



**Peaks Island Council
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

6:15 p.m., ZOOM meeting

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting–August 26, 2020

August PIC meeting will be a ZOOM meeting

CALL TO ORDER: 6:17 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Steve Anderson

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 9

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kraft made the motion to approve the June 24, 2020 meeting minutes. Rafferty seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Schaeffer presented the tentative FY2021 PIC budget with a \$40,000 total expenditure.

Schaeffer also presented Valerie Kelly's email on behalf of the Peaks Island Taxi. Kelly stated that the Peaks Island Taxi could postpone most expenditures until April 2021, at which point the Taxi insurance, registration and licenses are due. That is the bulk of their expenditures.

Schaeffer stated that the Peaks Island Tax and Energy Assistance said that they did not require immediate funding at start of FY2021 fiscal year.

Schaeffer made an administrative motion to accept the tentative budget as presented and proposed that the PIC would not make any expenditures unless absolutely necessary.

Eckel seconded.

No Councilor discussion.

Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

Executive Committee –PIC seats up for election in November 2020

Schaeffer reported that City Clerk Katherine Jones said the people taking out papers to run for election would make a choice as to whether they wanted to run for a 2-year or 3-year term.

Rafferty reported that she opted to run for a 2-year term when she collected her nomination papers.

Nomination papers are available as of July 1 and will be turned in to City Clerk with 100 signatures from registered voters on Peaks Island. Completed nomination papers must be returned between August 12th and August 26th.

Parking Committee – meters installed in Island Resident Parking Zone

Peter Eckel, chair of the Parking Committee, provided an update on current efforts by the Parking Committee.

Eckel reported that he revised the format of the PIC Parking Committee recommendations and re-sent them to Spencer Thibodeau. No response from Thibodeau yet, but Eckel will follow up in the next couple of weeks.

Eckel reached out to Asher Chappell, Chief Operating Officer of Unified Parking Partners to follow up on the PIC Parking Committee's idea to create a new parking group in one of UPP's garages. Chappell said island parking patterns do not work with his business model, because he prefers office workers who park during the day and leave spaces open for hourly rental in the evening. But Chappell did not give a categorical NO to the idea of creating some monthly parking for islanders.

Chappell suggested that the PIC do another survey of islanders to see if there was a demand for monthly garage parking. Eckel stated that he thinks another survey is not helpful and he wants to go back to Chappell suggesting that Unified Parking offer open spaces and see if islanders respond. Councilors agreed this was the best approach.

Rafferty stated that the four spots on Thames Street that used to be Island Resident parking and that got converted to metered parking are usually empty, as are the spots on the Bay side of Thames Street. She suggested that the Parking Committee continue to push this issue with the City, and to try to reinstate those parking areas as island resident parking spaces.

Golf Cart Committee Report – Status on cart electrification, caps on rental carts, recent licensing requirements

Schaeffer reviewed an update from Steve Anderson, sent via email.

The PIC Golf Cart Committee asked the City for an update on several questions regarding cap on numbers of carts, cart inspection, and registration fees. The City responded that due to the pandemic, these issues have been placed on hold. When the City resumes “business as usual” these issues will be addressed.

Patnaude commented that City Hall is not going to be open until sometime in August, which is delaying licensing and fee payment. Patnaude said that licensing and paying fees would happen before physical inspections of the golf carts.

Patnaude asked if there is a noticeable increase in the number of carts on the island.

Schaeffer said that both rental companies are running but may not be running at the same volume as last year.

Ferry Service Committee

Chuck Radis, chair of the Ferry Service Committee, provided several updates.

Radis stated that on July 7th, the CBL board voted in favor of proceeding with the 599 capacity new ferry with the hybrid diesel/electric motor.

The PIC Ferry Service Committee met on July 8th to focus on the requirement of face masks and social distancing, and sent a letter to Hank Berg of CBL requesting that passengers should not be allowed to board if they did not have a mask. The committee also asked about the status of priority boarding for islanders.

Berg’s response was that CBL can require masks but if passengers say they have a health issue that prevents them from wearing a face covering, CBL can’t do anything about it. Berg also stated that CBL will work with the board of directors to determine a feasible option for priority boarding.

Radis noted that in the last few days CBL has hired a mask ambassador to enforce mask-wearing on the ferry. Radis also noted that even if CBL develops a priority boarding plan, there may not be enough votes for priority boarding to pass.

Kelly-Rosenberg stated that a long term effort should be encouraging Peaks Islanders to run for at-large seats on the CBL board.

Schaeffer said the PIC should not be involved with recruiting candidates to run for the CBL board, but it can be done by individuals.

Island Response to COVID Long Term – report and discussion of measures to encourage face mask use

The COVID Response Committee proposed signage and banners to encourage people to wear masks, for a total cost of \$1,350.

As a member of the COVID Response Committee, Schaeffer withdrew the proposal. Schaeffer does not recommend pursuing purchasing the signage in light of the need for fiscal conservancy and the fact that CBL has hired a mask ambassador.

OLD BUSINESS

Down Front Infrastructure

Schaeffer said that 220 people have taken the survey so far, and the survey has one more day for community input. He encouraged islanders to review the information put out by the City in conjunction with the survey, accessible online via the link:

http://www.portlandmaine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/28484/PIFerryLandsideOps_DRAFTTask2FutureConditions

NEW BUSINESS

• Ferry passenger queuing and COVID safety during high volume – Discussion and possible motion.

Eckel made a motion regarding managing the passenger queueing on Welch Street.

It is moved that the Peaks Island Council Ferry Services Committee organize a meeting between the Portland Police Department and the senior staff of Casco Bay Lines to determine roles and responsibilities for managing ferry passenger queuing on Peaks Island to ensure social distancing and use of face masks.

Kelly-Rosenberg seconded it.

Public comment:

Radis clarified that the efforts to manage passenger queueing occurred both Saturday and Sunday last year. Radis stated that prior discussions with CBL revealed that CBL does not believe it is their responsibility to control anything that happens on the Peaks Island wharf. Radis did not think including them in the discussions would be helpful.

Radis stated that last year the island police erected crowd management stanchions on their own and they did not feel like they were supported by the entire police department. He commended their efforts which meant that the ambulance could reach the wharf in an emergency, even while passengers were queueing.

Councilor comment:

Schaeffer agreed that the collaborative approach may not work but the PIC's efforts to address this problem should start with collaboration.

Schaeffer asked Eckel which boats would require management. Eckel stated that every day, the 2:45, 3:45, 5:00 and 6:00 require management.

Kelly-Rosenberg asked if anyone has asked Danny Rose if he could manage this himself?

Radis stated that since Danny Rose is not here every weekend, other officers would have to be involved and the police chief would have to support the island police's efforts.

Schaeffer commented that the PIC Ferry Services Committee would start at the highest levels to obtain managerial buy in and then work its way down to people who would be implementing the plan..

Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

• PIC Workshop – Discussion and anticipated motion – to plan PIC member workshop regarding issues raised by Black Lives Matter movement

Rafferty made a motion to convene a workshop to best begin to address systemic racism within the Peaks Island community and broader communities.

I move to propose that PIC members convene a workshop to learn how to best begin our vital work to address systemic racism, both here on the island, within Portland City structures, our state, and the nation.

Eckel seconded.

No public comment.

Council comment:

Eckel thanked Rafferty for bringing this motion forward.

Kelly-Rosenberg asked what the workshop would look like.

Schaeffer said the first step would be a council workshop meeting that is open to the public but without public input. The council members would develop a detailed plan for how to conduct a broader conversation that would involve the entire community and perhaps a facilitator.

Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

- **PIC Meeting – video access – Anticipated motion to open video to members of the public during PIC meetings**

Kelly-Rosenberg withdrew this motion.

- **Civil Discourse – Anticipated motion to have PIC conduct community meeting on the importance of civil discourse on NextDoor**

Kelly-Rosenberg withdrew this motion until sometime in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

July 30 Community Meeting with Mayor Snyder – Postponed

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, August 26, 2020, at 6:15 pm via ZOOM.

Meeting Adjournment: 7:38 p.m.