PIC because they buy the tickets from Casco Bay Lines for 10 year old children at adult rates. Mitchell made the point that it is hard for citizens to attend the Casco Bay Lines meeting so Twain would just be providing information on this issue to PIC.

Hayward addressed the issue that, when an elected body allows a citizen to talk regarding a personal issues, people then think that it endorses what they're saying and questioned where should they draw the line on personal presentations? Hayward suggested that those who have personal and business issues that they would like to present to the community could sign up for the community room and hold their own publicized public meetings.

Phyfe made the point that, although Casco Bay Lines considers kids as adults by 10 years and, currently, PIC subsidizes them but, by 11 years, the kids are in public school and get a ferry pass. 10 year old kids are charged as adults by Casco Bay Lines, especially in the summer, to obtain enough funds to keep tickets inexpensive for other Islands over the year.

One voted to approve and five were opposed to Twain providing a presentation at a PIC meeting.

Ben Dudley Presentation on Portland Company Development

Mike Murray explained that the Portland Company Development are still in the beginning of the planning stage with the City starting with the request for a zoning change.

Public discussion that this is a City of Portland issue, not a Peaks Island issue. The point was made that it may affect traffic leaving the ferry terminal in Portland.

Phyfe believes that, if they didn't provide time for a Franklin Street Development representative to speak and are not allowing Twain to speak at a PIC meeting, they shouldn't allow Ben to speak on behalf of the Portland Company Development.

Penalver motioned to consider allowing Ben to speak, Phyfe seconded, unanimous vote to oppose.

Mitchell will contact Ben and suggest that he reserve the Community Meeting Room himself and hold his own public meeting.

Follow-up on February 24th Community Meeting with Chief Sauschuck-

Mitchell noted that she thought the meeting with Chief Sauschuck was successful and very productive.

Mitchell noted that there is a nonemergency number to use for the local police, which is: **874-8575.**

Mitchell will work with a community member to try to reunite a Peaks Island Business District Association to be involved in discussions to help fund a cadet for three days a week down-front to deal with safety issues.

Hayward brought up the fact that, although the cadet is paid \$11/hour, the actual total cost of the cadet would be \$8,400 for three months for 37 hours a week, 5 days a week.

Mitchell suggested that we talk with the Chief to confirm cadet costs before working with a business association.

Mitchell asked Officer Taylor to report on any concerns. Officer Taylor mentioned that, if people know of Islanders that consistently speed, they can call the police and anonymously provide their names and the police will contact those chronic speeders. Officer Taylor agreed that those names can be shared anonymously. (Note: Officer Taylor may be leaving Peaks Island for another position). Sellers asked Officer Taylor if a Radar Unit, that is put out on a street and used to show people how fast they are going, could be used as evidence or information to give speeding tickets. Officer Taylor explained that the Radar Unit cannot be used to provide tickets like their radar guns can because it is not correctly calibrated for that purpose as their radar guns are, but it is an excellent educational tool. Officer Taylor reinstated what Chief Sauschuck said at the Community Meeting that she could not pinpoint what is the biggest safety issue on the Island herself, the community itself identifies the safety issues they want to be addressed.

Mitchell also felt it was important to put out the word on the Star, the Island listservs, etc. that, since enforcement will be increasing, there may not be a police presence at the ferry as often as there is currently.

Mitchell suggested that the Safety Committee get together to discuss the Chief of Police's suggestions from last night's meeting.

PIC Meeting Dates for City Council Representative Kevin Donoghue -

Mike Murray explained that Rep. Donoghue has a conflict every Wednesday, except for the first Wednesday of the month, and every Monday of the month.

Mitchell will suggest March 19th and March 26th to Rep. Donoghue to meet with PIC and will provide specific questions to him before the meeting he can use to prepare for the meeting.

Open Seat on the PIC -

PIC will take names until the end of February for the open seats. Those interested in the position will have a chance to present themselves at the March 25th meeting.

V. New Business

PIC Zoning and Environmental Committee -

Mitchell suggested that the committee members get together and bring their issues to the next meeting. Timmi will be looking further into the Home Start program and opening up the committees to other public members. Mitchell clarified that the Environmental Committee will address issues that Island groups like PEAT are not addressing like dog waste bags, composting, and extra garbage containers. Sellers would like the Environmental Committee to also look into the future of Trott-Littlejohn Park.

New Survey for Peaks and a Comprehensive Plan -

Public discussion on the necessity of being informed of community interests through a community survey first in order to have the information/data available about your community to use to create a thorough comprehensive plan. There was discussion on how the last survey was done which required many meetings and a number of people to be involved.

Sellers mentioned that there is a neighborhood plan already in place and completed in 2003. Mike Murray discussed the history of the neighborhood plan and how it was developed to address current problems and trends in the future. Peaks Island was the only community that presented a neighborhood plan but he is not sure if it had ever been endorsed by the City.

Mitchell requested that Jenny Yazi start the process to begin a survey since she has experience with the previous survey. She agreed to do so and will look into using

Survey Monkey for the survey based on the previous survey's questions. Hayward said that she will work with Jenny on the survey.

VI. Public Input

Phyfe informed the Council that she will be stepping down and this is her last meeting. She feels that she has done what she intended to do when she got on the Committee which was to help rejuvenate it. The audience applauded Phyfe's service and Mitchell thanked her for her all her hard work and involvement on the Council.

There was a public announcement about a CBL symposium on strategic planning happening this Saturday at 9:45 at the Regency Hotel and the public is invited. Those interested can contact Charles Burr to RSVP.

VII. Adjournment:

Hayward motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m., Sellers seconded, unanimous vote to approve.

ACTION ITEMS

- Sellers will review the library's bicycle ticket distribution records.
- Mitchell will work with Mike Murray to provide the needs-based ticket use records to the Treasurer.
- Mitchell and Penalver will confirm the actual cost of a cadet with Chief Sauschuck before approaching local businesses for cadet funding assistance.
- Mitchell will contact Ben and suggest that he reserve the Community Meeting Room himself and hold his own public meeting.
- Mitchell will work with a community member to see if the Peaks Island Business District would like to reunite and be involved in discussions to help fund a cadet for three days a week down-front.
- Mitchell and Penalver will put out the word on the Star, the Island listservs, etc. that, since enforcement will be increasing, there may not be a police presence at the ferry as often as there is currently.
- Safety Committee will meet to discuss the Chief of Police's suggestions from the February 24th Community Meeting.
- Mitchell will suggest March 19th and March 26th to Rep. Donoghue to meet with PIC and will provide specific questions to him before the meeting he can use to prepare for the meeting.
- The PIC Zoning and Environmental Committee will get together and bring their issues to the next meeting.
- Jenny Yazi and Kathleen Hayward will look into using Survey Monkey for a community survey based on the previous survey's questions.

ADDENDUM: FY 2016 budget

(Note: Budget is to be submitted to the Finance Committee and the Portland City Council; vote likely sometime in May 2015)

Ferry tickets, passes, vouchers, loading control:

College students	2,000
Middle & High school passes	4,400
Elementary school "turning 10"	3,000
Private school tickets	450
Peaks Island Academy	1,000
Needs-based tickets	5,000
Bicycle tickets	500

ITS ("The Taxi")	15,000
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Other PI non-profits:

PITEA (for PIC, heating assistance only)	3,000
Food pantry	1,000
Transport, Trefethen to Children's Workshop	150

Parks and recreation:

Skateboard park	1,000
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Administrative	3,500
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Total	40,000
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