



Peaks Island Council Monthly Meeting **Wednesday, July 27th, 2022, 6:15pm on Zoom**

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting - August 24, 2022

August PIC meeting will be a ZOOM meeting

CALL TO ORDER: 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Peter Eckel (chair), Peter McLaughlin (secretary), Jerzy Sylvester, Fred Somers, SE Rafferty (vice chair), Natasha Markov-Riss, Scott Mohler

Absent: SE Rafferty (vice chair)

Members of the public - 7

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Eckel made the motion to accept the June 22, 2022 meeting minutes. Mohler seconded. Motion to accept minutes passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eckel said Peaks Island Land Preserve contacted him about a campfire that was not properly extinguished and nearly spread into a wildfire. PILP is going to work on increasing fire prevention and fire preparedness on their property and will work with PIC on this issue.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Patnaude said the only expense in the new fiscal year is the money spent on Needs Based Tickets - \$234.85. The total PIC budget request of \$42,670.00 was approved by City Council.

Somers made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mohler seconded. Motion to accept Treasurer's Report passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

- Parking - Thames St extension IR zone expansion
Acceptance of Thames Street will be done at the August meeting of the City Council, and then the eight additional IR Zone spaces will be marked as Island Residential Zone parking.
- Golf Cart - no updates
- Ferry Service -

Eckel and Somers met with Hank Berg, Nick Mavadonis and Paul Pottle and City Planning Staff, to discuss crowd and traffic management at the Peaks Island dock. They discussed signage, the webcam so people could see the car ferry line from home, and using Plante's barge to take cars off the island with a guaranteed reservation and payment directly to Plante's.

The near term solution will be paper signs and sandwich boards to direct traffic and people boarding the ferry.

One issue with Plante's barge, they would need to meet maritime regulations, and there is no way to make the reservations.

CBL is tremendously understaffed and cannot do more than they are doing.

Eckel said a cadet or CBL employee that could help direct traffic would be a good thing but probably not available until next summer.

Somers said the city is working on signage for ferry departure times. City has also met with the webcam vendor and they are awaiting a revised quote. That could happen this calendar year depending on the quote. The city has submitted the landside study projects to the Regional Transportation Planning Authority of Maine — additional restrooms, Welch Street renovation, side boarding of ferry - \$9 million worth of projects. The priorities will be developed in the next few months.

New \$26 million ferry is under contract with a company in Rhode Island. Delivery is 18-24 months.

Another residential boarding shelter has been ordered.

Additional update via email from Bruce Hyman, City of Portland Transportation Program Manager, to Fred Somers:

Hi Fred - the only update since our meeting with CBL and you/PIC reps:

Planning staff are coordinating the creation of static signs for posting ferry departure time/information on Peaks Island as a short-term measure. Staff has requested graphics from CBL. Once graphics are received, staff will work on fabrication through DPW.

As I mentioned during our meeting:

*we received a quite high quote from a vendor for the webcam(s) that needs to be tweaked to bring the cost down - I have not received the revised quote yet
the City submitted the side loading and passenger queuing platform for consideration for inclusion in the regional long range transportation plan as a regional priority - inclusion in the plan doesn't guarantee funding but would make it eligible for some pots of federal funding - it will be several months before the regional priorities are developed
the real-time display for Peaks Island was part of a regional funding application for America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds earlier this year - it was selected for funding but the funding has not yet been approved/allocated.*

I hope you have a great meeting.

Bruce

- Anti-Racism - No update.
- Environmental & Sustainability -

Mohler said Friends of Trott Littlejohn Park is cooperating with the Council to develop a community survey.

- Housing -

Natasha said the Housing Committee met July 14, 2022 and came to the conclusion that the most pressing question is how to make an impact on the Rezoning Project. The committee decided to focus on reading and understanding Mark Ireman's suggestions about affordable housing on Peaks Island (he was hired by HomeStart several years ago).

- Jetport Flight Path –

Basil Klosteridis, chair, said efforts with the communities surrounding the jetport continue. Efforts include:

- 1) Jetport Flight Path committee is working to get the flights over water, rather than over Peaks Island.
- 2) The Jetport Flight Path committee started a petition on NextDoor that will also be placed on Peaks Island Council website and distributed via email to people who subscribe to PIC updates. Klosteridis said the city, who owns the jetport, will really only respond to community outcry. So it is important for everyone to complain about flightpath noise over the island and to sign the petition.
- 3) Work with the Noise Advisory Committee to engage a Subject Matter Expert for their input, funded by the Jetport. The SME would come up with alternative proposals for flightpaths that would be agreeable to the FAA and the surrounding communities.
- 4) The next Noise Advisory Committee is in September, and potential votes could increase the impact of flight paths over the island.

- Voter Education Committee - No update.
- Executive Committee - Charter Commission report, upcoming elections & open seats

McLaughlin said the Charter Commission included PIC's recommendation to codify the PIC as a necessary and permanent part of the city government. This charter revision will be voted on as ballot question #6.

Sylvester asked if the charter revision questions will be voted on individually or as a group. McLaughlin said they would be voted on individually.

Eckel said that the appointed seats are expiring after a year, which makes four seats on the PIC coming up for reelection at the same time. Eckel said he'd like to have an ordinance that allows PIC to appoint people for open seats for 1-, 2-, or 3-year terms so that the expirations of those terms would be staggered.

McLaughlin referred to the ordinance that created PIC. The ordinance does not say the appointed councilors can only serve a one-year term. Sylvester said that perhaps the city defines "interim" as "one year" in some other ordinance.

Eckel will have a conversation with the City Clerk to see if the clerk will allow PIC to appoint people for other term lengths than one year.

McLaughlin said that if the City Clerk will not allow appointed term lengths of varying times, then PIC should pursue an ordinance to change it.

Eckel said he will be setting up meetings with Anna and City Manager staff. If PIC members would like to be part of those meetings or have items that should be discussed, be in touch with Eckel.

NEW BUSINESS

- Discussion about ordinance change to allow for staggered terms for PIC - *public comment*

McLaughlin made a motion to postpone this item until we hear back from clerk. Mohler seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- Discussion regarding returning to in-person meetings - *public comment*

Mohler said that he and McLaughlin went to the community room to investigate the technical feasibility of hybrid meetings - in-person combined with a remote option. There is no set up to do it, but it can be done on some level. McLaughlin said that purchase of the technology to do a “real” hybrid meeting would be between \$150-\$200 – need to get special microphones. That would allow audio, but not video participation. But one councilor with zoom on their laptop and a special microphone could provide a portal for a remote person to participate.

McLaughlin said that Diane Riciotti is out on medical leave and won't be available to open the community room for in-person meetings, and there is no guarantee that someone else from Portland Parks and Rec will come out to the island to do it. She suggested aiming for September, not August.

Eckel recommended moving forward with obtaining the technology to make hybrid meetings possible.

Mohler asked if there was any rule against some councilors being remote and some councilors being in-person. Patnaude said there is nothing prohibiting having some councilors attending remotely.

Eckel made a motion that PIC spend up to \$250 for A/V equipment to allow remote participation in PIC meetings. McLaughlin seconded.

No councilor discussion. No public discussion.

Motion passed unanimously.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT (*any topic, 3 minutes per speaker*)

Chris Hoppin asked if anyone knows anyone with a connection to an assisted living facility who would like to have a branch out on Peaks Island, please contact him choppin@aol.com.

AM said that the root cause of the fires is that teenagers have nothing to do on Peaks Island and end up hanging out around campfires and drinking. Chebeague has a teen center with a couch, pool table, TV, music and a staff person who monitors it. Perhaps PIC could pursue this here on Peaks Island. This might be a solution to address fires left burning or other mischief.

ADJOURNMENT

Somers made a motion to adjourn. Jerzy seconded. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjournment: 7:28 p.m.