



Peaks Island Council
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

6:15 p.m., MacVane Community Center

Call to Order: 6:22 p.m.

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

Peñalver made the motion to approve the June 28th meeting minutes. Stankowicz seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Public Safety Report: (Officer Danny Rose) Parking citations are being issued when violations are witnessed, especially for the misuse of handicapped parking spots. No known citations have been issued for a child driving a golf cart. Officer Rose stated that golf carts have been stopped by the police due to suspicion of underage operation, but thus far all drivers stopped have been legal. There have been a few OUI incidents and medical calls. There have been recent calls where the caller does not know the address of the house they are calling from. Rental properties are encouraged to display the property address prominently such as on the refrigerator.

Further discussion included procedure for reports of underage drinking and vehicles left parking for over the 72 hour limit.

Officer Rose stated that the online fire permit system is working and available at http://wardensreport.com/p_townselect.php. He went on to say that there have been very few violations this year.

AM asked about dogs not being on leashes. Officer Rose stated there is a civil fine associated with a 'dog at large' summons and that the police force has been issuing them as appropriate.

Zoning Committee: (Sellers) Paper Roads update: The City Council Committee has completed their work on the paper roads within the Portland mainland area, making decisions on which to vacate, accept or continue. The Committee stated that they will be conducting their review of the paper roads on the islands next. *For clarification on paper road determinations:*

- *To Accept:* the paper road becomes recognized as a City Street and must be brought up to current City standards and maintained.
- *To Vacate:* The City relinquishes any rights to the paper street and ownership/rights are divided among the abutting property owners.
- *To Continue:* the paper street will continue as a paper street with no change in ownership or rights until further notice.

Sellers will be sending a request to Councilor Ray that the Peaks Island Zoning Committee members be included when City Committee members are conducting the review of the paper streets on Peaks.

Home Start recently hosted a meeting to discuss Affordable Housing. Approximately 12 people attended. Recommendations for changes on four zoning ordinances will be shared with PIC in order to vote on, possibly in time for the August meeting. The ordinances being reviewed

include: Lots of Record, Parking per household, Accessory Dwelling units, Converting Single Family to Multi-Unit Dwellings.

Safety Committee: (Peñalver) A public meeting will be held with Police Chief Sauschuck on August 14th to discuss public safety concerns with the community. Example topics include but are not limited to: fire permit enforcement, golf cart operations, traffic and congestion.

AM asked if information such as cadet job description, golf cart tickets and other incident and complaint numbers could be shared at this meeting. Peñalver stated that she would request that information from Chief Sauschuck.

AM asked if parking on the backshore would be an appropriate topic for the meeting with the Police Chief. Mitchell explained about the Backshore Committee and their efforts to preserve the backshore by hopefully working toward designating the entire area as conservation land. One of the topics this committee is discussing is the concern of people parking along the backshore. Further discussion included concerns regarding rock cairns and ferry beach. Mitchell encouraged everyone to report any concerns regarding public spaces through Fix it! Portland via a smart phone app. More information on the app is available here:

<http://www.portlandmaine.gov/1448/Fix-It-Portland>

AM expressed concern for the sewer treatment facility being overloaded and the odor in the summer months. Mitchell stated that this can also be reported via the Fix It! Portland app. Sellers added that concerns may also be reported directly to the Portland Water District (PWD). *As previously shared by Mike Murray:* The online form for reporting concerns regarding sewer odors is: <https://www.pwd.org/odor-monitoring-report> The time to report the odor is when it is first detected; waiting for a later time does not help PWD identify the origin.

Transportation Committee: (Stankowicz) Most recent developments regarding the expansion of island resident parking on the mainland:

- We have been made aware that the lot previously identified as the one used for police department overflow may in fact be available for other uses. If this is the case, we need to convince the City to designate it exclusively for island resident parking.
- Vacant land in the Eastern Waterfront that might be used for island resident parking is being devoured by development. At the July 6 meeting of the City Council Sustainability and Transportation Committee, we asked whether developers in the Eastern Waterfront are being required to provide street or structured parking for island residents. We did not get a response. We need to ask again.
- At the June 19th meeting of the City Council the island resident parking zone was extended to include the north side of Fore Street between Mountfort and Waterville Streets. We need a status report on the implementation of this expansion.
- At its June 19th meeting the City Council considered an amendment to extend island resident parking to both sides of Thames Street between India and Hancock Streets. This amendment was then referred to the Sustainability and Transportation Committee for consideration. When the Sustainability and Transportation Committee met on July 9th, no action was taken on this amendment. We need to express our support for this amendment as a short term measure in addressing island resident parking needs.
- Perhaps most importantly we need the support and participation of island residents in persuading the City of Portland not to ignore the importance of mainland parking for island residents in the rush to promote development.

Wednesday, August 16th Sustainability and Transportation Committee Meeting, 5:30PM, City Council Chambers will continue its study of long term mainland parking needs of island residents. Stankowicz stated that attendance of this meeting is important to demonstrate the importance of islander parking on the mainland. Mitchell added that those who cannot attend are encouraged to call or email Councilor Belinda Ray to share their ideas and concerns.

Further discussion included the one hour parking signs not yet being placed in designated areas within the resident parking areas as well as observance of construction vehicles being parked longer than allowed near the hotel construction. It was discussed that the City Sustainability and Transportation Committee seemed very focused on tourists and implementation of shuttles rather than resident parking.

Environmental Committee: (Mitchell)

PEAT, in cooperation with the Island Institute distributed LED light bulb to 35 families at the least expensive price possible.

More recycling bins next to public trash receptacles have been requested from Public Works. Another beach clean-up will be scheduled for some time in September. Further discussion included a children's camp group coming out to conduct a clean-up effort as well.

AM asked about alternatives for returnables since Hannigan's is no longer accepting them. Mitchell explained there is a container at the elementary school for residents to leave returnables.

Further discussion included Garbage to Garden possibly starting service on Peaks, but further information is needed.

Old Business:

Website: Stankowicz stated that a designer has been hired for the Peaks Island community website and the efforts have begun. Peñalver stated that voting for PIC funds allocation to the website effort is postponed until further details can be obtained.

Budget Review: Peñalver provided the summary of the FY'17 PIC Budget, asking for public comment and questions.

AM asked for clarification on the Taxi line item. Peñalver explained that the money allotted from PIC is not specifically designated to be used for maintenance or vehicle replacement, but rather given to the Island Transportation Services organization to use as they deem appropriate.

Councilor discussion included the PIC Budget planning process and timeline in order to include new members who will be elected in November.

Further discussion included a recap of status and placement for the dog park and skate park: dog park installation is expected to occur in September, along with several other Public Works projects; the Skateboard Park is still in the fundraising and planning phase.

Welch Street Fence Banner Advertising: Peñalver stated that Council members Jackson and Flynn are drafting a letter to send to business owners to address current concerns on this issue. Alternatives for business advertising were discussed including the bulletin boards and a physical

island directory. Community input was gathered recently, and the response was 50% in favor and 50% against.

New Business:

Administrative Funds Allocation: Peñalver explained that the Council would like to use an online survey tool to gather input from the community for efforts such as updating the island comprehensive plan and census. The estimated cost for this would be approximately \$60. Hard copy surveys would still be available for those who need them.

Further discussion included a collaborative approach to designing the survey questions, and that an island resident survey had been done once several years ago. Mitchell stated that the Island Institute could be a good resource adding that in 2016, the Island Institute did an extensive study of community indicators for Maine's coast and islands that includes valuable statistics. The study can be found under Waypoints on the Island Institute's website.

Peñalver made the motion to use up to \$100 of Administrative funds to purchase a Survey Monkey Account to be used for gathering PIC related community information. Stankowicz seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. Motion passed.

Open Public Comment:

AM asked if the meeting time would be included on the website, stating that the monthly calendar currently states meeting start time as 6:30 not 6:15. It was explained that the monthly calendar is out of date, as is the community website. In the website redesign, each participating organization will be able to have automatic calendar updates posted.

Further discussion included the waterfront concerts and it was mentioned that the 10 year lease was not renewed for the Maine State Pier.

AM asked about the Casco Bay Garage and the original islander percentage allotment and the status of community garage versus what seems to now be a commercial garage. Peñalver stated that this is something that needs further research. Further discussion included policy regarding sharing of vehicles and parking passes and those people being prohibited from the garage indefinitely. There was also discussion of Ocean Gateway garage policy and frequency of vehicle access.

AM stated she would like gas powered golf carts to be banned from use on the island.

Announcements:

- Island Liaison Mike Murray is planning to next attend the PIC meeting in August.
- Councilor Belinda Ray is planning to next attend the PIC meeting in September.
- Wednesday, August 16th Sustainability and Transportation Committee Meeting, 5:30PM, City Council Chambers will continue its study of long term mainland parking needs of island residents.

- The Peaks Island Council will have two open seats for the November 2017 election, both being three year terms. More information on dates and requirements is available [here](#).

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, August 23, 2017, 6:15 pm at the Community Center

Meeting Adjournment: 7:36p.m.