



Peaks Island Council Meeting

AGENDA

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

Location of Meeting

Next Regular Monthly PIC Meeting - DATE

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of March 28, 2019 Minutes

TREASURER'S REPORT

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Filling of vacancy on Peaks Island Council – expected vote – to approve candidate to fill current vacancy on PIC on temporary basis until November election
- b. Recognition of Patrick Flynn for his service as a member of the Peaks Island Council
- c. New Ferry – Update
Expected vote – support for limited size boat and reservation system
- d. Expected vote – support for public review of CBITD fulfillment of 4 conditions approved by CBITD at March 28th meeting prior to CBITD vote on capacity guidelines
- e. Pre-K Program at Peaks Island Elementary School – Update – no vote expected
- f. Golf Cart Recommendations – Update on consideration by City Manager and City Council – no vote anticipated
- g. Mainland Parking – Update and possible vote on letter to City Council regarding the need for island resident parking on the mainland
- h. Bike Removal – Update – no vote anticipated



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NEW BUSINESS

- a. Social and Environmental Impact Study – Presentation and discussion of how study may be used to enable Peaks community to deal with over-tourism.

PUBLIC COMMENT

3 minutes per speaker

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

ADJOURNMENT



Peaks Island Council
MEETING MINUTES - Revised

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

6:15 p.m., Peaks Island Community Room

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting – April 24, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: 6:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Randy Schaeffer, Steve Anderson, Stuart Jackson, Lisa Peñalver

Absent: Devon Kraft, Andrea Kelly-Rosenberg

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 12

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Peñalver made the motion to approve the February 27th meeting minutes. Anderson seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Schaeffer reported that the financial report was accurate as of March 19, 2019 but there were additional bike tickets that were purchased more recently so they are not reflected in the report. Expenditure report accepted by all councilors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

No committee reports.

OLD BUSINESS

New Ferry: Report of preliminary results of PIC survey regarding new ferry capacity

Anderson reviewed results of PIC survey regarding new ferry capacity.

- 400 surveys received.

Infrastructure

- 79% of respondents were concerned about infrastructure on Peaks.
- 74% of respondents were concerned about infrastructure in Portland.
- Results were consistent between seasonal and year-round populations.

Passenger capacity:

- Respondents in favor of maintaining same passenger capacity outnumbered respondents in favor of a larger passenger capacity, by more than two-to-one.
- Results were consistent between various populations – seasonal versus year-round, daily passengers versus infrequent passengers.

Vehicle capacity:

- Seasonal residents favor a higher capacity for vehicles. This opposite from year round residents who slightly favor keeping the vehicle capacity the same

Year-round vs seasonal:

- Year-round residents wanted no increase in vehicle capacity, a slight increase in passenger capacity.
- Seasonal residents wanted more vehicle capacity, no increase in passenger capacity.

Overall:

- There is more support for increased vehicle capacity(44%) vs increased passenger capacity (30%).

Other:

- Results for other survey items like seating preferences, layout, accessories will be provided to CBL as we go further down the design process.

Anderson thanked the community for filling out the survey. He stated that the survey has been sent to Portland City Council, CBL Board, Portland City Manager, posted on island list serves.

Schaeffer thanked members of the survey committee – Lisa Peñalver, Steve Anderson, Jody Holliday, Jean Hoffman, Caron Chess.

Jackson pointed out that 400 responses does not represent all islanders.

Anderson pointed out that a valid sample size for 1000 year-round residents (with 95% confidence level, and +/- 5% error) would be 279, and the survey had 276 year-round residents respond. So this is a statistically valid sample, and the survey responses are statistically representative of the entire year-round island population.

New Ferry – Anticipated vote: recommendations aligned with results of PIC community survey regarding new ferry

Schaeffer asked for council discussion about further action to be taken with the survey data.

Anderson said the Peaks Island Council could endorse the survey to recognize that the survey is a voice of the community.

Schaeffer stated that the survey has been aired and there nothing more left to be done.

Peñalver suggested postponing any recommendations for further action until after the CBL Board meeting vote on boat capacity.

New Ferry – Anticipated vote regarding “Save Peaks” group petition

Schaeffer referred to a document with text of the “Save Peaks” petition. The crux of the petition is to ask CBL Board to delay the decision on builder contracts and vessel capacity for 18 months to allow information gathering.

Peñalver stated that the basis of the petition is to address the quick speed with which CBL is moving towards a 599 passenger ferry, without any input from islanders, and without any data or analysis that determines the costs of running a larger vessel. Peñalver stated that islanders

need a voice in the process and that more time needs to be taken to look into all the issues associated with a larger capacity vessel.

Schaeffer stated that the petition is a result of the public meeting on vessel capacity that took place on March 23rd where islanders asked about the basis of the decision to design a new vessel with a capacity of 599.

Peñalver reports that she has 260 signatures and she will continue to collect signatures.

Golf Cart Recommendations: (Anderson) Update on PIC recommendations submitted to City Council

The City of Transportation Committee is reviewing, not on any agendas yet. Anderson says staff is currently focused on licensing golf cart businesses on Peaks Island. Council will see a draft before it goes to the Portland City Council, so the PIC will get some input to the policy.

Schaeffer asked Anderson if the staff has developed any other measures besides the licensing. Anderson reported that there are not any other measures at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Discontinuation of Pre-K program at Peaks Island School – possible vote regarding encouraging public participation in effort to restore program

Schaeffer stated that the superintendent has since restored the budget item that allows the hiring of an Ed Tech, so that Pre-K on Peaks Island School can be reinstated.

Schaeffer commended Devon Kraft for her leadership on the issue and referred to her written summary of the issue and her list of relevant meetings that are coming up in April.

Schaeffer reported that Kraft suggested three steps that PIC could do:

- 1) Endorse Pre-K program remaining on the island and maintenance of the island education by writing to the Portland City Council
- 2) Work to create and maintain a website that supports the Peaks Island Elementary School
- 3) Encourage other islanders to write to the Portland City Council and School Board in support of the Peaks Island Elementary School

Schaeffer motioned that the Peaks Island Council undertake a campaign to inform the Portland Board of Education and the Portland City Council of the importance of Pre-K education here on the island to our efforts in attracting your families and ensuring the viability of the island community by adopting the three steps above. Peñalver seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

Audience discussion:

AM: I wrote a letter today saying if Portland has Pre-K, we're part of Portland.

Councilor discussion:

Anderson asked about the logistics of creating and maintaining a website.

Schaeffer suggested that the existing Peaks Island website may work, stating that the content on the website could be used to attract young families.

PIC vacancy – anticipated vote: motion regarding steps to be taken if position is to be filled before next election or remain vacant until next election.

Schaeffer stated that Patrick Flynn submitted resignation effective March 1st and that the Council can elect to fill the position or leave it open until the next scheduled election in November 2019.

Schaeffer asked about process in the event there were multiple people interested. Schaeffer reported that Mike Murray said in the case of multiple candidates the Peaks Council would pick the person.

Peñalver motioned to fill the position until November 2019 by appointment by the Peaks Island Council; soliciting candidates by posting the position and inviting members of the community to send in a letter of interest. Candidates will be selected according to procedures outlined by the City. Schaeffer seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

Audience discussion

AM: How long is a term usually?

Schaeffer: Three years.

AM: If one were interested in a short-term commitment, how does one learn about the responsibilities?

Peñalver: You could just call one of us to ask.

No councilor discussion.

Peaks Island vision statement – discussion and possible vote regarding having PIC undertake effort, with broad community participation, to craft a vision statement regarding future of our community

Peñalver stated that the community should have a discussion about the future vision of what Peaks Island looks like to guide future community decisions. She suggested using PINA vision as a starting point.

Peñalver motioned to set up a committee to begin to craft a Peaks Island Community vision statement with community input. Peñalver asked for a second. No second.

Councilor discussion:

Jackson stated that PINA was a divisive group that drove the succession movement and that drafting a vision statement will divide the community.

Anderson stated that developing a vision statement is not of the Peaks Island Council's scope. Anderson stated that if the City goes through a visioning process, Peaks Island could tag onto that.

Social / Environmental assessment – discussion and possible vote to have PIC conduct, with broad community participation, such an assessment as pertains to the sustainability of our community.

Peñalver stated that a social/environmental assessment is driven by the impact of tourists on the island. She stated that the same problems are happening at tourist destinations around the world and researchers can correlate social, environmental and economic impacts to the numbers of tourists. Peñalver stated that a study is important now, as a baseline on the verge of future growth in tourism. Peñalver stated that the cost of a comprehensive study would be \$50K. Peñalver stated that she has already co-written a grant for a safety study around the landing with the Island Institute. She stated that there is no commitment from the Peaks Island Council in that safety study.

Schaeffer asked Peñalver if she has heard anything from Belinda Ray regarding a study that she wants to initiate.

Peñalver stated she doesn't know whether the city is already engaging researchers.

Anderson stated that it is best to wait to see what the city is going to do. Anderson stated that it is not the role of the Peaks Island Council to conduct assessments. The city should engage a neutral third party to do an assessment and the PIC should only support that effort.

Schaeffer asked Anderson to get more information about the City's efforts on an assessment, and asked Peñalver to invite Rachel Bouvier (consultant) to attend the April meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

AM. Is the grant for the boat in jeopardy, time-wise?

Peñalver: The grant is good for six years from the end of the fiscal year it was granted. It was granted in 2016. So it would have to be done by end of fiscal year 2022, September 30th 2022.

AM. What PIC committees are active at this time?

Schaeffer: Transportation committee, safety committee, environmental committee.

AM (who is also a CBL Board member) clarified that CBL Board has not discussed or made a decision regarding the capacity issue for the new vessel. Only the New Vessel Advisory Committee has had discussions regarding the new vessel capacity issue.

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, April 24, 2018, 6:15 pm at the Community Room

Meeting Adjournment: 7:32 p.m.

Motion to recommend ...based on the Survey of Islanders regarding the new Ferry:

Given the challenges that the island currently faces with inadequate support and sanitation systems for the many summer visitors who come out to the island, the **Peaks Island Council recommends:**

- 1) **That the City actively and immediately partner with the CBITD** to jointly address the overcrowding issues caused by increased tourist demand, and implement policies which could responsibly manage the flow of traffic to Peaks island. This would include a joint examination of the appropriate size for the replacement ferry, and infrastructure improvements—especially increasing the numbers of toilets for the coming tourist season.
- 2) **That CBITD explore less-costly alternatives** to building a much larger vessel to address the summer overcrowding problems. The proposed 600 passenger vessel foreseeably will increase traffic to the island (decades worth of historic data on increased capacity supports this conclusion). Furthermore, the higher costs of operating and maintaining a larger vessel in the off-season appear to be a wasteful tradeoff for meeting 2-months-worth of potentially high demand, exposing islander transportation to increased risk in the event of economic downturn.

Alternative strategies suggested by islanders in the PIC survey results and at the Public meeting with CBITD of March 23, 2019 include:

a) building a more modest-sized ferry, comparable, /slightly larger in size than the current Machigonne, to qualify as a **Subchapter K vessel**, consistent with the rest of the vessels in the CBITD fleet. This size would completely accommodate the number of passengers who had left behind on the few occasions when the current vessel was over-capacity, *[the proposed 600 vessel is in a completely different category: Subchapter H, and would be significantly more costly to operate and maintain. See input from Naval architect John Boylston.]*

b) implementing a reservations system with priority boarding for residents. This could begin immediately to alleviate the Portland overcrowding before the new vessel is completed

**Peaks Island Council
Motion
April 24, 2019**

It is moved that the Peaks Island Council adopt the following resolution:

At its meeting on March 28, 2019, the Board of Directors of the Casco Bay Island Transportation District (CBITD) voted to delay a vote on the capacity guidelines that would further determine the design of the new vessel that would replace the Machigonne II.

Included in the motion to postpone were four conditions that were to be fulfilled prior to the rescheduled capacity guideline vote at the Board's May 23, 2019 meeting. Those conditions included:

- That CBITD would conduct a financial stress test of projected revenues and expenses under a variety to scenarios;
- That CBITD directors would review the recently made available report from KPFF;
- That CBITD would consider and assess various strategies for loading, ticketing, and pricing that could be used to manage demand especially during peak demand seasons; and
- That the City of Portland institute infrastructure improvements that address health, safety, and congestion concerns of the Peaks Island community.

The Peaks Island Council calls upon the Casco Bay Island Board of Directors to make the results of its studies conducted in response to its approved motion, available for public review prior to proceeding with its vote on the capacity guidelines for the new vessel.

The Peaks Island Council also calls upon the City of Portland to undertake infrastructure improvements on Peaks Island, especially Down Front, that address community concerns regarding health, safety, and congestion.