



**Peaks Island Council
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

6:15 p.m., MacVane Community Center

Call to Order: 6:23 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: 5

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

Finance Report: Murray stated there is \$7,080.26 remaining. Please see attached budget sheet for more details.

Committee Reports:

Island Advisory Committee: Sellers stated the Island Advisory Meeting is scheduled for April. Sellers stated she will be proposing island etiquette signage as well as discussing options for Hazardous Waste disposal, including possibly changing the date or having an additional day designated in order to allow for seasonal resident participation. Peñalver stated that there are budgetary considerations as well as coordination needed among all island communities since hazardous waste pick up day is the same for all of the islands. Murray stated he believes the cost for the truck specifically used for hazardous waste costs approximately \$10,000 with an additional cost for actual disposal. He went on to say that moving the date could be possible if all involved islands are in agreement.

Zoning Committee: Sellers stated she will be joining the HomeStart advisory committee and that the first meeting is scheduled for March 28th at 6:30 at the Faye Garman House. Sellers stated she will be attending the City Planning Board meeting on March 23rd which will be the last meeting welcoming public input on the City's Comprehensive Plan. Sellers stated her main focus is to request for more detail and structure in the neighborhood portion of the comprehensive plan, in order to better facilitate cohesion with the individual neighborhood plans. Sellers stated that feedback regarding the City Comprehensive Plan may be submitted via email to: portlandsplan@portlandmaine.gov.

Safety Committee: Peñalver stated the Safety Committee met with Police Chief Sauschuck and Mike Murray to discuss the upcoming busy tourist season and related concerns including Police Cadet funding and the suggestions of a second police car for weekends. She went on to say a second police vehicle would allow for both patrol and presence at the ferry landing to occur at boat times, with the ability of the officers to respond as a team when needed. Peñalver stated a public meeting will be scheduled with Chief Sauschuck this spring, details are yet to be determined.

Public discussion included updated requirements for placement of fires, as well as permit procedures. It was determined that fires held in an approved container at a private residence do

not require a permit. Mitchell stated she believes the [City website for fire permit applications](#) includes the detailed regulations. Further discussion included coverage by a second police officer rather than the fire emergency responder staff, backup procedures and response time.

AM stated she has often witnessed evidence of fires on the shore across from the end of Great Pond Road, stating that nearby homeowners have expressed concern.

AM stated she feels it is an unreasonable risk to the officers and the community to only have one police vehicle on the island. She went on to say she is in full support of two police officers on duty with two vehicles.

Sellers stated she observed the stop sign at the corner of Welch and Island is missing. Further discussion identified several stop signs missing around the island. Mitchell stated things of this nature can be reported through the [Fix It! Portland online form](#) or smartphone app.

Environmental Committee: Mitchell stated the second weatherization week successfully completed winterization work on five homes on Peaks. The weatherization week was sponsored by the Island Institute, Efficiency Maine and PEAT.

Mitchell stated the [2017 Island Energy Conference](#) by the Island Institute is coming up in April and will be held in South Portland. Mitchell stated information is shared from islands around the country and the conference includes a trip out to Monhegan to learn about their local energy initiatives.

Mitchell stated that for Earth Day, PEAT will be handing out bags and gloves at the library and down front on April 22 & 23 for trash and recyclables clean up. She went on to say the Tree Group will be promoting the [City Co-Op Tree Planting](#) program and that Jim at Lausier Gardens is helpful and knowledgeable in this program.

Mitchell stated the Backshore Committee is gathering information and reviewing options for signage regarding trash, leash rules, and the like.

AM asked if the backshore is considered a protected area. Mitchell explained that the backshore area consists of one section owned by the City and one owned by PILP. She went on to say the Backshore Committee has been working with Mike Murray and Ethan Hipple from the Parks Department in an effort to designate the backshore area as one parcel and possibly designate it as a conservation area. AM stated concern regarding the movement of shoreline rocks by visitors, stating that it changes the natural shoreline.

Parking Committee: Peñalver stated that mainland parking continues to be an area of great concern, stating that with continued construction and development in Portland, island street parking is diminishing with no talk of replacement or relocation. Further discussion included garage parking expense and waiting lists, possible available parcels and lots in Portland, and the original parking agreement.

Old Business:

FY'18 Reallocation: Murray advised against any changes to allocation categories for the FY'18 budget that was submitted.

Parking Circle Striping: Peñalver stated she will be meeting with Transportation Systems Engineer Jeremiah Bartlett on March 30th to discuss items not completed from the study conducted last year, including painting of the fire lane in the traffic circle.

Council Retreat: Peñalver stated that further research was completed to identify off-island facilitators for a Council Retreat. Anderson and Sellers shared highlights of information they had obtained from proposals they had obtained.

Public discussion included timing for Councilor term expiration, the cost of the various facilitators and postponing the retreat until after the 2017 election. Stankowicz stated he feels it is important to move forward with this effort now because the majority of the current Councilors are new. He went on to say that the retreat will serve as a good opportunity to review and document procedures for the PIC. The Councilors reviewed and clarified some of the details of the facilitator proposals.

Peñalver made the motion to engage the Island Institute to secure a facilitator for a half day training workshop. Jackson seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

New Business:

City Comprehensive Planning: Peñalver stated that she feels accurate census data would be a good start to the Peaks Comprehensive Planning process. Mitchell stated the Island Institute recently completed a comprehensive study of Island Community demographics called Waypoints. Peñalver went on to say there are many considerations including density, building regulations, and the like. Peñalver stated she has been in contact with Christine Grimando from the City for assistance with the questions used by the City.

AM stated she thought a study had been conducted previously, stating that perhaps that information could be used as a guide.

Further discussion included the possibility of hiring an island fellow, reviewing the previous study and managing the current process. It was determined that this topic would be tabled until further notice. Peñalver stated that she has created a blog site for [Peaks Island documents](#) including the Neighborhood Plan as well as a [Peaks Island Community Facebook page](#).

Announcements/Updates:

Sellers stated that CBIDA, PEAT and PIC will be collaborating on signage at the ferry landing. She stated that this is currently under review with the CBIDA Board, and went on to say that more details will be shared as they are available.

Sellers stated she has confirmed that the PIC is eligible to apply for a Peaks Island Fund grant, and that if awarded, the grant amount would not impact the PIC budget allotment. Further discussion included possible uses for funds, including an informational video and screen present at the CBL terminal. It was determined that this item will be added to the agenda for the April meeting.

Peñalver stated that a \$10,000 grant was issued for development of a Peaks Island website with events calendar, links to local businesses, and the like. She went on to say the website updates would be in development for approximately a year.

Sellers stated she will be drafting a questionnaire to send to previous PIC members in order to compose a history of the PIC and will bring it for review at the next meeting.

Public Comment:

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, April 26, 2017, 6:15 pm at the Community Center

Meeting Adjournment: 7:42 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

- Contact Island Institute to determine available dates for facilitator.
- Determine date for Public Meeting with Police Chief Sauschuck.