



Peaks Island Council MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023, 6:15 p.m.

Hybrid ZOOM/in-person meeting in the Community Center

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting–February 22, 2023

February 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, Scott Mohler, Rhonda Berg and Jess Burton

Absent: Natasha Markov-Riss, SE Rafferty

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 8

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mohler made the motion to accept the December 21, 2022 meeting minutes. Somers seconded. Motion to accept minutes passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Patnaude said that the current balance is \$7,268.64 as of January 18, 2023.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

• Parking

No update.

• Golf Cart

No update.

• Ferry Service

- Somers provided an update about the situation relative to drug use in the bathrooms and homeless people in the waiting room. The concern is that this behavior is happening while school children are waiting for their ferries home from school. CBL has had a meetings with the city, the police department, social services, fire department. Police will provide additional attention to the CBL terminal during regular rounds and CBL will hire private security to have a presence in the ferry terminal.

- The Machigonne is going into dry dock last week of February and Plantes will provide car ferry service during the 6-8 weeks that the car ferry is offline. Passenger service will operate on the regular sailing schedule.
- The new pier project in town (for the new ferry) will wrap up in June.
- New boat – The keel for the new boat was laid on January 16th. Placed the order for the new charging station for the new ferry – there is a one-year lead time on that. The state DOT will be wrapping the pilings on Peaks Island, that work will be completed by summer and is not expected to interfere with any service.

- **Anti-racism Committee – update**

No update.

- **Environmental and Sustainability**

No update.

- **Housing – ReCode Zoning survey**

McLaughlin presented an update for the committee. There will be a community meeting to discuss new zoning on the island, look at the re-code process, and present the findings of the City's zoning survey. It will be held Saturday, March 4th at 10am at the New Brackett Church.

- **Jetport Noise**

No update.

- **Voter Education Committee**

No update.

- **Communication and outreach committee**

McLaughlin presented an overview of the communication activities in 2022.

- Created independent Zoom account
- Created public document archive (Google Drive) that has PIC documents since 2017
- Created city email accounts for all PIC members
- Transitioned to MailChimp from Constant Contact (which was more expensive)
- Sent out 27 PIC updates via email, some of which also went out on NextDoor, Peaks Island Community Facebook page, Carol's list, STAR
- Distributed hard copies of voter guides at library and CBL

To work on in 2023

- Create an official PIC NextDoor account
- Improve the detail of emails to include meeting summaries, committee updates, committee meeting announcements
- Expand physical and print notices at the library and in the display case down front
- Reach out to community organizations and invite them to attend PIC meetings when agenda items impact them

- Request that the City communications staff include PIC updates more frequently in city communications.

- **Executive Committee**

Updates from Peter McLaughlin:

- The community can participate in a survey that the City is conducting to get public input on criteria for the City Manager candidate search. The survey closes on Friday, February 3rd.
- There is an Island Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday February 15th at City Hall from 3-5pm.
- PIC needs to clarify/update the City ordinance that created PIC, perhaps via an ad hoc committee.

Sylvester asked about sending a PIC representative to City Council meetings. Eckel said he didn't recall someone going every month, but PIC councilors attended when issues about Peaks Island were on the agenda. Since Bill Patnaude attends the PIC meetings as the City's liaison to the islands, and since PIC now has quarterly meetings with the City Manager and the District 1 City Councilor, sending a PIC councilor to every city council meeting is not deemed necessary.

McLaughlin asked Bill Patnaude which lot on Peaks Island is the "parking ban lot" – the Welch Street lot or the St. Christopher Church parking lot. The City website says that the parking ban lot is the Welch Street lot. Patnaude said both lots are used.

As Eckel left the council, he thanked the other councilors for their hard work and for being a pleasure to work with, he thanked Bill Patnaude for being an excellent partner representing the City, and he thanked Jess Burton and Rhonda Berg for stepping forward to serve on the council.

NEW BUSINESS

- Swearing in of new PIC members

Bill Patnaude swore in new PIC member Jessica Burton and Rhonda Berg individually. Both Jess and Rhonda joined the PIC as councilors for the remainder of the meeting.

- Election of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary - *public comment*

Since both past-chair (Peter Eckel) and past-vice chair (Rafferty) termed out from the council at this meeting, secretary Peter McLaughlin took over as interim-chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Somers nominated Peter McLaughlin as chair of the council. Berg seconded it.

McLaughlin said he is willing to remain secretary and perhaps someone else could be chair.

Sylvester said he would be willing to be co-chair with Somers. Somers said he did not have time to take on co-chair at this time because of other commitments. Mohler said he would be willing to be co-chair with Sylvester.

McLaughlin made a motion proposing the slate of PIC officers for the 2023 calendar year:

Co-chairs – Jerzy Sylvester and Scott Mohler

Vice Chair – Fred Somers

Secretary – Peter McLaughlin

Somers seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- Review of calendar for major work items in 2023

McLaughlin presented the 2023 work calendar that outlines the monthly, quarterly, annually meetings.

- Quarterly - meeting with chair and city manager + district 1 city councilor
 - Annual - meeting with CBL and Police Chief
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- January
 - inaugural meeting: swearing-in, election of officers, review committees
 - open applications for community funding / PIC budget
 - orientation for new PIC members
- February
 - full council budget workshop w/ community applicants
 - finalize/vote on PIC budget (submit in early March)
- April
 - plan for candidates forum for June election (held in May)
- July
 - begin publicizing PIC election (nomination papers available 7/1)
- August
 - PIC candidates turn in nomination papers for November election
- September
 - plan for candidates forum for November election (held in October)
- October
 - solicit community feedback for island capital improvements
- November
 - review/finalize capital improvements requests (submit in early December)

- seek applicants for appointment to the PIC, if open seats remain after the November election
- December
 - interview and vote on PIC appointments
- Review of committees and membership

McLaughlin noted that the Parking Committee and Anti-Racism Committees now are without chairs, with the departure of Eckel and Rafferty. He also noted that the Golf Cart Committee may no longer be required.

Berg asked how a committee can be removed. McLaughlin said it could be removed by vote.

Discussion ensued about the continuation of the Anti-Racism Committee. Sylvester said he'd be willing to be the PIC councilor who participated in the committee. Burton suggested that the PIC council reach out to the Social Justice Committee at New Brackett Church to discuss overlap and how to proceed. McLaughlin said he would talk with Rafferty about her recommendations.

McLaughlin said there will need to be a chair for the Parking Committee to continue the good work to increase mainland parking for islanders. There are four community members on the committee but there must be a PIC councilor on the committee as well.

- Budget process timeline and community funding

Patnaude mentioned that the budget timeline should have PIC submitting their budget to the City Council by the end of February.

McLaughlin will get the applications for PIC funding out into the community, with PIC review being in the middle of February.

- Peaks Island newspaper discussion - *public comment*

Rhonda Berg proposed that PIC could underwrite a community newspaper that would inform, build community, and advertise local businesses. Berg thought there could be a newspaper committee added to the PIC.

McLaughlin said he thinks the project could be supportive with annual funding but probably could not sustain it unilaterally. Other granting organizations – Peaks Island Fund, Island Institute, Casco Bay Island Alliance. But folding the work into the work of a PIC committee would be too much to take on.

AM said that it could mimic how PIC supports the Peaks Island Taxi. McLaughlin agreed.

Sylvester said that the newspaper could provide a platform for civil discourse.

OLD BUSINESS

- 2023 Meeting Schedule

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

AM said that he was on first council in 2008 and one of the ideas they developed was to NOT have a lot of committees. AM suggested that instead of reporting on every committee at every PIC meeting, just have ad hoc committees that only report when they have an update.

AM said they work with the after school program at New Brackett Church and some of the art the children produce could be part of an island newspaper. AM also said that teenagers don't have a lot of avenues for expression, and suggested that an island newspaper could engage teenagers in writing. AM concluded by saying they support the newspaper idea.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 6:15 pm in the community room and on Zoom.

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

Meeting Adjournment: 7:30 p.m.