



**Peaks Island Council
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

6:15 p.m., Peaks Island Community Room

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting–November 20, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Randy Schaeffer, Lisa Peñalver, Michelle Winchester, Steve Anderson, Andrea Kelly-Rosenberg, Devon Kraft, Stuart Jackson

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 24

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anderson made the motion to approve the September 25th meeting minutes. Kelly-Rosenberg seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Schaeffer stated that the total remaining budget is \$7,403.37 as of October 22, 2019. ***Kraft made the motion to accept the budget report. Penalver seconded. Budget report unanimously accepted by all councilors.***

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

Golf Cart Committee

Anderson reported that committee is looking to have all new golf cart registrations move to electric-powered. Work so far includes:

- Doing research with other communities that have made the migration to all electric golf carts to learn from their experience.
- Working with Belinda Ray to discuss the best way to approach city council. The city is working towards becoming carbon neutral and that will inform all their decisions.

Anderson commented that Peaks is very different from other islands, in regards to the number of annual visitors and the fact that Peaks Island has a circular ring road that the other islands do not. The golf cart committee does not want the city to treat all islands as one – they are different animals.

The second thing golf cart committee is working on relates to golf cart rental companies. Golf cart committee would like the city to be more specific about implementing caps on the rental gold cart businesses. Currently the ordinance just says the city manager may implement caps. The golf cart committee would like the city to involve the community in the process.

Parking Committee

Winchester reported that remote parking and shuttle service to and from Marginal Way is finished for the season. The parking committee will be making recommendations about what went well and what didn't.

Parking survey will be available this Friday on line and in hard copy at the library. The survey asks islanders about their mainland parking needs. The parking committee wants to create a "block" of island parkers that would qualify for group rates and have more power to gain access to mainland parking than individuals.

Projects still in progress, with no updates --- parking inventory and pursuing changes to street cleaning restrictions on Fore Street and Thames Street.

Recode and Tax Assessment Committee

Schaeffer reported that the committee has met once.

The committee's purpose is to have people on the committee who are familiar with zoning and taxation issues keep Peaks Island community informed about changes that affect the island.

Committee may not have regular updates --- just when something happens to the zoning or taxation processes that islanders should know about.

Ferry Service Committee

Schaeffer reported that the transfer bridge maintenance could be pushed out as far as May 1st.

Anderson and Schaeffer spoke with Mary Ann Hayes and her staff at MDOT and there will be a second paved walkway on the transfer bridge and another railing.

MDOT will consider moving the transfer bridge maintenance to coincide with next year's maintenance of the car ferry. They have to check on two items: 1) when does the budgeted money for the project have to be spent, and 2) are there any structural defects that would be dangerous if left for a year.

Community Center Accessibility and Programming

Kelly-Rosenberg reported that Nick Cliche made a step by step guide to using the Community Center. The Parks and Recreation department insist that a paid staff member be at the Community Center whenever it is being used. The guide will be distributed widely so people know how to do it.

Meg Metcalf will work on making the mainland senior programming more accessible to Peaks Island seniors by making start times coincide with boat times.

On Tuesday and Friday afternoons, the community center will be open from 1-4:30 and people can come to have tea and play board games. Marie Davis is looking for islanders to propose other creative ideas for senior programming.

Appointment of Jennifer Laventure to Jetport Noise Advisory Committee

Jennifer Laventure was unanimously approved at October 7th city council meeting as Peaks Island's representative to the Jetport Noise Advisory Committee meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

Peaks Island Council vacancies

Schaeffer proposed a process for filling the two council vacancies that will occur after the elections.

- Inform public of vacancies and ask those interested in serving to inform Peaks Island Council by specified date.
- Create two-person PIC committee to interview candidates and make recommendation to PIC. *Note: Interviews and recommendation of committee would not be subject to public noticing and meeting requirements.*
- At a regular meeting, the PIC considers recommendation from committee by a motion from a committee member. *Note: Motion would require opportunity for public comment prior to PIC vote.*

Audience member asked a question about the regular procedure for filling the vacancies.

Anderson stated that the council has already solicited people to run, to enter a write-in campaign, and having had no people come forward, Mike Murray suggested this process to fill the open positions.

Island WebCam

Peaks Island Information Exchange applied for an allocation from the city through the Peaks Island Council for the installation of a camera so that islanders could observe the length of the ferry queue online.

A vendor was selected and paid to purchase and install the camera. However, the vendor did not install the camera, did not refund the money, and is now not responding to inquiries. The vendor is now being pursued for \$900.14.

NEW BUSINESS

Emergency Warming Centers – motion to convene meeting to clarify status of emergency warming shelters on Peaks Island

Recent storm highlighted the need to define the emergency shelters on Peaks Island. Chris Hoppin reported that CERT is working with the local fire department to resolve and codify that the Fay Garman House, Brackett Memorial Church, the Community Center and the School as emergency shelters. The recent confusion about the location of island emergency shelters arose because of personnel changes.

Chris Hoppin reminded everyone that you can always call 911 if you need help during an emergency. Hoppin also stated that more members are needed to join CERT.

Because work to clarify the situation is already underway, Schaeffer withdrew the motion.

Sound Study – motion to participate in noise pollution study

Peaks Island Council wants to do a sound study to compare the noise level on Peaks Island during the winter months to the noise level during the summer months.

Erica Walker from Boston University is a noise expert who studies community noise. She uses eight monitoring stations to collect sound level data for a week. The monitoring stations don't record conversation, just monitor noise level. There is no cost to the community. Walker stated that some communities use the data to get sound barriers, or good neighbor agreements to reduce sound.

Audience members asked about size, range, and types of noise that would be studied.

Walker stated that the devices are about the 17" wide and the size of a suitcase. Their range is about 100 yards. Certain sounds have specific footprints so it is possible to identify the noise source of some noises. The noise data can be correlated to environmental conditions and known, scheduled events (such as boat arrivals).

Walker stated that community members can download an app to record noise events and provide data about the conditions and how the noise levels make you feel.

Anderson made a motion:

PIC sponsors Community Noise Lab to conduct a noise survey on Peaks Island. The Peaks Island Council would form a committee to develop a proposal for how this study would be operationalized. The proposal would then be discussed and voted on at a future Peaks Island Council. Seconded by Schaeffer. Motion passed unanimously.

2021 PIC Budget Request – discussion of calendar and process for development of 2021 PIC budget request

Schaeffer presented timeline for budget requests. Since the city cannot give money to individuals, any organization that is not a non-profit will need to use a fiscal agent. Schaeffer stated that the Peaks Island Council needs to clarify the role of fiscal agents for organizations that are using them.

Rental Golf Carts – Motion regarding letter to City Manager regarding caps

Anderson stated that the ordinance adopted by the city regarding golf carts did not define a cap for the number of golf cart companies or the number of golf carts.

Anderson proposed a motion:

PIC will send a letter to the city manager, Jon Jennings, regarding the process for setting a cap on the number of golf cart companies and the number of golf carts. Excerpt from the letter defines the specific requests as:

Peaks Island Council requests the consideration that the following process be adopted by the City of Portland.

- 1) The caps for future years (2020+) be capped at 2019 season levels (2 operators, 44 total rental carts)***
- 2) That caps be communicated well in advance of the rental cart season.***
- 3) That the Sustainability and Transportation Committee of the City Council review the annual report and recommendation by the City Manager to ensure alignment with the City's long-term commitment becoming carbon neutral.***
- 4) Any future consideration by the City to change the caps would include appropriate time for public comment.***

Schaeffer seconded.

AM stated that the motion is important and thanked PIC for drafting it.

AM stated that the ordinance should be left the way it is in case it needs to be changed in the future. Anderson said the motion did not prevent the city manager from changing the cap in the future. However, the Peaks Island community would need to be informed and allowed to comment on a proposed change to the cap.

During councilor discussion, Schaeffer said he was concerned the motion would force the ordinance to go back to the city council for a second vote and delay implementation of the ordinance.

Peñalver said the ordinance as written is too vague and the motion is required.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

AM – I went through all the community room information and the fees were for different rooms - \$50 for a large room and \$30 for a small room. So I'm wondering if this is a small room or a large room.

Kraft stated that Diane Ricciotti said our community center room is considered a large room.

AM – Well maybe we could have the room re-classified as a small room.

Kelly-Rosenberg said she would put it on her list of questions.

AM – Is it possible to turn off the fans in the community room while we use it?

Kelly-Rosenberg said that there is a way and Rebecca Stevens knows how to do it.

AM – Emergency CERT is requesting that when MDOT works on our dock area, they add a generator so that the transfer bridge continues to work in the event of a power outage.

AM – We should make all island vehicles to be electric vehicles, not just golf carts.

AM – I think moving to electric vehicles is really only open to people who can afford it.

AM – I think electric golf carts don't work for everyone because some homes are not accessible to a vehicle so people who live there can't charge an electric golf cart.

AM – I have a comment about the dog park on the island. It's been two years since it all started. What is the update on the dog park?

Schaeffer stated that attempts to get public works involved have so far failed but he will try again.

AM – There are golf carts coming over and rental bikes coming over with a tour guide. Those are just two examples of excursions coming over from the mainland. Can we control this?

Anderson stated that the bikes are an Air-B-n-B experience that people can sign up for when they come to Portland.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 6:15 pm at the Community Room

Island Parking Lot meeting: Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at 6:15pm.

Meeting Adjournment: 7:46 p.m.