



Peaks Island Council
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

6:15 p.m., ZOOM meeting

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting–May 27, 2020

May PIC meeting will be a ZOOM meeting

CALL TO ORDER: 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Devon Kraft, Randy Schaeffer, Steve Anderson, Peter Eckel, Andrea Kelly-Rosenberg, SE Rafferty

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 14

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anderson made the motion to approve the April 1, 2020 meeting minutes. Kraft seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Schaeffer stated that the total remaining budget is \$5097.42 as of May 6, 2020. Notable in this month's iteration of the budget is the transfer of \$1,500 from Needs-based tickets and \$500 from PIC Administration to fund healthcare workers' water taxi rides at "off" ferry boat times.

Schaeffer reported that the Peaks Island COVID-19 response committee has also secured \$2,000 from the Peaks Island Fund to fund healthcare workers' water taxi rides. Schaeffer stated that \$1017.50 has already been paid to Seatow paid for rides during the month of April.

Kraft made the motion to accept the budget report. Eckel seconded. Rafferty recused. Budget report unanimously accepted by all voting councilors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

Peaks COVID-19 Response Committee Update

Dr. Bud Higgins provided updates from the Peaks Island COVID-19 Response Committee. Bud is a co-chair of the committee with Randy Schaeffer.

Updates:

- Last month we were planning for a worst case scenario in which many islanders were ill with COVID-19. This month we can say that the worst case scenario is not likely to happen. Maine CDC is showing that cases are in a downward trend.
- Enacting emergency credentialing has not been required. The mainland hospitals maintain incredible capacity for hospitalization, ventilators and medical care for islanders who contract COVID-19. Working with Kitty Gilbert and Maine Medical Partners has

been fruitful in that the plan is ready to activate as soon as it's required but Bud does not believe it will be needed.

- Kitty is only on the island one day a week, but is available by phone, which is working well.
- The committee has been looking into options for patients who need to go into town for testing. No new options were developed because the water taxi drivers are concerned about exposure to patients who may be positive with COVID-19.
- Bud reiterated that the COVID-19 response committee will not assume any enforcement role. People are asking COVID-19 response committee members to enforce the mandates in the governor's plan. This is not the role of the COVID-10 response committee.
- Mask production and distribution program has distributed over 300 masks on the island and there are still masks available.
- Now that things have settled down and programs are in place, there may not be a continued need for a COVID-19 response subcommittee to report to the PIC.
- Mental health support group has been effective and may continue even if the COVID-19 response committee wraps up.

Susan Hanley provided an update for the COVID-19 Response Food Security committee. Susan described the measures put in place at Hannigan's (in cooperation with Bob Hannigan) and the surrogate shopper program that allows vulnerable islanders to work with a volunteer to do their shopping for them.

Executive Committee – Filling of PIC Vacancy

Michelle Winchester has moved to Florida, creating a vacancy on the council.

Schaeffer explained that the PIC can fill the position before the November election day by publicizing the vacancy in the community, interviewing interested candidates, and council vote on temporary councilors who will serve until the election in November.

Anderson asked how many positions are open for re-election in November. Schaeffer said there are four. Anderson suggested making the new councilor's position to last until election day 2021. Patnaude will follow up on if this idea is permissible according to the city ordinance.

Anderson asked Bill Patnaude if he knows how voting will proceed in November. Patnaude said he doesn't know, and that the city may not have figured that out yet.

Anderson proposed advertising the position as ending with election day 2021. Councilors agreed. Schaeffer said he would put a notice out on the island lists.

Anderson suggested that the council should investigate how potential candidates could file with the City Clerk if City Hall is still closed for filing, and how potential candidates could collect signatures if social distancing requirements are still in place.

Noise Study Committee

Schaeffer was in touch with Dr. Walker from Community Noise Lab about the summer portion of the noise study. Since this summer will have far less traffic than a typical summer, the study will

be postponed until summer 2021. Dr. Walker may repeat the winter portion of the study to make sure all her data comes from the same calendar year. Councilors supported the additional sound study, should Dr. Walker choose to pursue it.

OLD BUSINESS

FY2020 Budget Reallocation

Schaeffer said that at the June meeting, surpluses will be transferred to organizations that are in need of funds. Budget surpluses at this point are

\$500	bike tickets
\$331.30	college student passes
\$339.69	police cadet
\$1338.70	needs based tickets
\$212.95	middle school/high school
\$488.73	PEAT
\$656	PIC administration
\$247.55	private high school and middle school ferry passes
\$982.50	Watertaxi (COVID-19 response)

Anderson asked Bill Patnaude if the Portland City budget for FY 2021 has been approved. Patnaude said it has not.

Anderson asked if PIC should prepare for the scenario that City funding does not get approved by July 1st, so organizations that are looking for funding from PIC may not get it. Patnaude said it would be a good idea to consider that scenario.

Welch Street parking lot improvements – update

Schaeffer reported that Keith Gray said the parking lot improvements discussed at an earlier PIC meeting are moving forward and are out to bid. The parking lot will be re-paved. Other site improvements will have to be completed prior to paving. Kraft pointed out that the City has not come back to us with an updated plan based on the community input provided at the earlier meeting. The City indicated at that time that the community would see the final plan before it was launched. She suggested that PIC reach out to Keith Gray ASAP to ask what version of the plan is moving forward. Schaeffer will reach out to Keith Gray via email immediately.

New ferry and safety measures – update

Twain Braden reported that Casco Bay Lines board is having weekly meetings. They have put a procedure in place that allows the president of the board (Patrick Flynn) and the general manager (Hank Berg) to make decisions without a full board vote. Twain stated that the CBL board is still informed and involved in discussions, but not votes. At the last meeting, the board discussed that ridership will increase as better weather arrives, and expressed interest in increasing the ferry service schedule. They are exploring ways to maintain social distancing requirements on fuller boats. The effect will be reduced capacity on current ferries.

Twain said there was no update on the new ferry.

Anderson asked whether the large multi-million dollar grant that CBL received recently would help keep ticket prices from rising despite reduced revenues during COVID-19 ferry service restrictions. Twain said it may not be large enough but it would help.

Eckel asked about the status PIC Ferry Service Committee proposal about priority boarding strategies, with a specific concern for the impact of reduced capacity to meet social distancing requirements. This situation brings priority boarding to the fore. Who is allowed to board? Twain said the operations committee met with Chuck Radis but the plan has not progressed beyond a high level discussion before the onset of the coronavirus situation. Twain said he would bring priority boarding up again in the context of the reduced boat capacity discussion.

Jetport Noise Advisory Committee – update

Jen Lavanture said the last meeting of the Jetport Noise Advisory Committee was held at the end of January. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 20, 2020, presumably via ZOOM. Jen will post details about how islanders can attend and participate in the meeting.

Jen provided two updates since last meeting.

- 1) Good news about the Harbor Visual Approach (this is the name for the daytime/good weather approach that flies over the south of Peaks Island). The FAA has moved the first waypoint that guides planes. It is now over the water between the Peaks and Cushing Islands. Previously, the waypoint was at the southern end of Peaks Island. This relocation should move planes off of the island and keep their incoming flight path over the water. Also, addition of a waypoint should improve accuracy of incoming planes in sticking to the flight path, since there is a lot of variability in the visual interpretation of the approach. rely on visual approach at the time.
- 2) Less good news about the RNAV approach (also called the Southwest Airlines approach). The RNAV approach is going to be implemented as planned, with flights going over the northern half of Peaks Island. The FAA did not adjust the approach based on community input. However, at present, only Southwest Airlines will be allowed to use this approach, starting on May 21st.

Lavanture stated that the airport will continue to solicit input about this flight path so islanders can continue to attend meetings and fill out online noise complaint forms to impact final adoption parameters. FAA is considering allowing other airlines to use this approach which would mean more planes flying over the northern side of Peaks Island.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Audience member said that years ago, when the parking lot was reconstructed, there were two sturdy, good looking fences on Island Ave and Welch Street sides. Does the new parking lot project include reconstruction of the fences?

Schaeffer said he would bring this issue up to Keith Gray in his e-mail to see the new plan.

Audience member said thank you to the COVID-19 response committee for their work in the community.

Audience member asked Twain Braden if the public can listen in and participate in the CBL meeting about priority boarding. Twain said there is not a priority boarding meeting per se, but

he would ask for an update about the priority boarding issue as part of the discussion about reduced capacity of ferries. Twain said the public can call in, the phone number is on the Casco Bay Lines website. Twain said he would ask if CBL can provide the public with the ZOOM link.

Audience member said that city engineer, Keith Gray, originally said the city would not do anything to the island parking lot without community approval. The audience member also reminded councilors that Keith Gray admitted that he had never walked the parking lot with a community member. Schaeffer said he would be contacting Keith Gray to find out what is included in the plan that the city appears to be advancing.

Audience member asked about the surplus for the bike tickets that would indicate that no bike tickets were used this year. Anderson pointed out that with the library closed, there is no distribution point for the bike tickets. Rafferty is going to figure out how to handle this.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

- Community meeting with police chief scheduled for May 12th has been postponed.

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, May 27, 2020, at 6:15 pm via ZOOM.

Meeting Adjournment: 7:33 p.m.