



Peaks Island Council

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 23, 2017

6:15 p.m., MacVane Community Center

Call to Order: 6:15 p.m.

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

Peñalver made the motion to approve the July 26th meeting minutes. Stankowicz seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Safety Committee: Mitchell asked if details on the Cadet responsibilities, days and shifts had been received. Peñalver stated that the Cadet works Fri-Monday but that she would follow up on the other information including the cost breakdown. Bicycle parking, abandonment and tagging was discussed. Mitchell stated there was an accident involving a vehicle and a child on a bike where no one was injured, but it was never reported to the police. Residents are reminded to please report incidents such as this to the police for accurate safety information on the island. Mitchell asked if the Safety Committee could suggest to the Island Golf Cart Tour that only one cart be parked in the traffic circle at a time rather than two or three in order to ease congestion. Peñalver stated one of the main topics of the recent community meeting with the Police Chief was the police officers getting out of the vehicle at boat time. Stankowicz stated that Chief Sauschuck communicated during the meeting his openness to hearing concerns from residents in between his visits to the island. Police Chief Sauschuck can be emailed at: mjs@portlandmaine.gov

Transportation Committee: (Stankowicz) A community meeting was held mid-August to discuss mainland parking concerns and ideas. The City's Sustainability Committee September Meeting Agenda includes this topic. Stankowicz stated that ongoing efforts include: an extensive survey of mainland parking areas is being conducted by islanders in order to make recommendations, members of the PIC Transportation Committee will attend the Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Association September meeting to explore possible collaboration, and the Committee is seeking assistance from USM with documentation of the need/strategies for mainland parking. The PIC Transportation Committee will meet once more prior to the City's September meeting and has invited Mike Sylvester to attend. Further discussion included changing the signage on Thames Street as well as resident parking at metered spots. Stankowicz stated that it is very important to have as many residents attend the City meeting as possible.

Environmental Committee: (Mitchell) PEAT has a brochure identifying invasive species on the island available at Lausier Gardens and in the lobby of the library building. A group from Maine Green Power came out to the island and collected approximately 6 large trash bags from Battery Steele including broken glass, a metal chair frame and witnessed a fire still burning which was reported to the police. On a second clean up visit, the ferry beach was cleaned up including removal of a large tarp and lots of broken glass. Maine Coastal Cleanup will be the third weekend in September. Bags will be distributed to volunteers for trash and recycling. PEAT will be meeting in September and will be exploring Garbage to Garden service on Peaks. Signage created by PEAT, PILP and PIC has been approved by the City and should be posted soon.

Old Business:

Island Parking Management: A suggestion was read as it was received by a resident to designate the upper lot as golf cart parking and the lower lot as car/standard vehicle only OR designating a specific portion of the lot as golf cart parking.

AM stated that this suggestion had been made previously but no action was taken, and suggested the PIC take action immediately.

It was determined that more information would need to be gathered including the process for changing or specifying specific parking designations. This topic will be tabled until further notice.

Welch Street Fence Signs: Peñalver stated that it was brought to her attention that at least once advertising banner is now present for a company that is not located on the island. She went on to say that a letter is being drafted to island businesses regarding the fence banners, stating that she feels the advertising should be allowed for island businesses only. Peñalver stated that alternative advertising options are being explored, and that this issue needs to be revisited.

AM stated that a business 'should have a significant relationship to the island' verbiage seems appropriate and that the PIC should state that businesses not tied to the island are not welcome. He went on to say he would like to see a further discussion regarding the manner of advertising on the island.

AM stated that a courtesy phone call to the business owner to communicate that the Welch Street advertising is limited for island businesses only and offer information on Nextdoor and Carol's List as an alternative.

Stankowicz stated that the Peaks Island website is currently being redesigned and will invite local businesses to contribute and advertise, a business advertising kiosk has also been discussed as a viable alternative. Further discussion determined that no vote would take place on this issue at this time.

Paper Roads: Peñalver stated that the due date for determination of existing paper roads is approaching, and stated that an update was needed on the status.

AM stated the City will be voting on paper roads determinations in an upcoming meeting.

Quality of Life Issues & Fireworks Displays: Peñalver stated there may be a separate forum held to discuss items that may help maintain or improve residents' quality of life such as notification prior to fireworks. Flynn stated that the area Police Chiefs should be able to provide information of fireworks permits.

AM stated concerns of witnessing the floating lanterns being launches near the 8th Maine. Stankowicz stated that the lanterns are not legal in the State of Maine. The information may be found here: http://www.maine.gov/dps/fmo/documents/sky_lanterns.pdf

Ball Field Restrooms: Peñalver stated there is still no restroom facilities located at the ball field, and that this topic needs follow up.

AM suggested reaching out to the other ball teams to encourage them to communicate to the City regarding this issue.

Further discussion included the presence of port-a-potties for the recent swim-run, and the closure of the library building for construction.

AM stated that presence and public comment at City Council meetings is an effective way to have issues like this gain attention.

New Business:

Joey Brunell, City Council Candidate: Brunell discussed his focus on affordable rents and property taxes, participatory budgeting for capital improvements as well as island concerns including mainland parking, golf cart safety and public restroom facilities. For more information or to contact Joey directly, please visit brunelleforportland.org

Open Public Comment:

AM stated that the ad-hoc committee trying to purchase the former Baptist Church building is looking at alternative locations for assisted living facility placement.

AM suggested that PIC host a candidate night for the community.

AM stated the backshore signage should include verbiage advising bicycles riding in single file.

AM stated that many of the concerns around noise and quality of life are related to weddings and that any meeting held should invite the various island wedding venues as well as the police. He stated it would be helpful to know what the process is to address concerns on House Island.

AM stated 782 LED bulbs were purchased recently with support of PEAT. The upcoming window insert build will include 218 windows for 26 island homes.

Announcements:

- Home Start will be giving a presentation during the September PIC meeting.
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Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, September 27, 2017, 6:15 pm location TBD

Meeting Adjournment: 7:46p.m.