



**Peaks Island Council
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

6:30 p.m., MacVane Community Center

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Lisa Peñalver, Timmi Sellers, Mary Anne Mitchell, David Stankowicz, Stuart Jackson, Patrick Flynn, Island/Neighborhood Administrator Mike Murray, City Councilor Belinda Ray, City Councilor Pious Ali

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 10

Sellers made the motion to approve the December 14th meeting minutes, Stankowicz seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

Finance Report: Please see budget summary attachment.

Waterfront Productions Presentation: Jon Dow (Maine State Pier Concerts)

Dow stated he hopes his presence will start the dialog from islanders, and invited anyone to reach out to him with questions or concerns. The presentation that was shared and contact information for Jon Dow is available here: <http://bit.ly/2k25fRl>

Some highlights of the discussion are as follows:

- Concerns stated during discussion included: management of traffic, congestion, presence of loiterers, intoxication of attendees, and litter and noise level at the site, terminal and car ferry boarding area. Peñalver read a letter of complaint and concern that was submitted by an islander.
- Dow stated there is a proposal for redevelopment of the Maine State Pier and that more information will be available after a meeting scheduled for February. Councilor Ray stated the Economic Development Committee is working on this for 2017.
- Changes for the 2017 season as stated by Dow include: fewer concerts than 2016, larger capacity restroom facilities for concert attendees, roving staff in the Casco Bay parking garage, a reduction of maximum capacity
- Further discussion included possible use of the CBL conference room area as a reduced-noise waiting area, a tent or temporary wall to be used for noise reduction, limited use of sound system prior to concert time, training of event staff and the conflict of timing for 9:30 p.m. ferry boarding and concert end.
- Dow stated that noise level is monitored on site to ensure compliance with the City guidelines. He went on to say there were 38 complaints registered with the Portland Police in 2016, with most originating from the State Pier and East End neighborhood. He went on to say that Waterfront Productions is seeking to conduct further noise level monitoring, possibly on a continuous basis to establish a baseline for the State Pier and East End neighborhood.

- It was determined that calling the Portland Police at the time of concern is the best way to submit a complaint. See, Click, Fix! was determined to be better for submitting concerns related to construction noise.

Committee Reports:

Island Advisory Committee: Sellers stated the December meeting had been cancelled, and the next meeting is scheduled for March. Mitchell stated the Casco Bay Island Development Association will be creating a brochure on island visitor etiquette. She went on to say there is a meeting held at CBL on February 1st at 4:00 p.m. and added she thinks it would be helpful to attend in order to be consistent in verbiage proposed for island signage.

Zoning Committee: Sellers stated that she attended the Portland Neighborhood Association meeting which is held quarterly. She stated that the City Comprehensive Plan will be released to the public on January 28th allowing time for public comment before moving on to the City Council for approval. Sellers went on to say that many of the neighborhood representatives expressed need of further detail in creating a comprehensive plan for their respective neighborhoods. She went on to say that the City representatives may provide a template for neighborhoods to use. Sellers stated the Neighborhood Association group is scheduled to meet with Mayor Strimling on January 31st.

Sellers stated that Home Start will be having a community meeting on February 28th to discuss zoning changes that are being considered including short-term rental limits and occupancy terms. Mitchell stated she wished the meeting could be held when there are more residents on island to increase exposure and attendance. Sellers stated the meeting details will be published in the STAR.

Environmental Committee: Mitchell stated that the Tree Committee met recently with a forester and arborist who suggested the need for improved communication and education including the economic and environmental benefits of trees. Mitchell stated the committee will be meeting again to set goals and priorities for the group. She went on to say that efforts continue with Jeff Tarling to replant 8 street trees on the island, and also with Mike Murray to promote Memorial Trees as an alternative to Memorial Benches.

Mitchell stated that 8 homes were completed in Weatherization Week and there is an opportunity for a second week of work to take place. She went on to say that anyone who received assistance from Peaks Island Energy Assistance is eligible to participate at a reduced rate of \$50. She stated the application form are available on Nextdoor, Carol's List and the Community Center bulletin board. Mitchell stated the deadline for applications is February 10th.

Mitchell stated she wanted to recognize Public Works and Marty for the assistance in recent cleanup of Styrofoam and plastic on the beach. She stated that PEAT posted thanks on their website and Facebook page and wanted to reiterate appreciation for their efforts.

Old Business:

Officer Elections: *According to the guidelines for PIC, Officer Nominations can only be made by PIC members.*

President: Peñalver stated she has been presiding President and would like to continue, but is also open to anyone else who wishes to have the position.

Sellers made the motion to nominate Lisa Peñalver as Peaks Island Council President, Mitchell seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

Vice-President: Sellers stated she would be happy to continue as Vice-President, and went on to say that she would welcome someone new to the position if there is anyone interested.

Peñalver made the motion to nominate Timmi Sellers as Peaks Island Council Vice-President, Stankowicz seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

Council Seat Vacancy: Steve Anderson expressed interest in joining the PIC. He stated that he has lived on the island with his family since 2012, and his family has a long history with the Casco Bay islands. He went on to say that he is invested in making the island sustainable and enjoyable for both year-round residents and summer residents and visitors.

Stankowicz made the motion to appoint Steve Anderson to fill the Council Seat for a one year appointment. Sellers seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

New Business:

FY '18 Budget: Flynn stated that Mayor Strimling had agreed to research the decrease of the PIC budget to \$40,000 from the original amount of \$50,000. Peñalver stated that in locating the document related to the original parking plan for island residents, it also stated the budget amount to be \$50,000 plus and Administrative Fund in the amount of \$5,000. Murray stated that the PIC Budget allocation is determined and approved on an annual basis only, and therefore is subject to change from year to year. Murray stated that the original allocation for the year the PIC was created was shared with Cliff and Great Diamond. He stated the amount then decreased to \$35,000 and stayed at that amount for a couple of years until moving to \$40,000 including administrative costs. Murray stated that Cliff and Great Diamond now receive money separate from the PIC allocation.

Peñalver stated that there are a number of items in the Capital Improvements Plan including funding for the dog park, and stated that she would like to consider a vote for a toilet or privy on the backshore. Mitchell stated that there is a committee comprised of representation from PILP, PEAT and PIC already focused on comprehensive use of the backshore. Mitchell stated the committee is expecting to meet with City representatives and that this could be part of that discussion as well as parking, events and other considerations.

Sellers stated that public restroom facilities are of concern especially with the upcoming closure of the Community Center for library renovations. Further discussion focused on the public restroom facilities down front including making the facilities accessible year round and possibly adding a second restroom. Councilor Ray stated the letter of recommendation should be submitted to the City Manager and the Finance Committee.

Sellers made the motion to recommend improvement and possible expansion of the public restroom facilities down front. Stankowicz seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

Council Retreat: Stankowicz stated that with 4 new Councilors he feels that a PIC retreat would be beneficial. He stated the concept is to have a facilitator work with the members of the council on establishing protocols for meetings and communication and to foster teamwork within the group. It was determined in a previous meeting that the 'retreat' gathering would be open to the

public, but for observation only; public comment and participation would not be included. Further discussion included leads on facilitators who have volunteered or been suggested and the need to explore options and associated costs.

AM stated she is ASQ certified and offered to facilitate the session at no cost.

AM stated CBL has had two off-site sessions that have proven to be highly effective, adding that he would provide the contact name of the facilitator.

It was determined that this topic would be tabled until the February meeting, allowing for further research of facilitator options and associated costs.

Announcements/Updates:

Upcoming: Meeting on Island Community Comprehensive Planning will happen again with the City possibly in March and the Ad Hoc Planning Committee will re-convene before that time. Details are yet to be determined and will be published online as they are available.

Public Comment:

AM stated his support for the PIC Officers but stated he feels that term limits should be considered for PIC organizational health. He went on to ask the PIC to consider making the STAR available online, and/or possibly placing copies at the Peaks Café. Sellers stated that although PIC is not responsible for STAR, his suggestions would be conveyed to the library staff.

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, February 22nd, 2017, 6:30 pm at the Community Center

Meeting Adjournment: 8:11 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

- Community Planning Template sought from the City (Belinda Ray?), to use in determining island community needs
- FEB 28: HomeStart meeting to discuss Zoning affecting short-term rentals on the island
- PIC Budget Workshops in Feb & March, public may attend (observation only)
- Relay requests re: STAR distribution: available online, at Peaks Café
- Tabled to Feb Meeting: PIC Retreat Date/Format to allow for review of facilitator options and associated costs