



Peaks Island Council

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 20, 2016

6:30 p.m., MacVane Community Center

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Lisa Peñalver, Timmi Sellers, Mary Anne Mitchell, Kathleen Hayward, Howard Pedlikin

Absent: Tim Wyant (excused), Belinda Ray, Portland City Councilor, Mike Murray, Island/Neighborhood Administrator

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 8

Approval of Minutes:

Hayward made the motion to approve the June 15th meeting minutes, Sellers seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Kathleen Hayward, PIC Treasurer

The 2016 fiscal year ended with approximately \$300 in unspent funds out of the \$40,000 budget. In percentages, approximately 99.3% of the budget was spent leaving .7% remaining unspent.

Committee Reports:

Safety Committee

Peñalver explained that amended signage for the ferry line was discussed during the June meeting. It was determined that parking would be allowed 6pm-6am as well as short-term or 15 min parking near 'down front' area businesses when no vehicles are queued for the ferry in those spaces. She stated that Mike Murray confirmed that the signage including hours has been requested. Peñalver stated the need for an exit sign at the traffic circle. Problems persist with people parking in the right lane of the traffic circle, causing people to use the entrance of the circle as an exit. Mitchell stated at times, both Island Tour golf carts are parked in the circle taking up a majority of the space. Peñalver agreed that should be discussed with the appropriate parties.

Peñalver explained there have been recent occurrences of illegal dumping of trash, yard and human waste, camping, and campfires on PILP land as well as party trash and fires on beach areas. These activities are not legal, and cause concerns for safety, fire hazard, and sanitation. She stated that enforcement can be challenging with limited staffing. Mitchell stated that enforcement is the responsibility of the entire community, and encourages everyone to report observed occurrences of this nature to the non-emergency dispatch number. AM Officer stated he believes these activities may be civil violations, but further research of the ordinances would be needed. He confirmed that camping is not allowed anywhere within the City of Portland.

AM expressed concern regarding the use of floating lanterns, as observed over July 4th weekend, posed a fire risk.

AM asked for an update on the request of a traffic cone being present in the middle of the crosswalk in front of Hannigan's which states it is the law to stop for pedestrians in crosswalk. Peñalver explained that she had discussed this with Marty Mulkern, who stated concerns with vehicles being able to get through. AM stated that pedestrian safety is priority, and that this concern has been presented to the PIC three years in a row. Further discussion included permanent or seasonal posting of the cone. Sellers stated that a request in writing seems appropriate and she will submit that to the traffic engineer.

Sellers asked for an update on the City Council's review of the golf cart ordinance. Peñalver explained that committee review of the ordinance is still in progress.

Sellers asked about the status of the City Council's consideration of bus size limit for the island. Peñalver explained the request was submitted, and she will ask for an update.

Sellers stated she had previously asked Councilor Belinda Ray for an update from the traffic engineer visit to Peaks. Peñalver explained she has emailed Jeremiah Bartlett, but not received a response. Sellers will request an update.

Zoning Committee:

Sellers explained a community forum will be scheduled for August with both Paper Streets and the Comprehensive City Plan on the agenda. Representation from the City will be present, and the details will be posted once they are finalized.

Sellers and three other Peaks residents recently attended the Aging on Islands conference at North Haven. A house had been donated on North Haven for use as an assisted living facility. There was a great amount of information related to elder housing, Medicare, and the licensing and financing process for a project of this type.

Environmental Committee:

Mitchell explained that as stated at the June PIC meeting, PEAT is no longer managing recycling containers for returnables. She stated that a request has been made to the City to place recycling containers on the island. Sellers stated that the Public Works has been doing a better job keeping up with the trash receptacles, and thanked them for their efforts with the weekend pick-ups.

Mitchell explained she would be requesting a trash receptacle to be placed somewhere beyond the bench near the Cockeyed Gull. She stated that a sandwich bag was placed in a cigarette butler in that area, and started to burn.

Mitchell stated that the Sierra Club Climate committee is researching solar installation on the closed landfill on Peaks Island, and the Sustainability Committee would be discussing this topic at their meeting in Portland tonight.

Hayward asked for clarification on PEAT being listed as a committee on the meeting agenda. Peñalver stated that PEAT being listed on the agenda as a PIC committee is in error, and that it should read Environmental Committee.

Old Business:

Council Seat Vacancy: There will be four open seats on the PIC during at election time this November. Nomination papers are available from the City Clerk's Office. There is also one immediate opening which can be filled temporarily until the November election. Letters of interest for the temporary position will be accepted by PIC until August 15th.

Amended Ferry Lane Signage: As discussed during the Safety Committee report (see above), Peñalver stated that Mike Murray confirmed that the amended signage has been requested and is in progress.

Hazardous Waste Disposal: Peñalver stated PIC voted last month to recommend one additional day being designated for hazardous/toxic waste disposal. There has been no response to inquiries made. It was determined that a request would be made in writing for a meeting with the appropriate parties to be discussed further.

New Business:

Letter to Casco Bay Lines: Peñalver explained PEAT is planning to send a letter of concern to CBL regarding significant shrink-wrap debris near both Peaks and mainland freight areas and trash from the car ferry queuing lines. PIC has been asked to consider signing the letter.

Hayward recommended referring this issue to the Safety Committee, stating concern regarding ambiguous wording in the letter. Sellers explained that the four members of the Environmental Committee have reviewed the letter. Further discussion explored managing the clean-up of the areas in question, amending the letter verbiage and offering suggested alternatives to the use of shrink wrap. Hayward suggested placement of a trash receptacle at the freight area on the island for proper disposal of shrink-wrap and freight materials.

AM encouraged the idea of offering suggestions, explaining that considerations should be made for strength and durability, cost-effectiveness and management of the proposed changes. He also stated that the carts used by CBL are quite expensive, indicating that they would not be replaced.

AM suggested that proper disposal for the shrink wrap should be communicated to educate the entire community.

Hayward made the motion to table this topic, referring it to the Environmental Committee for research, redraft and recommendation. Peñalver seconded. Unanimous vote to in favor. Motion passed.

Camping & Fire Safety: Peñalver stated that the Police and Fire officers were present for the discussion on this topic during the Safety Committee Report, hearing the concerns and agreeing to patrol for these occurrences. She suggested posting on Nextdoor to raise community awareness, encouraging people to report issues to the non-emergency dispatch number. She stated that camping is not allowed unless on private property only with permission, and reiterated the concern for fire hazard being high.

AM requested the 'Smoky the Bear' fire danger sign that was previously present on Seashore near the ice pond be re-posted. Hayward suggested this request should be addressed to the Island Fire Chief.

Ferry Congestion & Overcrowding: Peñalver stated that there are continued concerns related to ferry congestion including people being turned away due to overcrowding, referencing a recent newspaper article on the topic. She suggested a meeting with CBL and PUC. The possibility of priority boarding for residents was discussed, and it was explained that Casco Bay Lines is not allowed to discriminate in any way because it receives federal grant funding. It was suggested that special considerations may be possible with regard to ADA law related to handicapped, elderly and people traveling with small children.

AM stated that PUC approves the CBL rate structure and any changes in the size off the fleet, otherwise they do not have authority over CBL operations and decisions. He went on to suggest that the meeting request include CBL Board members, the General Manager and Operations Manager.

AM stated that priority boarding may create further issues for a very short turn-around to load the ferry, and that legal review of the options is an important aspect in this situation.

Further discussion included minimizing impact of time to board by simply allowing the priority group to be first in line with a minimal head start. Discussion continued including requesting large groups to give advance notice of travel, and the PIC request to CBL to post that information online whenever possible. It was also mentioned that the two benches next to Gate 5 on the mainland are for CBL customers, and everyone is encouraged to inform CBL staff if concert-goers are occupying the benches.

Sellers made the motion to request a meeting with CBL Board members, the CBL General Manager and Operations Manager to be held on a Saturday in August on the island and be open for community attendance and input. PIC will also make an recommendation to CBL to consider priority boarding for handicapped, elderly and people with children in accordance with the ADA regulations. Pedlikin seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. Motion passed.

PI Fence Banners & Sandwich Boards: Peñalver stated that a letter was sent to the City Manager stating concern for legality of the banner signs present along the fence on Welch Street. PIC has been asked for a recommendation before a decision or final action is taken. "In light of a recent communication to the City Manager about the legality of advertising by businesses and nonprofits affixing banners on public property, namely the fence along Welch Street, the City Manager is requesting that the PIC review the subject at a future meeting and make a recommendation to the City Manager before a final decision or action is taken." Peñalver stated she does not feel a recommendation can be made until input is received from the community and ordinances are reviewed. Peñalver stated that community input will be requested to be submitted to PIC via email, not through comments on Nextdoor.

Hayward stated for clarification that the letter submitted to the City Manager only mentioned the advertising banners, and did not include sandwich boards. Sellers stated that she feels sandwich boards pose a safety concern because they block the sidewalk.

AM stated that he composed the communication and that it addressed the banners only, not the sandwich boards, and stated the issue is a matter of quality of life.

Hayward made the motion to refer this issue to the Safety Committee for review of community input and ordinances related to advertising banners and sandwich boards,

requesting a recommendation for the August meeting. Sellers seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

Announcements/Updates:

Meeting with Police Chief in August: Details TBD.

Volunteers are needed to join the Parking Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mitchell stated she has received multiple reports of concern regarding bike racks, asking if the Police Cadet could be authorized to monitor and tag delinquent or abandoned bikes. Peñalver stated she would make an inquiry to see if this would be possible.

Hayward stated that the end date for the Cadet and number of hours on duty needs to be requested from the Police Chief, stating that actual hours for May and June exceeded the budgeted amounts. Peñalver will make the request.

AM asked who supervises the Cadet and if there is a job description. It was explained that there is a job description and the local police supervise her while on duty.

AM stated concern of seeing golf carts driving side-by-side, golf cart overcrowding and retractable dog leashes taking up the entire street. She was advised to report issues of this nature to the non-emergency dispatch number as soon as they are observed.

Next Regular PIC Meeting: August 18, 6:30 pm at the Community Center

Meeting Adjournment: 7:55 p.m.