



Peaks Island Council MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 23, 2024, 6:15 p.m.

Hybrid ZOOM/in-person meeting in the Community Center

**NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting
November 24, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER: 6:23 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Scott Mohler, Jerzy Sylvester, Jess Burton, Shelagh Reiser

Absent: Peter McLaughlin, Fred Somers, Garry Fox

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 9 in person, 0 on zoom

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Reiser motioned to accept the amended minutes of the special October 9th meeting. Mohler seconded. Motion to accept the amended minutes passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bill Patnaude posted a sample ballot on the bulletin board outside the Peaks Island library.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Patnaude said that there was one expenditure this month \$300 for administration (for recording meeting minutes). The current balance is \$14, 017.

Burton made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Mohler seconded. Report accepted unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

- **Executive Committee** –

Mohler said that he reached out to the District 1 representative, Anna Trevorow, to ask her to bring an amendment to the ReCode draft to the city council.

- **Anti-racism Committee**

No update.

- **Environmental and Sustainability**

No update.

- **Ferry Service**

No update.

- **Housing – ReCode Zoning survey**

Glendenning said the Planning Department did not forward PIC's recommendation about for lot coverage of small island lots. PIC proposed 45% lot coverage for small island lots and the Planning Board is recommending 60% lot coverage. Glendenning wondered if PIC would like to ask Anna Trevorow to make an amendment that would advance PIC's recommendation for small island lot coverage at 45%. Glendenning clarified that "small island lot" includes lots with 3,000-19,999 square feet, and small island lots also have set back adjustments that allow housing to be packed in very tightly.

Mohler asked if Glendenning had followed up with the Planning Department to ask why they did not forward PIC's recommendation or if it was perhaps an oversight. Glendenning said she did not but Nell Donaldson made no mention of it in her note about changes the Planning Department did not adopt. Mohler said he would reach out to Anna Trevorow to ask if she could forward PIC's recommendation for small island lot coverage as an amendment. Burton asked if the council needed to draft a statement for Trevorow.

Sylvester suggested referencing the original recommendation to create the amendment.

Sylvester proposed the motion.

The PIC proposes the following amendment to the ReCode draft be submitted to the Portland City Council, as was voted on unanimously by the PIC at our September meeting, following clarification with the planning department.

We recommend IR-2 Small Island Lot coverage be reduced to 45% (The final ReCode draft proposes 60% for all Small Island Lots in IR-2.)

Mohler seconded. No councilor discussion. No public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

Mohler will ask Anna Trevorow to bring forward the amendment.

Glendenning asked if PIC Parking Committee would like to take over the Housing and Zoning committee's work on developing commercial parking lot on the island, since it is not actually a zoning issue.

Glendenning is working with Mark Gorsky, the Island Fellow, to condense and merge Island Institute recommendations for shoreline vegetation and the City zoning requirements for the shoreline zone, 75 feet from the high water mark. They are creating a simple document for PIC reference.

Housing and Zoning Committee is working to sponsor a Community Housing Forum with community housing experts coming to Peaks Island to see ways to expand community housing on Peaks Island.

- **Island Assessment** –

No update.

- **Jetport Flight Path**

No update.

- **Paper Roads**

No updates.

- **Parking**

Reiser said the Parking Committee is meeting next week and will be looking at island-side parking and mainland garage parking.

Michele Winchester of the Parking Committee said the committee has done an Island Resident Parking Zone study in 2017 and 2019 and when they presented their findings to the city, some changes were made.

Winchester presented a map that summarized the results of the study they did in June, July and August 2024.



Map Key

Green Sections - In IR Zone, Sticker Eligible, 1 Hour Free Parking Sign

Red Sections - In IR Zone, not Sticker Eligible, COP Parking APP

Pink Section - In IR Zone, not Sticker Eligible, Metered

Gray Sections - Not In Zone, but included in parking study, because close to Zone

Conditions that impact mainland parking:

There are 83 Resident-eligible spaces in the Island Resident zone (IR zone), available to residents with an IR zone sticker, and they are in the 1-hour free parking zone. So island residents are competing with visitors who are using the 1-hour free parking spaces.

There are an additional 33 spaces in the IR zone that use meters or the Parking App, but these spaces are not available for IR sticker parking.

There are also eight 1-hour free parking spaces at the entrance to the Amethyst lot that are frequently open, but they are not included in the IR zone so island residents can't use them.

When the odd/even seasonal parking restrictions are in place (October 1-May 31), the number of resident-eligible spaces goes down to 33 or 50 depending on if it is the odd or even side of the street. Patnaude commented that odd/even seasonal parking restrictions are for leaf removal in the fall, snow removal in the winter, sand removal in the spring.

In 2024, about 200 Island Parking stickers were issued, all of which are competing for the 83 resident-eligible spaces.

Emergency no-parking zones pop up at random, often connected to the cruise ships.

Restaurant curbside seating consumes 4-5 parking spaces.

Parking committee's recommendations:

- 1) Entire Island resident zone (what is currently red, green and pink on the map) has no 1-hour free parking zone, implement the parking app at all spaces, and allow Island resident stickers to park at parking app spots. That would increase 33 spaces in existing IR zone.
- 2) Extend the island resident zone to include 28-40 more spaces in the gray areas so that the number of available spaces would align with the number of islanders seeking parking.
- 3) Reduce the number of days with odd/even restrictions.
- 4) Improve marking to designate parking spaces more clearly.
- 5) Ask city to provide more information about the emergency parking signs.

Winchester asked PIC to allow the Parking Committee to reach out to the Parking Division with their recommendations.

Sylvester motioned to support the Parking Committee's recommendations and to authorize the Parking Committee to contact the Parking Division. Mohler seconded.

No councilor discussion.

Public comment: AM asked if disabled parking in conjunction with the Island Resident sticker could be installed close to the boat. Winchester said she would bring it up with the Parking Division.

Motion passed unanimously.

- **Short Term Rental**

No update.

- **Voter Education**

Sylvester said PIC held a Meet the Candidates forum on October 17th. Issues covered include housing, parking, education. There were about 30 people attending.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Seating of Nominating Committee (public comment) – postponed**

Sylvester motioned that the members of the nominating committee will be Sylvester and Mohler. Mohler seconded. Reiser clarified that there are four open seats and one write-in candidate, and that there are just two people on the nominating committee. No public comment. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

● **Ferry pass for Island Fellow (public comment) – postponed**

Burton motioned that PIC purchase for \$432 an annual pass for the Island Fellow. Sylvester seconded.

Councilor comment: Sylvester said there was money in the budget to pay for the Island Fellow's annual ferry pass out of needs-based tickets money. He also noted that redistributing the Welch Street camera budget money to other line items that were previously approved should be an agenda item for the November meeting.

Public comment: AM asked if PIC could approach CBL board to address lowering prices for occasional travelers like visiting family. AM suggested that CBL board allow customers with an island resident pass to purchase books. This would allow island residents, but not the general public, access to reduced tickets for visiting family and friends.

Sylvester said next. Month's new business agenda should include 1) Welch Street camera money, 2) Needs-based passes vs tickets, 3) Is there a way for PIC to cover needs-based tickets before City Council approves annual budget.

Motion passed unanimously.

Sylvester will contact Bill Patnaude to indicate that PIC has approved purchasing an annual pass for the Island Fellow.

PUBLIC COMMENT

AM said that the leader of the Parks and Rec Department, Ryan French, is coming to the island on Saturday, October 26th, between 10am-11am to discuss how Parks and Rec can support the island.

AM asked about the status of the report that was going to be developed after the meeting to set island priorities. Burton said she is talking with the consultants who helped run the meeting and she will ask them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, November 24, 2024, at 6:15 pm in the community room and on Zoom.

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

Meeting Adjournment: 7:58 p.m.