



**Peaks Island Council
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

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

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting–December 18, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: 6:16 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Randy Schaeffer, Lisa Peñalver, Steve Anderson, Devon Kraft, Michelle Winchester (via phone)
Absent: Andrea Kelly-Rosenberg, Stuart Jackson

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 14

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anderson made one change to the minutes. His change corrected the sequence of events regarding the Community Sound Labs sound study, establishing that Community Sound Labs approached the Peaks Island Council about conducting a sound study on Peaks Island comparing the sounds levels between summer and winter seasons.

Anderson made the motion to approve the October 23rd meeting minutes as amended. Peñalver seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Schaeffer stated that the total remaining budget is \$7,210.67 as of November 5, 2019. ***Kraft made the motion to accept the budget report. Peñalver seconded. Budget report unanimously accepted by all councilors.***

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

Executive Committee

Schaeffer recognized and thanked Lisa Peñalver and Stuart Jackson for their years of service to the Peaks Island Council. Schaeffer presented Lisa Peñalver with a plaque acknowledging her seven years of service. Stuart Jackson was not at the meeting, so Schaeffer will deliver his plaque to him personally.

Golf Cart Committee

Anderson reported that committee has not met as a full group since last month. Members are working on their individual pieces and they will come together in January to discuss next steps.

Anderson stated that the letter to city manager, John Jennings, asking the city to be more specific about how the city will establish and implement caps on the rental golf cart businesses, is ready to go out but has not yet been sent.

Recode and Tax Assessment Committee

Schaeffer reported that the committee has met and also gone to the city-wide ReCode meeting. The City's ReCode committee reported on October 28th that they are ready to present phase one of the plan to the planning board.

Schaeffer stated that there were two items in the phase 1 plan that could affect island residents.

- 1) One area of concern was off-street parking requirements in the City.
- 2) Another area of concern was the use of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). The city has introduced language to expand use of ADUs into other residential zones in an effort to increase affordable housing in the city.

The city planning board is meeting again on November 26th. They have not published an agenda yet, but Schaeffer believes that they may be discussing changes in ADU zoning.

Schaeffer reported that there is more information online (www.recodeportland.me) and the planning board meetings are open to the public so islanders can get involved if they would like to. There will be an opportunity for public comment at those meetings.

Ferry Service Committee

Schaeffer reported that the transfer bridge maintenance will be delayed for at least a year. The state put the project out to bid and did not get any reasonable bids so they did not award the project to anyone.

It will probably occur sometime during the January-April 2021 interval.

Jet Port Noise Advisory Committee

Jennifer Laventure, Peaks Island representative to the Jet Port Noise Advisory Committee, reported out recent airport data and items of business discussed at the latest noise advisory committee.

DATA:

Since 2009, there was a 22% increase in traffic in and out of jet

Since 2009, there was a 239% increase in noise complaints during same period.

In 2019 to date, the jet port received 914 noise complaints from 170 unique callers.

40% of the noise complaints were from Peaks Island and Portland (no breakdown).

ITEMS OF BUSINESS DISCUSSED:

Committee discussed two modifications or additions to airport approaches are being considered by the FAA.

- 1) Improve performance of the existing Harbor Visual Approach

The Harbor Visual Approach is flown in daytime hours during good weather. Aircraft fly over Peaks Island and turn into the Fore River. Aircraft are supposed to stay over water as much as they can, flying over the south end of Peaks Island and then staying over the water in the harbor. In practice, that approach has been used correctly only 56% of the time, meaning pilots deviate from set route 44% of the time. Aircraft that are deviating are flying over the middle of the island or the northern end of the island.

The jetport is considering adding GPS waypoints as an aid to navigation so pilots can fly that route better. That will concentrate aircraft over southeast side of the island. The new route is also going to add altitude step down guidance to prevent the aircraft from flying too low over the island.

The Harbor Visual Approach will still be restricted to good weather, daytime hours.

2) A new approach proposed by Southwest Airlines, explore a new technology called RNP but couldn't find a new approach that met safety tolerances.

The overall effort is based on standardizing the traffic approach. Laventure is proposing that jetport consider using a variety of approaches so one area is not always affected by traffic

Laventure reported that the next meeting will be held end of January and there is an opportunity for public comment.

Schaeffer asked Laventure to create a written report so that it can be distributed via the list serves on the island. Laventure said she would.

Anderson asked how often flights go over Westbrook versus Peaks Island. Laventure stated that the recommended approach for arrivals and departures are set to go over Westbrook when possible – but it is very dependent on wind and weather conditions. It can only be used in calm wind conditions.

Schaeffer stated that the PIC may be able to facilitate a way that islanders' voices are heard by the Jet Port Noise Advisory committee.

Laventure said that the committee has no decision-making authority and they can only make recommendations to the FAA, but the impact of noise complaints is considered in setting approach paths.

OLD BUSINESS

Peaks Island Council vacancies

Schaeffer reported that four people have signed up for the two vacancies on the PIC, Vicki Flannagan, Jonah Bradenday, Peter Eckel, SE Rafferty.

- Kraft and Winchester are going to interview candidates the week of December 2nd. They will prepare a recommendation for consideration by the full PIC.
- The full council will consider the committee recommendation at the December 18th meeting, there will be a motion, and an opportunity for public comment. Then there will be a vote by the council.
- The term for these positions will be just until November 2020. Individuals will have the option of serving for a full three year term after that, if they follow the usual process for being on the ballot.

Peaks Island Noise Study

Schaeffer said that a committee of volunteers will guide the study. Volunteers include Vicki Flannagan, Ralph Ashmore, Jennifer Laventure, Patrick O'Connor.

Dr. Walker from Community Noise Lab will come up during the week of December 2nd and work with the committee to explore how the noise study can be used to track noise from air traffic as well.

Welch Street Parking Lot

No update after the meeting on October 30th.

Island WebCam

Peaks Island Information Exchange has gone to small claims court to reclaim the \$900.14 that was paid to a vendor that has not done any work.

Audience member asked if the webcam project can be transferred to Casco Bay Lines since it would provide security and information about the ferry line that CBL would also benefit from. Schaeffer suggested contacting the webcam committee about that.

NEW BUSINESS

Promoting Small Businesses in Island Communities – motion to consider PIC sponsorship of community meeting conducted by Island Institute regarding the Tom Glenn Community Impact Fund

Schaeffer stated that the Tom Glenn Community Impact Fund could help small businesses on Peaks Island by providing small grants to small business start-ups. However, the depth of the discussion makes it too long for a regular PIC meeting.

Schaeffer made a motion:

The Island Institute has offered to make a presentation on Peaks Island regarding the Tom Glenn Community Impact Fund. The fund is a catalyst that serves to build a more diverse coastal economy through the investment of capital with grants, loans, and equity support.

It is moved that the Peaks Island Council sponsor a community meeting to provide the opportunity for the Peaks Island community to learn more about the Tom Glenn Community Impact Fund and to encourage islanders to avail themselves of the opportunities that the fund provides.

Seconded by Anderson. No public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to have PIC sponsor community meeting to introduce Mayor-elect Kate Snyder

Peaks Island Council was contacted by the staff of Mayor-elect Kate Snyder. She would like to come out to meet Peaks Islanders. She will be sworn in on December 2nd.

Schaeffer made a motion:

It is moved that the Peaks Island Council sponsor a community meeting to enable residents to meet our newly elected Mayor Kate Snyder.

Seconded by Kraft.

Public input - Several audience members said it was a good idea.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Audience member said it would be good to make a video that helps city councilors understand what it is to live on Peaks Island.

Audience member questioned accuracy of the budget line item that reflects no bike tickets were given out this year. So the book keeping may be off on that line item.

Audience member asked about an update on dog park. Schaeffer said there was no update.

Audience member asked if council has had any involvement with fire protection and fire prevention on the island. There are a lot of fallen trees in the woods that are fuel for large fires.

Schaeffer asked what the role of the PIC would be to address that issue.

AM said the PIC should contact the city and ask about improving fire safety on the island and reducing the amount of "fuel" (i.e. down trees) on the island.

Anderson said that there is a fire program for islands but Peaks Island is not eligible.

Patenaud said that because there is a fire barn, fire trucks and fire fighters on the island, Peaks is not eligible. He suggested contacting the fire chief to ask about programs to improve fire safety and contacting city arborist, Jeff Tarling, to remove fuel from the woods.

Schaeffer asked Patenaud to contact the fire chief and Jeff Tarling with island concerns. Patenaud said that he would.

AM said some hydrants do not have enough pressure to put a fire out, and that the city should assess the performance of all the hydrants on the island.

Schaeffer suggested that CERT get involved and that PIC sponsor a community meeting with city representatives to pose these questions to them. And to engage the city to assess the island's current fire services and to find the gap between the need and the services.

AM said it would be good to have signs that indicate current fire risk for visitors and islanders.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, December 18, 2019, 6:15 pm at the Community Room

Meeting Adjournment: 7:21 p.m.