



Peaks Island Council MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 6:15 p.m.

Hybrid ZOOM/in-person meeting in the Community Center

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting
February 26, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Scott Mohler, Norm Proulx, Shelagh Reiser, Fred Somers, Carson Reese, Laura Glendening

Absent: Jess Burton

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 8 in person, 0 on zoom

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Somers motioned to accept the minutes of the December 18th PIC meeting. Reiser seconded. Motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Patnaude reported that the only expenditures this month were needs based tickets (\$248.40) and administration fees for recording meeting minutes at four PIC meetings (\$400). The current balance is \$12,643.14.

Somers made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Proulx seconded. Report accepted unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

- **Executive Committee** –

Mohler said that our city representative Sarah Michniewicz will be attending the March PIC meeting and Rachel Talbot-Ross would like to attend a future PIC meeting as well but that has not been set up yet.

- **Environmental and Sustainability and Parks and Rec Committee**

Mary Ann Mitchell said there will be a PEAT fundraiser on February 25th at Flatbread.

- **Ferry Service**

No update.

- **Housing – ReCode Zoning survey**

Glendening said that the shoreline guide brochure is ready to print. The group would like PIC to fund plants for revegetating the understory between Brackett Cemetery and Sandy Beach.

Mark Gorsky said that there will be a community forum about housing on Peaks Island that will include a speaker from planning to talk about ReCode changes, as well as someone to discuss development and finance issues. Presentations will be followed by Q&A. The event will be on March 1st.

- **Island Assessment** –

Somers said that the state EPA has proposed new rules about shoreline stabilization. The proposed rules introduce significant changes that could impact shoreline owners. The regulations emphasize vegetation to stabilize shoreline and move away from hardscaping as a way to prevent shoreline erosion.

- **Paper Roads**

No update.

- **Parking**

Resier said that the 72-hour parking limit sign in the island parking lot has been restored. The Parking Committee plans to issue a reminder to the island so that people are aware of the time limit for parking in the Welch Street lot.

Reiser said that John Pavarada has retired and has not yet been replaced which will put some committee projects on hold. Patnaude said that the job is being advertised.

Reiser said that there are still winter spaces left in the Ocean Gate parking lot. Reiser said that anyone who is interested should call the parking division in town. Reiser said that the new replacement parking lot will have fewer spaces, but no decision has been made about how many will be allocated to islanders. Timmi Sellers said that the new replacement parking lot will have only 50 spaces, and the parking committee needs to lobby to have some of those 50 spaces allocated for islanders.

- **Voter Education**

No update.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- Approve budget for shoreline zoning postcard (public comment)

Glendening displayed a sample of the shoreline vegetation guide that is for general planning purposes with advice about what plants can be cut and what plants should be planted. The information was adapted (with permission) from the Northeast Ocean Council. Proulx asked what the purpose of the brochure is. Glendening said it was to help residents understand the purpose of the shoreline vegetation, why shoreline vegetation should be preserved, and what native plants are available for shoreline vegetation. AM said that posting the brochure at Lausier's Family Gardens would be good. Somers said that PIC could send out an electronic copy of the brochure.

Glendening made a motion to allocate \$120.11 to print the postcard. Somers seconded.

Mohler said the money would come out of administration budget. Proulx said it might make more sense to print more than 250 copies. ***Glendening made a friendly amendment to allocate \$200 to print as many brochures as possible for that amount of money.***

Motion passed unanimously.

- Reallocation of funds for EV charging station (public comment)

Somers moved that PIC reallocate \$5,000 in its approved 2025 budget from the Welch Street Webcam project to the Island Taxi Service in order to support the acquisition, installation, and related costs for charging stations for the new electric vehicle taxi. Mohler seconded.

Steve Anderson, chair of the Taxi board, said that they have been working with the city to site an EV charger in the upper part of the island parking lot for the new electric taxi. The new electric taxi arrived December 31, 2024, and it will go into service within the next 30 days. It will initially be charged at drivers' and board members' homes.

Anderson explained that Type 1 chargers (110 volts) take 24-36 hours to charge a car, and the chargers cost about \$850 to purchase and install. Type 2 (220 volts) chargers take about 9 hours to charge a car, and cost about \$2,000 to purchase and install. Type 3 chargers cost \$65,000-\$100,000 to purchase and install. Anderson said that Peaks Island was included in the city's original list of places that would have Type 3 chargers, but now Peaks Island is not on the list. Anderson said that the taxi charge was depleted by 15% during a test run when the taxi met every boat during one full day.

Anderson said that Somers' proposal is to fund two Type 2 chargers and a couple of Type 1 chargers until the city can install a Type 3 charger on Peaks Island at some point in the future. Anderson said the Type 1 and Type 2 chargers would need to be portable so that the taxi board can accommodate changes in drivers.

Patnaude said he would talk to the finance director about the logistics of how the funds can be given to the taxi.

Glendening said that the public at large should benefit from such a large expenditure and the charging system should be available to the public since the taxi would not need to use the charging system every night. Anderson agreed that the Type 3 charger would be publicly available because it would be sited in the parking lot but the Type 2 chargers would be at people's houses. Glendening said that the Type 2 chargers should not be put at people's houses so that they are publicly available.

Mohler said that the taxi does benefit the public, so the money spent on the charges for the taxi also benefits the public.

Proulx said that it is a good idea to start with giving the taxi drivers private access to the Type 2 chargers so that the taxi can be charged without competing for access to the charger.

Somers said the PIC would continue to pursue a Type 3 charger with the city. PIC has formally requested a Type 3 charger installation in the annual capital improvement plan.

Reese asked if there was any documentation that the city will install a Type 3 charger on Peaks Island in the future. Anderson said it was never in writing, but it was proposed in conversation.

Reiser asked if the city would be involved in the physical installation of the charging stations. Patnaude said they would only be funding the chargers. Installation would be arranged by the Taxi board.

AM asked if every neighborhood in Portland has a charger installed? Patnaude said he wasn't sure, but he didn't think there is a charger in every neighborhood. He said that Troy Moon would know for sure.

Glendening asked Somers to consider reducing the amount allocated to \$2,500 because she feels the \$5,000 expenditure without public access is too high.

Somers said that since the taxi does not know what their charging needs will be, they should not be constrained to a \$2,500 limit.

Reese asked if there could be just one Type 2 charger installed. Anderson said in theory it was possible, but it would be difficult because drivers rotate and it is unlikely that the taxi will only need to be charged on the specific day that the driver who has a charger is driving the taxi.

Proulx recused himself because he is a taxi driver. Motion passes - four ayes to one nay.

- Set timeline for community project requests (public comment)
Somers said that PIC needs to vote at the February PIC meeting on proposals and there needs to be a budget workshop prior to the February PIC meeting. PIC needs to give their budget to the City Council by March 1st.

Mohler noted that the budget workshop has been conducted via zoom in the past.

Somers noted that the criteria were updated last year and are ready to be issued.

Somers suggested deadline for proposals would be EOB on February 10th. Budget workshop would be sometime during the week of February 17th. Glendening will make a public announcement once dates are finalized.

- Zoom meeting discontinuation (public comment)
Mohler said that the demand for zoom has decreased (he noted that there was no one on zoom this evening). Quality of zoom meetings is a source of complaint and there is insufficient technology to produce a good quality meeting. Mohler asked for councilor input on discontinuing the zoom meeting.

Reiser asked if the city council meetings are available on zoom. Patnaude said they are available on zoom but the city also has the technology to support those meetings.

Reiser said that PIC should do everything it can to involve the community. Reiser suggested that asking public comment speakers to come to the front of the room when they speak, having audience members identify themselves before they spoke would make the zoom content more valuable.

Reese asked if the city has an IT department that could provide some resources and guidance. Reese said he would investigate it. Somers suggested to contact Peter McLaughlin who investigated the technology previously.

AM said that making the PIC meetings more accessible would improve community involvement and maintaining zoom attendance would help that. They also suggested moving public comment to the beginning of the meeting and using paper announcements about meeting dates. Mohler said that the city allowed and then stopped allowing public comment at the beginning of the meeting.

AM said they support keeping a zoom link for PIC meetings.

Reiser said that communications to announce meetings and monitoring zoom technology during meetings should be a PIC member's job. Glendening said that communications about meetings is her job as secretary, but she is not interested in working to improve zoom technology.

Councilors agreed that council meetings would continue in the hybrid format. Reese said he would investigate improved audiovisual technology to support zoom meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

AM asked PIC to move the public comment to the beginning of the meeting. Mohler said logistics are difficult but it is something PIC can try to figure out.

AM asked PIC to invite the police chief and the fire chief to a PIC meeting. Somers said they are working on it.

AM said that CERT would like to hold a fire education forum within the next six months and would seek PIC support for that.

AM asked if minutes can be posted on Carol's list or NextDoor or a hardcopy in the library for people who have a hard time using Google Docs.

AM said that organizations appreciate PIC providing clarity around the criteria that PIC uses to decide which proposals they will fund. Reiser said the criteria are part of the RFP package.

AM said that down front traffic is very crowded during the summer. AM said the cadet helped but the city wanted PIC to pay for it out of their allocated funds. AM said the city should pay for the cadet, not PIC. AM suggested PIC ask again for a cadet. There is only one police officer and during the summer there are 5,000 people on the island. AM suggested PIC ask for two police officers.

AM suggested that island police enforce the 72-hour parking limit. Reiser suggested that parking committee can work on that.

AM said that community needs to call 911 so that the number of calls is registered with the city. When people call the Peaks Island police directly, those calls are not registered with the

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 6:15 pm in the community room and on Zoom.

Proulx made motion to adjourn. Glendening seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjournment: 7:56 p.m.