



**Peaks Island Council
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

6:15 p.m., ZOOM meeting

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting–September 23, 2020

September PIC meeting will be a ZOOM meeting

CALL TO ORDER: 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 7

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kraft made the motion to approve the July 22, 2020 meeting minutes. Kelly-Rosenberg seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Schaeffer stated that there were no expenditures for the new fiscal year yet. PIC is operating on the funds that remain from the FY 2020 budget until new funds for FY 2021 are approved by the Portland City Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

Executive Committee –Update on PIC seats up for election in November 2020

City documents indicate that Schaeffer is running for an upcoming three-year term, Eckel, Rafferty and Fred Somers are running for an upcoming two-year terms.

Schaeffer suggested that the Peaks Island Council host a candidates night sometime in October.

Parking Committee

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

Eckel reported that he has been working on three items to improve mainland parking for island residents:

- 1) Eckel sent a letter to Belinda Ray that advocates to expand the existing Island Resident (IR) parking zone.
- 2) Eckel sent a second letter to City of Portland Parking Committee requesting that the City tell Peaks Island Council how long the waiting list is for the Casco Bay Lines garage and also requesting that the City ask MHR to open the waiting list for island residents. Eckel is hoping to have a meeting with the City of Portland Parking Committee soon.
- 3) Eckel is working with 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 for island residents in one of UPP's garages.

Schaeffer said that in the past the management at CBL garage said that everyone except for eight slots in the CBL garage was somehow associated with Peaks Island. But PIC would like a more specific and up-to-date audit about who is actually renting the spaces in the CBL garage.

Patnaude stated that he would help figure out the best way to work with MHR to understand the current waiting list situation at the CBL garage.

Eckel stated that the City's Parking Committee should be able to direct MHR about what to do because the City has a 51% ownership stake in the garage.

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

Steve Anderson said ongoing email conversations with the City have been trying to get the City to specify a cap on how many golf carts are allowed by each company for the 2021 season.

Schaeffer questioned whether the requirement that all carts be electric by May 31, 2021 is dependent on when golf carts are going to be inspected and registered with the City.

Anderson stated that pursuing the cap and electrification of golf carts may not be the most important priority with the City at the moment as a way of explaining why the City has not responded to his requests for City input.

Ferry Service Committee

Eckel discussed a meeting between the Portland police department, the Peaks Island Council, the Maine Department of Transportation, and Casco Bay Lines regarding who has the responsibility of managing crowds at the landings.

It was determined to be a Portland Police Department issue. In discussion of the initiative taken by Pete Rose last year, the Police Department said it was a difficult initiative to sustain, and CBL did not like it.

Additionally, the City has reduced police staffing on the island and they do not have the man power to manage crowds with the staff that they have. Crowding at the boat has not been a problem this year with reduced ridership related to the corona virus.

Eckel stated that although the situation is not likely to change in the short term, the group agreed to stay in touch and discuss the issue further next year as things return “closer to normal.”

Anderson asked whether CBL is complying with Governor’s executive order that travel should be limited to “essential travel only.”

Eckel responded that it is not clear what the definition of “essential travel” is. CBL is not enforcing the “essential travel” criteria although they are enforcing the wearing of face coverings and compliance with social distancing.

Eckel suggested that future conversations about controlling crowds at the landing should include Peaks Island restaurant owners.

Peaks Island Elementary School – update on plans for reopening

Kelly Hasson, principal and lead teacher of the Peaks Island School, stated that the Peaks Island Elementary School will be reopening for in-person learning with some restrictions.

When the school re-opens on September 14th, students will be wearing masks. When wearing masks, students will be allowed to be three feet apart. Without masks they must maintain six feet social distancing.

The school is designing outdoor classrooms with shade sails and outdoor seating.

The school will also have a (nearly) full-time, on-site nurse. Parents will need to take their children’s temperature each morning and report it via a special app (or children will have to go straight to the nurse to have their temperature taken).

The school hours will be Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri from 8:20-12:20pm. They will not have in-person physical education, art, music and library. Those “specials” will be offered via pre-recorded video segments that students can access at any time. No parents or community volunteers will be allowed to enter the school building.

Lunches will be provided either on site or to go.

Some students will attend school remotely, using a Remote Academy that is being set up for all children around the district who are also attending school remotely.

The school board will consider how things are going during the Indigenous Persons weekend.

OLD BUSINESS

Welch Street Parking Lot

Schaeffer presented the results of the survey on planning improvements to the Welch Street parking lot being done by the City Engineer. The project was started in 2018. There were 21 responses, with the top three comments made by survey takers being:

- Reversing the direction on the drop-off circle as proposed will create more congestion, not less
- Existing temporary toilets take up 2 to 3 spaces that could be used for parking. Find another location.
- The amount of expense and effort does not seem to be warranted by the very modest increase in automobile parking that will result.

Schaffer clarified that the Welch Street Parking lot survey should not be confused with a broader project regarding changes to the down front area that was started by City Transportation Planner Bruce Hyman in 2019. That project involved a more comprehensive survey and involved items such as adding an additional pier.

PIC Anti-Racism Workshop

Rafferty said that Shae Stewart-Bouley, a Peaks Island resident and nationally known expert on race relations, social justice, and white supremacy, agreed to conduct a workshop on systemic racism.

The workshop would be a 90-minute ZOOM meeting, with some lecture and some breakout sessions. The workshop would be called “Authentic Dialogues: Talking about Racism and Moving to Action.”

Shae will charge only \$500 for this workshop as a discount since she is a member of the Peaks Island community (vs \$1,500 usual cost).

Schaeffer stated that as a workshop, the public would only be able to listen and would not be allowed to comment on the discussion.

Schaeffer is working to identify private donations that would pay for the workshop since the City budget is very limited at the moment. The process for donating is to have

people donate to the City with a designation for how the donation is going to be spent, then the City Council would need to have two reads of the proposal before it was accepted by the City Council. Then the money could be moved to the Peaks Island Council.

Schaeffer stated that he would work with Rafferty to outline the funding piece before the September PIC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, September 23, 2020, at 6:15 pm via ZOOM.

Meeting Adjournment: 7:31 p.m.