



Peaks Island Council MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2016

6:30 p.m., MacVane Community Center

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Number of Audience Members in Attendance: 13

Roll Call: Lisa Peñalver, Timmi Sellers, Sid Gerard, Mary Anne Mitchell, Tim Wyant, Howard Pedlikin, and Mike Murray as City of Portland Island liaison. Kathleen Hayward, excused absence.

Approval of Minutes:

Sellers moved to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2015 meeting, Wyant seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Peñalver advised that if PIC would like the new City Councilor, Belinda Ray, to attend a PIC meeting, they would have to move the regular meeting to another day as she is unavailable on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month due to her assignment to the City's Housing Committee. In an email, Ms. Ray had said she expected to be able to attend the February PIC meeting on February 17th.

Treasurer's Report:

Postponed due to Treasurer Hayward's absence.

Committee Reports:

Skateboard Park

Discussion deferred until February meeting.

Broadband Update

Mitchell suggested that the Broadband Update information be reported under the Maine Island Coalition heading at February's meeting, since Mitchell will receive an update on the program from the Island Institute at their next meeting.

Safety Committee

Peñalver informed that she had called Chief Sauschuck regarding regular City funding for a Peaks Island Cadet. She made the case to the Chief that the Island needs a Cadet for public safety and not for business/shopping as in the Old Port where local businesses fund the Cadet. She was happy to report that she received a phone call

from Chief Sauschuck informing her that he was able to put the funding for a Peaks Island Cadet in the City Police Department's FY 17 Budget request to the City Council. The FY 17 Budget cycle starts July 1st so PIC will need to cover the cost of a Cadet for the month of June.

Sellers congratulated the Safety Committee for all their hard work on this issue.

Murray reminded the Council Members that the budget still needs to be approved by the City Council before the Cadet funding would actually be available. Peñalver will draft a support letter to the City Council to help insure that funding for a Peaks Island Cadet is passed.

Report from Island Police

Police Officer Patrick Connolly reported that the Peaks Island Police Department does receive a second overtime Officer during the summer that arrives on Friday and stays until Sunday afternoon. This second overtime Officer basically assists with public nuisance calls. He could not guarantee that an Officer can always be at the ferry terminal for traffic issues during the summer depending on what else is going on that needs their attention.

Audience Member (AM) suggested that all Island citizens should be involved in the decision to have the Cadet and there should be a poll as to their positions on this issue. Another AM stated that she believes that PIC was organized to represent Islanders so Councilors can speak for the community in issues such as these. Peñalver discussed how the Councilors are always available, individually and at meetings, to hear and confirm residents' positions on issues that come before the Council.

Zoning Committee

Discussion deferred until February meeting.

Environmental Committee and Energy Efficiency

Discussion deferred until February meeting.

Maine Island Coalition

The next Coalition meeting will be held the week of February 8th in Augusta and the topic will be Island Sustainability and Housing.

Island Advisory Committee

Discussion deferred until February meeting.

Review of Preliminary Line Items for FY 17 Budget:

FY 2017 budget -- preliminary working draft

Ferry tickets, passes, vouchers, loading control		
A. Cadet/Safety	0	
B. Elementary school "turning 10"	0	
C. Middle & High school passes	4,400	
D. College students	1,000	
E. Private school tickets	450	
F. Needs-based tickets	5,000	
G. Bicycle tickets	500	
Loretta Voyer fund	1,000	
H. ITS ("The Taxi")	15,000	
Other PI non-profits		
I. PITEA (for PIC, heating assistance only)	3,000	
J. Food pantry	1,000	
Parks and recreation		
K. Skateboard park	1,000	
L. Administrative	3,150	
Total	35,500	40,000 Full budget

FY 17 Budget Discussion Notes:

- Murray informed that four people have inquired about the college student ferry tickets but have not completed the paperwork at this time,
- Sellers suggested to cut back the College Student Ferry Tickets to \$1,000 based on Murray's information,
- The Loretta Voyer Fund regular \$1,000 funding line item was added to the FY 17 Budget,
- Andy Doukas had advocated the building of a bike shelter down front at a suggested cost of \$3,000 in correspondence to PIC Councilors. This action item was also in the 2003 Neighborhood Plan. (Note: Sellers advised that a City Traffic Engineer will be coming to Peaks in the spring for an informal evaluation of traffic down front and the bike parking area may be moved after this evaluation. She suggested that looking into building a bike shelter should be deferred until then. There may also be a possibility of working with the Bicycle Coalition of Maine for funding and/or design of a bike shelter),
- Re: "Age Gap" ferry ticket vouchers: Charles Burr, who is on the Casco Bay Lines (CBL) Board, spoke about the 2015 child ticket price reduction that was an "experiment for one year only," but that the impact to CBL of the lower child ticket

prices has not yet been determined. He assured that PIC can safely expect the prices to stay as they are for at least a year and believes that, for now, that line item could stay at zero cost to PIC,

- Bicycle Ferry Tickets will still be made available at the Peaks Library and can be used once-a-month by anyone with a library card. These tickets are actively being requested by Peaks Island residents,
- Wyant reported that the needs-based tickets' funding numbers are fairly solid with a cushion of between \$500 to \$1,000 depending on the year,
- The Taxi Committee will be meeting in early February before coming to PIC to request a fund amount for FY 17 for their Senior Program which provides 10 tickets/month (or 5 round-trip tickets) to seniors over 65. Taxi Board Member reported that, currently, there are 30 seniors signed into the Program. Last year, they requested \$4,500 for the program from PIC and averaged \$325 a month in use,
- PITEA, the Food Pantry, Administrative, and the Skateboard Park funding are solid line items for FY 17,
- Peñalver proposed adding a line item to pay for an Island Fellow from the Island Institute to help with gathering information for a comprehensive needs assessment to update the 2003 Peaks Island Neighborhood Plan (see Discussion below),
- Mitchell believes that the budget needs consistency in funding amounts being provided to organizations to help with future budget planning. Wyatt explained that the research for each funding request has been done and that this information goes to the City Council and is available to the public.

Proposed Island Fellow FY 17 Budget Line Item Discussion:

After meeting with Karen Burns from the Island Institute regarding their Island Fellows program, Peñalver is suggesting that Peaks Island apply for a Fellow to help with a comprehensive needs assessment. The full amount for the Island Fellow is \$8,000 which can be supplied through various sources. The due date for applications is in March. She notes that Island Fellows have performed this type of service on other islands. In fact, an Island Fellow was involved with the coordination and research for the 2003 Peaks Island Neighborhood Plan. Barbara Hoppin explained the process they went through to get an Island Fellow to help with the 2003 plan. Basically two or three applicants are chosen based on their interests and skills and the project proposed and which are then brought to the Island for local interviews and selection.

Sellers stated that the 2003 Neighborhood Plan was very impressive as a document and provided a vision for the community up to the year 2020. She suggested that they first review the 2003 Plan to look at the items that had been accomplished as well as the items that still need to be completed, and to use the 2003 Plan as a framework to move forward in the development of an updated plan.

Chris Hoppin explained that about 35 people were involved in producing the 2003 Plan and that an Island Fellow provided excellent administrative support during the process. Their Planning Committee met on a regular basis culminating in a community meeting

at the Lions Club with 500 people attending that provided input on the draft plan. The 2003 Plan was presented to the City Council but it did not get added to the City's overall Comprehensive Plan. Sellers suggested that, if they can produce an updated plan, it should be done in conjunction with the Planning Department's overall guidelines so that it can easily be integrated into the City's Implementation Plan. Peñalver added that the City would need to be involved from the onset in helping structure the survey in such a way that the data would be compatible with the planning framework of the City.

AM suggested that PIC organize a team/committee to discuss this planning process and how an Island Fellow could assist before going through the process to request an Island Fellow for Peaks. Gerard agreed stating that you need to have a job description before looking for an applicant to fill it. Mitchell suggested that nonprofits could be involved in the process. The Island Fellow won't start until next September so this committee could work on developing these partnerships since the application for an Island Fellow is due in March.

Major components to consider for the Island Fellow Program is housing for the Fellow and identifying advisors to manage the Fellow. The Island Fellow could also be used to help create this planning committee, review the past plan, and move forward into a new comprehensive needs assessment since situations and people's needs have changed on Peaks. AM suggested that the Fellow could also help with a PIC Communication Committee to put together a website, survey, etc.

Peñalver suggested that \$3,000 be added to the budget for an Island Fellow. Mitchell explained that only three Island Fellow positions will be made available this year so the money needs to be put in the FY 17 Budget if there is a chance that PIC will be applying for a Fellow. Sellers suggested that PIC first put together a committee to work with other organizations to determine the need of an Island Fellow before committing funds.

AM suggested that PIC place information regarding the Island Fellow Program on Next Door to measure interest and gain ideas from residents.

A decision on the Island Fellow was tabled until February's regular meeting, as PIC will work on organizing a committee to meet before then and explore this issue further. Sellers, Mitchell, and resident Barbara Hoppin volunteered to work on this committee initially and report back to the Council.

New Items/Public Comments:

Peñalver suggested that PIC start a Communications Committee to cover issues such as a website, broadband updates, and survey planning.

Sellers moved to start the Communications Committee, Pedlikin seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Officer Patrick Connolly reported that Officer Dan Rose is working hard to remove inoperable or abandoned cars off the island.

AM suggested that PIC write a letter to HR Management to provide security cameras at the ferry garage, especially after the recent incidents of vandalism. Another AM suggested that the letter include a recommendation for a waiting area for the shuttle service that HR Management is currently providing while the garage is under construction so that they will not miss any older or handicapped people needing that service.

Sellers moved to send a formal PIC letter to HR Management requesting that they provide security cameras, better signage, and a pedestrian walkway at the ferry garage, Pedlikin seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Sellers will draft the letter to HR Management.

Individual Councilor Action Items:

- Peñalver will request that Councilor Belinda Ray attend the regular February meeting on the 18th.
- Peñalver will draft a support letter to the City Council to fund a Peaks Island Cadet.
- PIC will organize a committee to review the need for an Island Fellow as it may relate to updating the 2003 Peaks Island Neighborhood plan as well as other possible projects they could do in partnership with Island nonprofits,
- Sellers will draft a letter to HR Management requesting that they provide security cameras, better signage, and a pedestrian walkway at the ferry garage.

Important Dates:

PIC Budget Workshop – Wednesday, February 10.

Next Regular PIC Meeting – Wednesday, February 17.

Sellers moved to hold regular PIC meetings on the third Wednesday of every month, Pedlikin seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned by Chair Peñalver at 7:50 pm.