



**Peaks Island Council
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

6:15 p.m., ZOOM meeting

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting–November 18, 2020

November PIC meeting will be a ZOOM meeting

CALL TO ORDER: 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 8

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anderson made the motion to approve the September 23, 2020 meeting minutes. Rafferty seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

• FY 2021 Expenditures report

Schaeffer shared the budget spread sheet via Zoom. Schaeffer stated that the only expenditure so far this fiscal year is \$300 for transcription service. The process for getting a check out to the Peaks Island Taxi will begin soon. Anderson made a note that the budget document should no longer say "Non-approved Budget" – this budget has been approved. Bill Patnaude said he would update the document.

Rafferty made a motion to accept the expenditure report. Anderson seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

• FY2021 Budget - Expenditures in a time of austerity

Schaeffer suggested that PIC look at budget again considering the city is facing budget shortfalls. Anderson said PIC should monitor expenditures over the course of the year, and support island organizations but not try to spend every penny of the budget with an eye towards seeing if there is any amount of the PIC budget that could be returned.

Schaeffer questioned the PIC expenditure on summer passes for high school and middle school students. Rafferty said she would investigate the situation and make a recommendation about how PIC should fund school passes by the December meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

• Ferry Service Committee – update on priority boarding, vehicle reservation, and terminal improvements

Fred Somers, chair of the Ferry Service Committee, reported that the CBL Operations Committee met on October 19th and Hank Berg reported on status of electronic ticketing system and vehicle reservation system. CBL staff said implementation of an electronic ticketing system would require upgrade to software systems. Existing software is obsolete and no longer supported by company.

CBL has selected two firms as finalists after issuing an RFP for the project. Hank Berg said they would select a finalist in November, with implementation expected in March 2021. CBL is reaching out to the vendors' customers as input to their final decision.

Schaeffer asked if the e-ticketing system would facilitate priority boarding. Somers reported that there was no discussion of priority boarding at the CBL Operations meeting.

• Parking Committee – update on efforts to increase mainland parking

Eckel reported that his investigations have not been able to uncover any proof that the CBL parking garage was ever designated as being for islanders only.

Eckel reported that he had a conversation with Belinda Ray and Spencer Thibodeau from the City. The City's preference would be a "market solution" to increasing islander parking. However, Asher Chappell of Unified Parking Partners indicates that he has no surplus of parking spots to offer to islanders monthly parking, so it's unlikely that additional islander parking spots will open up in existing garages.

Eckel says more realistic options are expansion of IR Zone and designating some islander parking spots in "the \$15 lot." The \$15 lot is currently used for transient parking during the summer and as a tow lot for violators of snow parking bans during the winter. The City has no plans to change the use of that lot.

Eckel asked the City if some portion of the \$15 lot could be isolated and used for monthly parking for islanders. PIC would need to advocate to the City Council for that solution.

Kelly-Rosenberg said that in past years, the cars towed during snow bans only took about 20% of the \$15 lot --- there was plenty of room for other cars to park.

Rafferty asked how many street parking spots the city provides in the current IR zone. Anderson said it is about 80. Rafferty suggested that the City provide 80 spots to islanders for snow ban parking when the spots in the IR zone are off limits.

Schaeffer made a motion that the parking committee request from the city use of the \$15 lot on Thames Street for island resident parking.

Schaeffer pointed out that the details for the request will be worked out by the parking committee.

Schaeffer amended the motion to add that a draft of the letter to the City be drafted and available to the public for the November 18th PIC meeting to be reviewed by the PIC before sending to the city council.

Kelly-Rosenberg seconded.

Public discussion:

AM asked if the city is likely to allow the \$15 lot to be used in the winter for island snow ban parking.

Eckel pointed out that the city's mission is to provide city parking for all, not specifically for islanders. The city's system in the \$15 lot works very well for the city, and they are not likely to change what they are doing if it is very cumbersome. The least cumbersome solution from the city's perspective is to provide monthly parking.

Councilor discussion:

Kelly-Rosenberg commented that monthly parking fee would still exclude many islanders who cannot afford the market rate.

Eckel said the \$15 lot solution would not provide a parking alternative for the very limited islander parking in the IR Zone, but helps people who are on the CBL parking garage waiting list.

Eckel said two solutions are required. One, additional monthly parking near the boat for islanders. Two, additional street parking for islanders.

Anderson suggested that there could be a third solution – slightly subsidized islander monthly parking, at \$100/month in a lot from which they currently get no income.

Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

- **Community Planning – update**

Eckel said Island Institute representative said there wasn't an example of another island going through a broad community visioning process.

Eckel proposed that the PIC create a survey to be issued in January 2021, similar to the golf cart survey, building off a previous community plan that was developed in 2002.

Eckel said the survey would give PIC a longer term perspective.

Schaeffer asked how the survey will impact practical solutions on the island.

Eckel said the survey wouldn't impact solutions, but it would inform the focus of the PIC and discover issues, not solve them.

Kelly-Rosenberg said PIC could identify two or three major issues that PIC could affect.

Eckel made a motion to create a Community Planning Committee including at least one council member and volunteers from the community, to develop the process and data collection methods to guide PIC in long term planning of the Peaks Island community.

Anderson seconded.

Eckel said he would be willing to chair the Community Planning Committee.

Public discussion:

AM spoke in support of the motion.

Councilor discussion:

Anderson said it was important to specify that the outcome is not a strategic plan for the island, but a vehicle to help guide PIC in the next few years.

Kelly-Rosenberg said it was important to focus on one or two issues.

Schaeffer said the motion just creates the committee and, once created, the first order of the committee might be to define the goals and objectives of initiative.

Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

• **Noise Study Committee – update on air traffic concerns and community meeting with JNAC**

Schaeffer reported that 45 island residents attended the October 15, 2020 meeting with Jetport Director, Paul Bradbury, and his staff explained the current situation with the air traffic over Peaks Island. They also discussed how changes to those flight paths would affect Peaks Island.

Schaeffer said the PIC Noise Committee is developing a strategic plan to direct flight paths away from going directly over Peaks Island. Schaeffer said the PIC Noise Committee is not aware of any due process involved in setting the flight paths over Peaks Island. Schaeffer said the committee may soon need to get legal assistance in addressing the FAA flight path decisions.

- **Peaks Island School Committee – update on school enrollment**

Kraft met with Kelly Hasson to discuss school attendance. There are currently 28 students in the school and 10 students are being home schooled. Hasson said that even with the low numbers, the elementary school on Peaks Island is pretty safe. Hasson mentioned that the school board has an understanding that the island schools are off limits, that the islands need the schools in order to function year-round.

- **Executive Committee – update on filling vacant PIC position**

Schaeffer said the process of filling the vacant PIC position for a one year term (ending with the November 2021 meeting) will be to interview perspective candidates and vote on them as a council. The goal is to have a new councilor selected by the December 2020 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Transfer bridge maintenance update**

The maintenance of the transfer bridge will coincide with the maintenance of the Machigonne II. The maintenance plan includes filling a second walkway on the transfer bridge. The work will be done between January and April 2021.

- **Welch Street Parking Lot**

Schaeffer stated that the City Engineer said the contract for the work has gone out to bid. Schaeffer was not able to get more details about what “the work” involves. Patnaude did not have any additional updates.

- **PIC Anti-Racism Workshop**

Rafferty provided an overview of the Anti-Racism Workshop, attended by all Peaks Island Council members.

Peaks Island resident, Shay Stewart-Bouley, facilitated the discussion about the five domains of racism that exist in our society. She also discussed the importance of the statement “Black Lives Matter.” Councilors then discussed personal actions and community actions that could lead to systemic racism. As a conclusion, the councilors decided to have a community meeting on anti-racism, develop events that develop community diversity, and for PIC as a body to create a public statement in support of Black lives.

NEW BUSINESS

Rafferty made a motion That Peaks Island Council Create a Statement as a Body that Black Lives Matter.

In the examination of how PIC as community leaders (a community organization) can contribute to the dismantling of individual, community, systemic, and structural racism, this body can take action.

One action is to create and make a statement that Black lives matter in this community.

It is moved that the council begin to work on creating that statement to be publicly released within the next 30 days.

Eckel seconded.

No public discussion.

Councilor discussion.

Schaeffer asked about the process for developing the statement.

Rafferty asked for help in developing a first draft which would be circulated to the rest of the council. Schaeffer said he would work on the statement for review at the November 18, 2020 meeting.

Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

• **Candidates night – discussion of how format can be improved**

Schaeffer asked for a volunteer to re-design the candidates night for future years.

One suggestion was to move the candidates night to an earlier date.

Anderson said he would meet with Schaeffer to discuss.

PUBLIC COMMENT

AM asked for more timely update about the 7:45am CBL meeting.

Schaeffer said islanders who are CBL board members should issue those announcements, rather than the PIC. Additionally, CBL newsletter subscribers get announcements of all the meetings along with the log in information. So islanders need to take some responsibility for keeping themselves informed. Schaeffer suggested that the PIC could ask for better communication to islanders about meetings. Schaeffer said he would put it on the agenda for the November meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

- Jetport Noise Advisory Committee Peaks Community Meeting – October 29th – 6:00pm

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 2020, at 6:15 pm via ZOOM.

Eckel made motion to adjourn. Anderson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjournment: 7:43 p.m.