



Peaks Island Council MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022, 6:15 p.m.

Hybrid ZOOM/in person meeting in the Community Center

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting—January 25, 2023

January PIC meeting will be held in the Community Room/with a zoom option also available

CALL TO ORDER: 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Peter Eckel, Fred Somers, Peter McLaughlin, Jerzy Sylvester, SE Rafferty, Scott Mohler, Natasha Markov-Riss

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 8

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Somers made the motion to accept the December 16, 2022 meeting minutes. Mohler seconded. Motion to accept minutes passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Patnaude said that the current balance is \$6,468.64. The budget document shows a donation of \$1,000 from Hurricane Island Outward Bound School to the Peaks Island Council, making the current balance \$7,468.64.

Somers made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Mohler seconded. Treasurer's report approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

- **Parking**

Parking shuttle update – the city says it is a great idea, but there is no funding for it, but it remains something to consider in the future.

- **Golf Cart**

No update.

- **Ferry Service**

Somers said that CBL operations committee continues to examine electronic ticketing.

At the last meeting the issue of drug use in the restrooms and homeless people using the restrooms was brought up. There have been incidents that concern parents worried about their school kids waiting for the boat home at the end of the school day. The CBL board is considering using a private security service to address that.

- **Anti-racism Committee – update**

No update.

- **Environmental and Sustainability**

No update.

- **Housing – ReCode Zoning survey**

Markov-Riss said that she is leaving the country for three months. Laura Glendennig is going to take over leadership of the committee while Markov-Riss is gone. The committee has also reached out to Nel Donaldson (City of Portland, Planning and Urban Development) to ask for an update about the survey.

- **Jetport Noise**

Basil said the fourth and final Noise Advisory Committee meeting of 2022 was centered around a subject matter expert hired by the Jetport to look at arrival and departure flight paths to mitigate the impact on surrounding communities. The subject matter expert will meet with representatives of surrounding communities. Klosteridis believes the subject matter expert will discover that flight paths were moved over the islands without proper due diligence. The Peaks Island representatives working with the subject matter expert are Jenn Lavanture and Vicki Flannigan.

Somers asked when the meetings with the subject matter expert would be. Klosteridis said they are aiming for the first quarter of 2023.

Eckel asked if the meetings would be open to the public. Klosteridis said that is yet to be determined.

- **Voter Education Committee**

No update.

- **Executive Committee**

Peter McLaughlin reported that in discussions with the city, it was determined that PIC terms start in January. Councilors who are terming out will be considered councilors until the date of the January PIC meeting.

At the January inaugural meeting:

- PIC will appoint officers
- The committee structure will be reviewed (PIC bylaws require review every year)
- Budget process begins

The fiscal year 2024 budget process will begin at the January meeting, with the PIC budget voted on at the February meeting. So the proposals will need to be submitted and reviewed before the February meeting.

Patnaude said the PIC budget may not be required until April. McLaughlin said that would be a better timeline with all the other work that has to be done at the January meeting. Patnaude said he would check on the date and get back.

McLaughlin said that close reading of the ordinance that creates the PIC reveals that it does not actually outline how the PIC functions. There are also sections that are vague and some sections that are contradictory. McLaughlin believes that a committee should be formed to review and propose changes to the ordinance before approaching the city.

NEW BUSINESS

- Nominating Committee recommendations for open PIC seats - *public comment*

The Nominating Committee interviewed five candidates for the open PIC seats. The committee selected Jess Burton, Natasha Markov-Riss, and Rhonda Berg to fill the open seats.

McLaughlin made a motion to appoint Rhonda Berg, Jessica Burton, Natasha Markov-Riss to for 1-year seats on the Peaks Island Council. Eckel seconded the motion.

No public comment. ***(Markov-Riss abstained). Motion passed unanimously.***

- 2023 meeting schedule - *public comment*

As required by the ordinance that created the Peaks Island Council in 2007, the PIC will meet monthly in 2023. Meetings will be held on 4th Wednesdays, except for November and December's meetings, which will be held on the 3rd Wednesday. All meetings are at 6:15pm.

- January 25th
- February 22nd
- March 22nd
- April 26th
- May 24th
- June 28th
- July 26th
- August 23rd
- September 27th
- October 25th
- November 15th
- December 20th

Somers made a motion to accept the proposed schedule of meetings. Eckel seconded.

No public comment. ***Motion passed unanimously***

OLD BUSINESS

- Review of Peaks Island demographic data

- CBL passenger counts are projected to increase 1.38% per year for the next 26 years. In 2048, CBL's goal for annual passenger count is nearly 1.2 million people.
 - School enrollment has dropped from 50 to 45 (10% decrease). City enrollment increased by 1% in same time.
 - Population on Peaks median age is about 60 compared to a median age of about 37 in Portland.
 - Number of houses is 982 and number of households is 406.
 - Over half the homes on Peaks are not occupied year round.
 - Short Term Rentals – about 81 on the island in 2022.
- Update from City Planning staff on Ferry Landside Operations Study - public comment

Bruce Hyman from Portland reported on progress made on Peaks Island Ferry Landside study recommendations. Study done August 2019.

- Webcams

Webcams at top of Welch street to observe passenger queueing and vehicle queueing on Welch Street and Island Avenue. Currently pursuing funding. Hope to install spring 2023.

- Real time ferry information displays

Part of a regional project for real time displays throughout the region. Have met with Maine DOT who is cooperating in allowing displays to be mounted to their structures. Will tie into the regional busses. The real time GPS systems on the busses has been expensive and difficult to maintain.

- Relocating passenger queueing and adding south side loading/Welch Street reconstruction

Looking at elevated platforms to expand passenger queueing to south side of pier. Hyman is coordinating with CBL for a feasibility study. This project has been included in the regional transportation plan which makes this project eligible for future federal funding.

Somers asked about the recent \$338K dedicated to real time display project. Hyman confirmed that the funding was obtained.

Somers asked about costs of webcam project. Hyman stated that the capital cost for one webcam would be \$7,000-\$8,000. It would rise to \$7-12,000 for two webcams. \$3,000/year for cellular data.

Eckel asked how PIC can help move the projects forward. Hyman said he is going to spend the next 6-8 months looking for funding sources. PIC could help keep the projects top of mind with city staff by continuing to prioritize them in conversations with the city.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 6:15 pm in the community room and on Zoom.

Somers made motion to adjourn. Rafferty seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjournment: 7:26 p.m.