



Peaks Island Council MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 6:15 p.m.

Hybrid ZOOM/in-person meeting in the Community Center

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting—Dec. 20, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: 6:17 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Scott Mohler, Rhonda Berg, Peter McLaughlin, Jess Burton

Absent: Jerzy Sylvester, Fred Somers, Natasha Markov-Riss

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 7

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

McLaughlin made the motion to accept the October 25, 2023 meeting minutes. Berg seconded. Motion to accept minutes passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Patnaude said that the current balance is \$7,876.40. Expenditures during October included \$122.50 for needs-based tickets. Money returned by New Brackett Church (\$1,000) was put into needs-based tickets column.

McLaughlin made a motion to accept the budget update. Berg seconded. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

- **Parking**

No update.

- **Golf Cart**

No update.

- **Ferry Service**

No update.

- **Anti-racism Committee – update**

No update.

- **Environmental and Sustainability**

No update.

- **Housing – ReCode Zoning survey**

McLaughlin stated that PIC sent their recommendations for ReCode to the City. City is working through the feedback they have received from citizen's groups around the city.

McLaughlin will keep following up with the City to ask them how they will respond to questions posed about ReCode issues on Peaks.

- **Jetport Flight Path**

No update.

- **Voter Education Committee**

Jess Burton and Fred Somers have been elected to three-year terms. McLaughlin presented voter totals from the November 7th election and noted that Peaks Island had the highest percentage voter turnout in the City by far.

- **Communication and outreach committee**

No update.

- **Ordinance Review Committee**

McLaughlin said he will provide update during Old Business portion of the meeting.

- **Executive Committee**

Bill Patnaude said that deer culling began today, November 15, 2023, down by Plante's gravel pit. There is another bait site with a camera to monitor how many deer are at the other end of the island. No culling is happening at that site at this time. Patnaude noted that the gun shots that most people are hearing and complaining about are duck hunters in boats on the bay. The deer hunter has only fired three shots on Peaks Island so far. No deer have been culled at this point.

McLaughlin said that the postal service has paid their rent to Hannigan's Market so the post office will not be evicted. Work is proceeding on the new building next to Hannigan's that will eventually house the post office.

The election of new officers will be held at the December 20th meeting. PIC will also create the schedule of meetings for the 2024 calendar year at the December 20th meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Maine Island Coalition – Ellen Mahoney was unable to make this meeting so this will be postponed to a later meeting.

Review of the FY 2025 budget process – McLaughlin said that Fred Somers will be in charge of the FY2025 budget process but in his absence, McLaughlin commented that during the FY2024 budget process, several changes to the process were suggested. McLaughlin said that starting the budget process in February is too late in order to meet the City's deadlines. McLaughlin said that a separate budget meeting may be required at the end of January.

OLD BUSINESS

2023 appointment process, creation of Nominating Committee

Two additional councilors are required. Current process is to have interested candidates interview with the Nominating Committee That committee will then make a recommendation to

the full council. The council will then vote to appoint the nominees. McLaughlin said the current councilors need to get the word out so that more potential councilors come forward.

McLaughlin said the Nominating Committee should be created at this meeting. Burton and Mohler said they would serve on the Nominating Committee.

McLaughlin made a motion to create an adhoc Nominating Committee of Jess Burton and Scott Mohler. Mohler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Capital Improvement Plan submissions

Patnaude explained that the City uses bond money to pay for things that the city needs. The majority of the money purchases new vehicles and paves roads. Some other projects are also considered by the City Manager and Finance Director. Peaks Island can submit projects that they seek funding for.

McLaughlin said that last year's list included additional public restrooms and infrastructure improvements near the ferry landing. Mohler asked if a list would need to be generated in order to be approved at the December meeting. McLaughlin said it would.

AM asked if the steps going down to the ferry beach will be repaired. AM also asked if the railing that goes down to the ferry could be repaired to help people with mobility issues. Patnaude said those are public works projects, not capital improvement projects. Patnaude said he would talk with Marty Mulkern about those projects.

Peaks Island Assessment

Burton said that she and Somers are meeting with Tanya and Steve to discuss the author's role in the implementation of their recommendations.

Reviewing the PIC Ordinance

McLaughlin said that holding a separate workshop for this review of the ordinance that established the Peaks Island Council is too difficult given the time of year and the nomination/election of additional councilors. He said this issue can be discussed in a regular meeting.

Things that McLaughlin pointed out for re-write:

Sec. 9-51. Formation of council.

(c) Terms. The terms of each member shall run from the date of the inaugural meeting for three (3) full years, except as provided above for the initial terms. **Members shall be sworn into their positions on the same day as members of the city council and shall serve until a successor is elected and qualified.**

(d) **The district 1 city councilor and school committee member shall be ex-officio non-voting members of the Peaks Island council and attend its regular meetings. If they cannot attend a meeting they shall designate an alternate to attend.**

(Ord. No. 16-07/08, 7-16-07)

Sec. 9-52. Nomination of members.

(a) Said petition shall be signed by not less than **fifty (50)** Peaks Island residents who are registered voters on the island nor more than one hundred (100) such voters. All candidates

must be residents of Peaks Island for a period of **at least three (3) months** prior to the date on or before which nomination papers are to be filed.

Sec. 9-55. Procedure of Peaks Island council.

(b) Regular meetings. The Peaks Island council shall meet at least once every month. The time, date and place of such regular meeting shall be established by written rules of Peaks Island council to be adopted no later than December 15 of each year. Notice of meetings shall be advertised on the city of Portland calendar and **shall be posted in at least two public places on Peaks Island.**

(c) Special meetings. Special meetings may be called by the chairperson, and in case of his or her absence, disability, or refusal may be called by a majority of the members of the council. **Notice of such meeting shall be served in person or left at the residence of each member of the council and posted in at least two public places** on Peaks Island at least seventy-two (72) hours before the time for holding said special meeting.

(f) Chairperson. (add something about co-chairs)

(g) Vacancies.

If a vacancy in the membership of the Peaks Island council occurs or is declared prior to the next regular municipal election, **the vacancy shall be filled at a special election** to take place on the same date as the next scheduled municipal or state election which is no less than one hundred and twenty (120) days after the date the vacancy occurs or is declared unless the city council, by a vote of six (6) of its members, calls a special election on an earlier date following a request from the Peaks Island council.

Paragraph to be added:

If the November election does not result in the election of a full seven member Peaks Island Council the Peaks Island Council will appoint councilors to fill the remaining seats. The city clerk will make a determination about whether these appointments should be one year or two year appointments, in keeping with regular term lengths of PI councilors. These appointed councilors shall serve with full powers and duties.

McLaughlin made a motion to send the edits of the ordinance to the city clerk. Mohler seconded.

AM said that they feel posting announcements of the meetings in two places is important. McLaughlin said he would not recommend changing the requirement of posting announcements of PIC meetings based on AM input.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

AM who is working with CBL on the Sustainability Committee is trying to get a shelter installed by the new bus stop. Metro said that a bus shelter will not fit in the new bus stop area. AM made a further suggestion to allow people to wait inside the ferry terminal during the winter months may be considered. AM asked if PIC would support having the bus stop moved to the waiting room of the ferry terminal during the winter months. McLaughlin said the issue should be

discussed at the PIC parking committee meeting, who would then make a recommendation to the full PIC. Berg said she would be willing to work on it.

AM asked when PIC will create an ad hoc committee to investigate restrictions on short term rentals. McLaughlin said it would be best to wait until January when we have new councilors on the council.

AM asked how Peaks Island could get an Island Institute fellow. McLaughlin said an island non-profit would have to apply for an Island Institute. AM said they would talk to the Island Institute to understand how the island could get an Island Institute fellow, especially since other, smaller islands have figured out how to get an island fellow. Burton said research is a great idea but year-round housing is an issue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, December 21, 2023, at 6:15 pm in the community room and on Zoom.

McLaughlin announced that a visiting pianist, Ahmad Hassan Muhammad (aka Kafari), will conduct a free Saturday workshop and Sunday concert at Baba's.

McLaughlin made motion to adjourn. Burton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjournment: 7:39 p.m.