

Peaks Island Council Meeting

March 25, 2015

6:30 PM, MacVane Community Center

In Attendance: Mary Anne Mitchell, Lisa Penalver, Timmi Sellers, Timothy Wyant, Kathleen Hayward, Mike Murray.

I. Call to Order: Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

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

Public in Attendance at Start of Meeting: 18

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Hayward motioned to approve the February 25th Meeting Minutes, Sellers seconded, all approved

IV. Committee Reports

Neighborhood Meeting with City Manager -

The next meeting will be next Tuesday and Sellers will attend.

Maine Islands Coalition Meeting -

Last MIC meeting focused on resources to deal with substance abuse and mental health issues. There were opportunities provided to Islands residents who are interested in resources on how to help a community or family member who you suspect may have a substance abuse or a mental health problem, meetings via phone for substance abuse recovery, or setting up or attending a program on First Aid for Mental Health given by the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. Mitchell will post information from NAMI and the phone recovery support program on the library bulletin board.

PEAT, as well as three or four other organizations on Peaks, have applied for an Island Scholar this summer. No word as of yet as to which programs will be provided an Island Scholar. Mitchell asked that, if anyone knows a high school student or college student who would be interested, to please let them know about this opportunity. Mitchell will put the information on the Island Scholar program on the library bulletin board.

V. Old Business

Safety Committee Report -

Penalver reviewed Police Chief Sauschuck's FEB 24 presentation on the benefits of hiring a police cadet for the Island, comments which were made during the special safety meeting held on February 24th. The First reaction was to rule out the option due to the high cost. Since that meeting, the Chief offered to cover the insurance, training, and a uniform for the Cadet, and would be open to a part-time option, provided the Island can pick up the Cadet's pay which is \$11/hour; \$82.50/day for a 3-day weekend. Penalver talked with the Peaks Island Fund about the possibility of writing a grant for portions of the Cadet's salary. The Safety Committee is looking at other ways to fund the Cadet, and ways to measure the effectiveness of the trial. The Cadet will be able to give tickets to cars parked illegally and, ideally he/she will help prevent the problem in the first place. Another issue the committee is working on is getting the signs updated on Welch St and Island Ave.

Mitchell is hoping that the cadet can also inform people of local ordinances with the main purpose of the Cadet being for public education.

Lisa has received an initial financial commitment of about \$1,200 pledged from local businesses and individuals as a collaboration effort on hiring a Cadet.

Additional PIC funds of \$1,150 are now available; these had originally been budgeted for the Peaks Island Academy and Summer Children's Workshop Transportation, but those organizations have withdrawn their requests.

Cost for FY15 from middle of May to June 30 is \$1,730.50 for 3 day week and for FY16 FY 16 will be \$2,475.

Penalver motioned to request reallocation of excess funds from FY 15 budget toward the trial funding of a Police Cadet. The amount reallocated is not to exceed \$1,800, Sellers seconded, Opened to public comment:

Public Discussion revolved around hours of cadet: 7.5 hours a day for 3 days a week. A fourth day would be another \$82.50/day. Sellers pointed out that there is no more funding for Fiscal year 2015 so this will be a test for future budget allocations. Friday and Saturday are the most important days for Cadet. July/August are busiest tourist months. Mitchell suggested that he/she start earlier, in May, to familiarize themselves with the island and issues down front before it gets increasingly busy. Chief Sauschuck also mentioned there could be some flexibility so days can change once summer starts.

Hayward is very supportive of the cadet. Sellers mentioned that she was initially opposed to a Cadet because she thought that the local police could handle the situation. Now, she thinks a summer Cadet trial program would provide an incredible opportunity to show the City that we are committed to making this a safe place and would need a means to evaluate the trial. Wyant is also in support of a summer Cadet

for the same reasons that Sellers is, especially on a trial basis. Hayward brought up that the Portland businesses help pay for Police Cadets in the City of Portland. Sellers said that City could also help by making the Welch/Island Avenue intersection safer. Mitchell said that the local police will be working directly with the Cadet if he/she needs support and the Cadet may also be able to take on the 72-hour parking lot issue.

Motion passed unanimously.

Amendment to the Budget -

Penalver moved to AMEND the FY16 Budget to include a line item named "Public Safety" which is to be funded with \$1,150 from the two withdrawn requests (Peaks Island Academy and Summer Children' Workshop Transportation), and \$325 from the administration fund for a total of \$1,500. Sellers seconded, Opened to public comment:

Discussion on how \$1,500 in PIC funds are being allocated and moved around in the budget to accommodate the cadet and how secure are the business pledges which have been estimated to total a minimum of \$975. Fundraising has already started and pledges should be collected in April. Penalver is thinking about writing grants, to the Peaks Island Fund for example, in partnership with an Island 501c3 non-profit organization to also help financially with the Cadet. FY16 Budget should be approved by mid-May by the City Council via Mike Murray so, if passed, the Cadet could be hired after that. After the City budget and the Peaks Island budget are passed, the Cadet program contribution checks can be collected and checks should be made out to the City of Portland and given to Mike Murray or the police chief (to be determined)

Hayward expressed concern about going in to FY16 with a line item for a Cadet that is less than \$2,475 and depending on collecting the contribution pledges. Wyant explained that they are showing support of the program by putting in seed money of actually \$1,500 for a trial Cadet program, and not committing to the full \$2,475. Therefore, if no contributions come in, the only thing that would be affected is the time that the Cadet would be available on Peaks.

Mitchell wanted to make it clear that Chief Sauschuck will be the supervisor of the Cadet, not PIC, although PIC as provided the Chief with a proposed job description. Any public concerns about the Cadet should come to PIC who will then pass them on to Chief Sauschuck.

Motion passed unanimously.

Hayward moved to hire a Police Cadet from May 15th to September 18th on a trial basis. Funding for the Cadet will be from reallocated FY 15 funds, funds from the FY16 Public Safety category and contributions from business, organizational sponsors and community members. The Cadet shall work 3 days a week, Saturday, Sunday, and another day to be determined, Sellers seconded, Opened to public comment:

Discussion around trying to withdraw out of the contract with the Cadet if the program is not working out. Sellers feels that we should go through the full May through September season to be able to fully evaluate the program and only move off an individual Cadet in exchange for another one if the first one doesn't work out. Penalver will make sure that the Safety Committee determines a way to evaluate and assess the program as a part of the process.

Motion passed unanimously.

Safety Committee Report and formalize members -

Lisa Penalver, Kathleen Hayward, Tim "Murph" Murphy and John Kiley are members of this committee. Cheryl Miner had sent word through Marjorie Phyfe that Cheryl would like to remain on the Safety Committee. Main focus at this time is to find funding from grants or local sources to help PIC pay to hire a Police Cadet for the summer and to determine a way to measure the effectiveness of the Cadet's presence.

Environmental Committee Report and formalize members -

Mary Anne Mitchell, Timmi Sellers, Martha Morris Gibson and Tookie Harris are on this committee. They have developed a list of issues that they would like to start work on, which are: 1) Sending a letter to CBL to have their deck hands take all trash (i.e. shrink wrap) related to freight back with them since the Island garbage cans are getting filled up with this debris, 2) Providing biodegradable doggie bag distribution/stations, 3) Asking the City if garbage cans can be picked up more frequently on the back shore at the beaches, down front, and provide more containers on the back shore for recyclable cans and bottles and 4) Work with local businesses to help them provide combined trash, compost, recycle systems/stations at their facilities.

Survey Committee Report and formalize members -

Members are Rory Sellers and Kathleen Hayward. They are starting to discuss developing a community survey and are researching the feasibility of doing the survey this year and getting professional advice and on-the-ground assistance (as in an Island Fellow) to develop the survey and manage the data. However, the survey will not be done this year if it is determined that more time is required to develop it and make sure it is done correctly. The survey would basically be a needs assessment to address relevant issues on the Island and submitted as part of the City's strategic plan.

Zoning Committee Report -

Tim Wyant and Timmi Sellers are on the committee. Wyant is interested in working with the Home Start project that is looking at relaxing zoning restrictions in return for a commitment that property would be used for affordable housing. Sellers is looking at City owned recreational open spaces on the Island, the future of those lands, and how that might affect the Island. The Zoning Committee is open to members of the community who are interested in this issue.

Needs Based Ticket Committee -

Kathleen Hayward and Mary Anne Mitchell are on this committee. The committee goal is to assure that the tickets will be distributed fairly and record how the needs-based tickets are being used.

Appoint Treasurer -

Hayward has volunteered to be the Treasurer with the Council members in agreement.

Filling vacant PIC seats -

There are two vacant seats. Two people have applied for the positions: Howard Pedlikin is here tonight and the other person, Avery Baker, is out of town tonight but will try to make the next meeting.

Penalver moved to appoint Howard Pedlikin to the Peaks Island Council, Wyant seconded, motion approved unanimously.

Howard Pedlikin was sworn in by Mike Murray as a Peaks Island Council member to a rousing round of applause.

Mitchell read Mr. Avery Baker's letter of intent to become a member of PIC publically.

VI. New Business:

No new business.

VII. Public Input

Charles Burr, as a member of the CBL Board, confirmed that CBL will not institute a \$100 surcharge on cars and clarified CBL's role in helping with congestion up front: CBL is a private entity, not a government entity, so cannot get involved in solving local issues or they could lose their state and federal funding.

The City should address traffic problems here on the Island as they do in Portland. PIC should demand assistance from the City in expertise to help us address our traffic problems. Sellers mentioned that the Safety Committee is aware of this issue and is working on that by first getting the Councilor to the PIC meeting.

Penalver moved that PIC make a formal and official and powerful recommendation to the City Council that they update the signs, without further delay, this spring along the queuing lane and the traffic circle at the Peaks Island ferry terminal, Opened to public comment:

Discussion on the history of how the PIC got initiated with the agreement that the City Council should provide regular time for PIC at their meeting which does not happen. Review of procedure on a formal recommendation.

Sellers would like to amend that the formal recommendation include a traffic study, Wyant suggested that there be two motions made so that the new signs won't be held up.

Motion passed unanimously.

Sellers made a motion that PIC, along with their Safety Committee, request that the City perform a formal traffic study that reflects the seasonal changes for Peaks Island. Penalver seconded, Opened to public comment:

No comment.

Motion passes unanimously.

Community Emergency Response Team needs new members to serve on the CERT team.

PEAT will be celebrating Earth Day April 17 and April 18 with speakers and community information.

There is a concern from the public attending that Councilor Donoghue has not attended a PIC meeting for a long period of time. Sellers will speak to the City Council as a PIC member and as a member of the public asking for the Councilor Donoghue to attend a PIC meeting if a meeting with the PIC and Donoghue is not set up by next month.

VIII. Adjournment:

Hayward motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m., Sellers seconded, unanimous vote to approve.

INDIVIDUAL ACTION ITEMS (Committee action items are listed under appropriate headings):

- Mitchell will send out information on opportunities for more learning and chances to meet with others via phone on substance abuse issues as provided at the last Maine Island Coalition Meeting.
- Mitchell will put information on the Island Institute's Island Scholar program on the library bulletin board.
- Penalver will be researching grants possibilities and asking local businesses for pledges to assist with funding a Police Cadet on the Island during the summer,
- Penalver will make a formal request to the City that they update the signs at the ferry terminal area on Peaks,
- Penalver or Sellers will make a formal request to the City that they fund a traffic study on Peaks Island,

- Sellers will attend a City Council meeting to formally request that Councilor Donoghue, or an alternate, attend PIC meetings if a meeting is not set with the PIC and Councilor Donoghue by next month.