



Peaks Island Council

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

6:15 p.m., MacVane Community Center

Call to Order: 6:15 p.m.

Roll Call: Lisa Peñalver, Timmi Sellers, Mary Anne Mitchell, Steve Anderson, Patrick Flynn, Stuart Jackson, David Stankowicz

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 5

Sellers made the motion to approve the March 22nd meeting minutes. Stankowicz seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

Finance Report: Peñalver stated that the Council will need to review the budget and may need to reallocate funds prior to the end of the budget year coming up in June.

Peñalver explained that as a result of the PIC Teambuilding workshop, the Council has agreed to more closely follow Robert's Rules of Order for the structure of the monthly meetings. She stated that meeting structure would include public comment at designated times, and that anyone wishing to speak should raise their hand and wait to be acknowledged by the meeting chairperson. Peñalver stated it is the Council's hope that this will keep the meetings running in a smooth and orderly manner. She went on to say the Council will review the process after a few months to gather feedback and decide how to move forward.

Committee Reports:

Mayor's Neighborhood Meeting: Sellers stated during the most recent neighborhood meeting with the Mayor that the topic of emergency responder training was discussed. She stated that the Portland Fire Department leaders of the PI CERT team will be invited to work with the city's coordinator of emergency response. Sellers stated parking concerns were also discussed, with each neighborhood having unique situations and challenges.

Island Advisory Committee: Sellers stated that fire safety was discussed. She stated that Hazardous Waste pick up was also discussed, and that it was determined the expense is too great to add a second pick-up date in the year. Sellers stated there was discussion of possibly moving the date from August to either spring or fall but that nothing has been determined yet. Sellers stated that PIC and PEAT along with others will be proposing an island etiquette poster to be placed in the CBL terminal in Portland. She stated the proposal will be made to the CBL board in the next several weeks. Sellers stated that island emergency response access to Narcan was discussed, as well as mainland parking for islanders.

Safety Committee: Peñalver stated the minutes from the meeting with the Chief of Police would be published for the public soon. She gave a brief recap of some of the topics discussed including the police cadet, parking and queueing for the ferry.

Environmental Committee: Mitchell stated that PEAT held their annual Earth Day clean-up, distributing many bags to residents and visitors. She stated additional clean-up efforts will be occurring in the parking lot, as well as the school group cleaning up Centennial Beach. Mitchell

stated that weatherization will be taking place May 15-19. She went on to say that there is a target goal of 300 interior storm inserts to be ordered and built, and stated that anyone interested in getting window inserts should contact Randy Schaeffer or Bob Villforth. Mitchell stated that PEAT received the grant from the Island Institute to upgrade lighting to LED bulbs for several locations on the island, reducing energy usage and costs. Mitchell stated that new smoke alarms are available at no cost from the Red Cross. Mitchell stated the next Maine Island Coalition will discuss Air BnB and short term housing on the island. Sellers stated May 1-June 1 is the time to sign up for the City of Portland Tree Co-op Program. Sellers stated more information will be published online.

Old Business:

Island Fence Signs: Peñalver explained that previous public input on this issue was very close to 50/50 in favor and opposed to the banners that appear on the fence on Welch Street. She stated there is a City ordinance that prohibits advertising on public property.

Public Comment:

AM states he recognizes the need for businesses to advertise, but feels the large signs and banners on the fence are an eyesore. He stated he feels PIC should provide/designate a bulletin board for island business to advertise with a set size. He stated he feels this approach would provide a clear walkway to and from the ferry, and allow all business the chance to advertise.

AM asked if this topic includes sandwich boards. Peñalver stated that she feels this discussion should include sandwich boards as well.

AM stated it would be easier to follow the existing City ordinance, and went on to say she supports a designated area where businesses can pay to advertise.

AM stated he feels it is a good time to ask for community input on this topic, and stated that it is important for all of us to support our local businesses. He stated that we need to support the sustainability of the island businesses and allow them to advertise in an effective and manner that doesn't cause safety concerns. He stated that he is not offended by the aesthetics of the advertising on the Welch Street fence, stating that he feels it adds some character to the walk up from the ferry.

AM stated she agrees with the previous statement, stating that it is a short season and we should allow the businesses to advertise on the fence and with sandwich boards.

Councilor comment included sandwich boards requiring a permit and fee, statements regarding a more organized ad board with categories. It was stated that local businesses, non-profits and islanders should be consulted for input before a decision is made. Safety concerns regarding sandwich boards were mentioned, including picking them up out of the street. A more equitable approach was mentioned, rather than first come first serve approach as it seems to be currently.

It was determined that this topic would be tabled until a later date.

Ferry Boarding: Peñalver explained PIC would like to host another community forum meeting with CBL Board members to discuss concerns related to boarding during summer season. It was determined that CBL members would be invited to attend and discuss specific boarding concerns during the next PIC meeting May 24th.

Mainland Parking: Peñalver stated that with the loss of almost 30 parking spaces, there is an immediate need to try to address the growing concerns of islander parking on the mainland.

Public Comment:

AM stated that islanders have the attention of the Mayor and District Councilor Ray, and that there would be a public meeting.

AM stated that she requested to the Mayor several months ago that he hold an all island meeting at CBL for comprehensive input from islanders and that Mayor Strimling had stated he would look into that as a possibility.

Further discussion included construction, street areas impacted recently and a City owned parking lot. The Waterfront Development plan was mentioned, including the sentence related to structured islander parking.

AM suggested that members of the Council spend more time with the first AM to become more familiar with the specifics prior to the public meeting with the Mayor.

AM suggested that a longer-term strategy should include an educational aspect including an op-ed piece in the local paper.

AM suggested a sub-committee be formed for this issue. He stated that there is plenty of data for us to present to demonstrate the lack of parking for islanders in comparison to other neighborhoods. He went on to say that rather than paying parking fees, islanders should purchase the City lot and manage it for islander parking.

Further discussion included the agreement from 2007 from the City for islander parking, and lack of garage availability.

AM asked what portion of the PIC budget goes to islander parking. Peñalver stated currently no funds are used for parking. AM stated maybe it should be considered to use the PIC budget toward parking rather than other items.

AM stated the City needs to open the dirt lot that is within walking distance to replace the spots recently lost.

Councilor comment included the details of the original agreement from the City for islander parking, setting a date for a meeting with the Mayor, and existing parking lot availability. Further discussion included getting a tally of parking spaces needed to present to the City as well as the possibility of street parking to remain in the developed area. It was stated that public attendance is critical for the public meeting with the Mayor, and people should be encouraged to email the Mayor and Councilor Ray.

New Business:

PIC History Survey: Peñalver stated the current Council would like to send out a survey to all previous PIC members to gather information for creation of an historical account of the PIC.

Public comment:

AM asked if members of the Peaks Island Neighborhood Association could also be included as that organization preceded the PIC.

AM stated that keeping the two above mentioned organizations separate, as there is a history of contention.

Anderson made the motion to distribute a survey to all former Peaks Island Council members. Stankowicz seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

AM suggested that the current Council seek input from other previous members on questions to be included in the survey.

Neighborhood Plan: Peñalver stated that a Peaks Island Neighborhood Plan was created in 2005 and needs updating. She stated the PIC would like to recommend that the City be involved in the update process.

Public Comment:

AM asked for clarification that the current City process does not allow for neighborhood level planning. Peñalver stated that the availability of neighborhood specific data is nonexistent.

During *councilor comment* Sellers stated that many neighborhoods have asked for the planning process to be more user-friendly for neighborhoods, even requesting a template for guidance. Sellers requested that this topic be tabled until next month's meeting to allow time for the City to respond to the requests from the neighborhoods.

Sellers made the motion to table the Neighborhood Plan topic until the May PIC meeting. Mitchell seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion Passed.

Announcements/Updates:

- The Golf Cart Ordinance has been modified and will be released soon.

Public Comment:

AM stated that 20 M.P.H. is too fast for golf carts. Further discussion included seat belts and safe speeds for golf carts.

AM suggested that PIC make contact with the manager of House Island to discuss good neighbor practices and public safety related to weddings, fireworks and the like.

AM suggested using the existing bulletin boards for business advertising.

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, May 24, 2017, 6:15 pm at the Community Center

Meeting Adjournment: 7:56 p.m.