Peaks Island Council

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

6:30 p.m., MacVane Community Center

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Lisa Peñalver, Timmi Sellers, Mary Anne Mitchell, Steve Anderson, Patrick Flynn, Stuart Jackson, David Stankowicz, Island/Neighborhood Administrator Mike Murray

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: **12**

Stankowicz made the motion to approve the January 25th meeting minutes, Sellers seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

Finance Report: $7,565.11 remaining for the FY'17 Budget. Please see budget summary attachment for more detailed information.

Committee Reports:

Island Advisory Committee: Sellers stated that the December Island Advisory meeting had been cancelled. Murray stated that a meeting was held last week but due to weather and low attendance, no large scale topics were discussed. He went on to say the next meeting will be held in April. Sellers stated she has been working on signage verbiage with this group, and she speaking to that group during the April meeting.

Zoning Committee: Sellers stated there is a meeting at the Community Center on Tuesday, February 28th sponsored by HomeStart to discuss possible zoning change proposals. Tim Wyant, a member of HomeStart and the PIC Zoning Committee, stated that a consultant had been hired to conduct a review of zoning on the island and create recommendations for change in order to increase the availability of affordable housing. He went on to say the meeting on the 28th would cover the consultant's suggestions and gather public input. Tim stated the next steps include creating an ad-hoc committee to move forward with all information to create a more formal proposal. Tim stated another member from the Zoning Committee would be a great addition to the ad-hoc committee to ensure crossover with PIC. Tim stated the target timeframe for a draft proposal is May-June. Mitchell asked Wyant to be sure to post the meeting as an event on Nextdoor.

Environmental Committee:

Mitchell stated that the most recent Maine Island Coalition meeting had been cancelled due to weather and is yet to be rescheduled.

Mitchell explained she attended the presentation "Waypoints" sponsored by the Island Institute that shared comprehensive information on Maine islands including age, employment status, etc. She stated she would place more information on the bulletin board at the Community Center, and that more information was posted on Nextdoor.

Mitchell stated that applications are currently under review for the second weatherization week sponsored by PEAT. She went on to say that PEAT is applying for a grant from the Island Institute in order to update lighting to LED bulbs at the Legion, Senior Housing, Lions Club and the Baptist Church in order to decrease electric costs and usage.

Mitchell stated there was a meeting with Mike Murray and Parks Director Ethan Hipple along with representatives from PEAT, PILP and PIC to discuss a Comprehensive Plan for the Backshore, stating it could take 2-3 years to complete. She went on to say that possible signage for the backshore area was discussed, and also that aerial images are being reviewed to identify changes since approximately 2001. PEAT continues to conduct shore clean up once a month,
Mitchell stated PEAT would like to send a thank you card recognizing the staff at Casco Bay Lines for the freight cart alternative which has reduced the use of shrink wrap used. Mitchell stated she would try to get the names of the specific staff members for directing the card appropriately.

Police Report: Officer Connolly stated it has been busy on the mainland recently, but on the island it has been a fairly quiet winter. Peñalver asked if there has been any immigration related issues locally. Officer Connolly stated not that he is aware of.

Old Business:

Council Retreat: Stankowicz stated that based on previous discussion of the Council having a retreat or teambuilding event, he began looking for candidates to consider as facilitator. He stated that he worked with the following qualifications in mind: certification, successful experience, looking on the island first, and seeking someone with no present or past affiliation to the PIC. Stankowicz stated he spoke at length with Margaret Kelsey and presented the details of her proposal and qualifications. He stated the proposal is for a discounted rate of $1000. Flynn asked if there were any other candidates, stating that CBL has previously used someone with great results. He went on to say that he feels it may be more productive to hire a facilitator who is not an islander who will allow for complete objectivity. Flynn stated that

AM stated $250/hour doesn’t seem like a discount. She went on to ask how many other options had been explored, stating there was a previous AM who volunteered at no charge. Stankowicz stated that the volunteer was a previous member of PIC and was therefore not considered further.

AM stated CBL has used a facilitator named Craig Freshly several times with excellent results, and agrees that someone outside the community would be truly neutral and objective.

Sellers stated concern that a maximum budget of $1000 it likely not competitive and stated it may be difficult to secure an off-island facilitator at that rate.

Further discussion included comments in support of searching for a non-resident facilitator, and reaching out to the Island Institute for possible resources. Flynn stated concern regarding timeline and wants to make sure that the PIC is moving forward with hiring the best candidate in mind, not just to meet a date.

Stankowicz restated his support for hiring Margaret Kelsey, but also acknowledged the stated concerns regarding a facilitator from the community. He stated concern regarding the timeline and would like to have information on other candidates by next month’s meeting.

Stankowicz made the motion to hire Margaret Kelsey to facilitate a four-hour retreat Sellers seconded. Motion withdrawn.

Anderson made the motion to identify two additional facilitators to be reviewed at the March meeting. Peñalver seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

<u>FY'17 Reallocation:</u> Peñalver explained that the Administrative budget item does not have adequate funds to cover expenses through the year. She proposed that $1000 would cover the retreat and $500 for recording expenses.

Flynn asked Murray for input on this reallocation of funds. Murray stated that once the City has voted to approve the budget line items, the PIC is free to reallocate as needed. Sellers added that the PIC is not able to add new line items to the working or current budget.

AM asked who the treasurer is. Peñalver stated that Mike Murray is the acting PIC Treasurer.

Peñalver made the motion to reallocate $1500 from the Needs Based Tickets budget to the Administrative budget item. Sellers seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

New Business:

<u>Island Zoning:</u> Peñalver explained that there is concern that nonprofits or community organizations may be able to bypass a thorough public review of proposed zoning changes by working directly with the City of Portland. Jackson asked if something has occurred or what is the driving reason behind this issue? Sellers stated that zoning changes had been made previously as a result of HomeStart working directly with the City. She went on to say that PIC was not part of that process, and would like to be part of any conversations or considerations going forward. Mitchell stated that there are specific areas to be discussed during the upcoming HomeStart meeting including off-street parking and accessory dwelling units, adding that any changes may impact the entire island. She went on to say she feels the community deserves to be well informed regarding any proposed changes.

AM Wyant stated that HomeStart intends to work better than previous efforts mentioned where PIC was not involved. He stated the intent of HomeStart is to make sure that the community is aware and involved in both the upcoming meeting and the committee that will be creating the proposal that will go to the City. Wyant stated again that representation from the PIC at the meeting and on the committee is welcome.

Sellers stated to Murray that there have been instances of City groups and representatives who gather information or include Peaks in brochures and the like who do not reach out to PIC. She went on to say that Peaks is not listed among the other Portland neighborhoods consistently, such as at the Neighborhood Advisory Committee meeting with the Mayor. Sellers stated she hopes to draw greater awareness to the PIC being contacted and involved in decision making for issues that impact the island.

It was determined that a vote is not needed on this topic.

<u>FY '18 Budget:</u> Several budget items were discussed including: Cadet funding, Island Transportation Services vehicle replacement, Food Pantry, Skate Park and College Student tickets.

AM stated she is concerned that not much has been said regarding the Cadet funding and Taxi. She stated she feels too much money is being spent on children tickets, and believes that two cadets would be a better allocation of funds. She stated that perhaps the parents would then communicate to the City the need for ticket assistance and the City would increase overall budget of the PIC.

Further discussion included the possibility of proposing an additional cadet for Peaks coverage to ensure coverage every day of the week, and police availability for traffic vs. medical or emergency calls. Student passes were also discussed further, and Mitchell stated that making the island an affordable place to live for families is important to the sustainability of the island community. It was determined that further research and discussion would be needed on this topic.

Peñalver stated that requests from other community organizations are still coming in. She went on to say the PIC will be holding additional budget meetings, with the final vote to be held on Monday, 2/27.

Flynn proposed that the PIC Meeting start time change to 6:15 p.m. starting next month, to keep the schedule consistent rather than changing the start time when there may be guests from the City.

Anderson made the motion to change the meeting time to 6:15. Peñalver seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

Announcements/Updates:

PIC FY'18 Final Budget Workshop and Vote: Monday, 2/27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center

Public Comment:

AM asked if grant funding would be possible to pay for the facilitator.

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, March 22, 2017, 6:15 pm at the Community Center

Meeting Adjournment: 7:51 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

- Contact Island Institute regarding facilitator names and possible grant funding resources.
- Contact CBL to obtain names of staff responsible for shrink wrap alternative on freight carts for directing thanks and recognition.
- Gather two additional facilitator proposals for PIC retreat to be reviewed at March meeting.
- Promote and communicate the new monthly meeting start time of 6:15 p.m.