



**Peaks Island Council  
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

6:15 p.m., ZOOM meeting

**NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting–June 23, 2021**

**June PIC meeting will be a ZOOM meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER: 6:15 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

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

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 9

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***Rafferty made the motion to accept the April 28, 2021 meeting minutes. Kraft seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.***

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Schaeffer shared the expenditure report as of May 18, 2021 via Zoom. Schaeffer reported that the total remaining budget for FY21 is \$9,379.30.

***Somers made a motion to accept the expenditure report. Kraft seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to accept the expenditure report. Motion passed.***

**COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES**

• **HomeStart – Update regarding ADUs**

Betsy Ramage-Healey presented a guide about permitting and regulations for Accessory Dwelling Units that she developed with the help of Rachel Conley.

Some summary points:

- Detached ADUs are allowed, as well as attached ADUs.
- Detached ADUs needs its own water and sewer lines/septic system and sprinkler system.
- There is no requirement for additional parking for ADUs.
- There is no minimum lot size for an ADU but it must meet existing set back requirements.
- All ADUs built on Peaks Island must be year round – no summer rentals.

Ramage-Healey said HomeStart is breaking ground on an ADU at 18 Luther Street on June 1, 2021. Thompson-Johnson will build the basic structure and volunteers will be completing the interior.

Remage-Healey said she will make paper copies of the ADU guide available at the library for people who cannot access the electronic copies.

- **Parking Committee – update on proposals submitted to City Council**

Eckel reported that as of Monday morning the city received 140 applications for 50 spots at the Ocean Gate parking lot lottery, which is open to residents of all the Casco Bay Islands. Eckel commented that this clearly demonstrates a need for mainland parking.

Eckel is working to clarify the name of the new street (as yet unnamed) that is being created near Thames Street so that Belinda Ray can pursue adding 8 additional Island Resident Zone spaces by working at the Portland City Council level.

- **Golf Cart – update on rental cart regulations**

Schaeffer presented a copy of the letter (via Zoom) that was sent to members of the City's Sustainability and Transportation Committee regarding the delay of the implementation of the Golf Cart Ordinance that has been deferred until 2022. No response from the City was received.

Schaeffer expressed a concern that the procedure used by the City Manager to determine the caps on the number of golf cart companies and the number of golf carts available for rental should be transparent and involve public input. The ordinance simply states that the City Manager will determine what the caps should be.

McLaughlin agreed with Schaeffer that the issue should be resolved prior to the current city manager leaving his post and advocated for putting pressure on the City to take action on the golf cart ordinance that they approved two years ago. McLaughlin said that one member of the Transportation Committee (Andrew Zaro) reached out to him and told him that he did receive the letter from Schaeffer.

Schaeffer commented that since Belinda Raye is not running for re-election, PIC needs to establish connections with newer members and that he has all the documentation of the process to develop the golf cart regulations.

- **Environment and Sustainability – update**

McLaughlin reported that the first committee meeting was held Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Eight people attended. McLaughlin said more people can join the committee. If you are interested in participating, contact Peter McLaughlin at [peter.mclaughlin.pic@gmail.com](mailto:peter.mclaughlin.pic@gmail.com) or 339-225-2353. The next meeting will sometime during the third week of June.

Rosenberg-Kelly asked McLaughlin that if the committee identifies projects that children can participate in she will implement them through her work with the New Brackett Church after-school program.

- **Ferry Service Committee – update on island resident priority boarding**

Somers said residential boarding pass program is moving forward. Application deadline is June 12<sup>th</sup>. Passes will begin to be issued June 1<sup>st</sup>.

AM asked if priority boarding applied to both Portland and Peaks Island boarding. Somers said his understanding is that there would be priority boarding on both Peaks and Portland.

- **Public Restrooms - update**

Somers said the committee is working to gather information about public restroom requirements or standards for public gatherings. They are also looking for city owned land on the back shore that might be a place for restrooms to be located.

Somers said there seems to be a national shortage of Porta-Potties so that may not be a viable solution in the short terms.

Kelly-Rosenberg is going to contact the city to determine how many public toilets are required for specific events, depending on the size of the event. This will help determine how many toilets are required.

Patnaude said the bathroom trailer in the parking lot will be re-installed on Friday morning.

McLaughlin said that the general rule of thumb among event organizers is one Porta-Potty for 50 people.

Patnaude suggested contacting Claire Norton or Andy Downs who work for the city to get more information about planning for restrooms for events.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Police Coverage – report on coverage and handling of incidents involving firearms**

Kraft said that she spoke with Danny Rose about how island police would respond to a situation involving guns.

Rose said every situation is different. He said the island police would not wait for back up from Portland if there was an active shooting on the island. Rose also said they would not want to instigate a situation that could escalate into “suicide by cop.”

Kraft reported that current police duty shift uses the schedule:

- 24 hours on, 24 hours off, 24 hours on, 5 days off

- Except for summer periods, there is only one officer on duty at all times.
- During the upcoming Memorial Day weekend, there will be a second police officer on the island from the Friday 5pm boat until the Sunday 6pm boat.
- There was no reduction in police force during the pandemic.

- **Summer crowd management – report on meeting with police chief and CBL**

Eckel and Kraft met with Portland police chief and the police sergeant responsible for island police and Hank Berg and Nick Mavadones from CBL to discuss crowded Sunday boats during summer.

Eckel said the call was beneficial because CBL and police do not communicate about this issue.

This summer, CBL will have trouble sending additional boats due to crew limitations, and re-routing the down-the-bay boat will be less useful because of a change in the down-the-bay boat schedule.

Eckel said that CBL is not able to communicate that they are sending additional boats to handle crowd surges around Reggae Sunday. Real-time communication between CBL and police is difficult because police don't carry cell phones. Additionally, CBL does not work with venue operator (i.e. Jones Landing) about transporting crowds from Reggae Sundays.

Eckel said that CBL's role is not crowd management. Crowd management is the Portland police department's responsibility. The difficulty is that the one police officer (sometimes two) on the island have trouble managing a crowd of up to 300 people. Eckel asked "Where else in the city of Portland do you have 300 people waiting around for mass transit."

Somers said he was disappointed that the Portland police department is not more willing to participate in crowd control on the island.

Schaeffer said he is trying to re-schedule the annual PIC meeting with Chief Frank Clark so that this issue can be raised then.

McLaughlin said he is also disappointed that neither CBL or Portland police are willing to assume the responsibility of crowd control. He suggested that the councilors should develop a specific list of needs that can be pursued – rather than a general request for more help with Sunday crowds.

Eckel asked Somers to ask CBL board how they are going to run priority boarding on Sunday afternoons during the summer, with the large crowds. Somers agreed.

- **Welch Street lot – discussion of planned traffic flow**

Schaeffer said that Mike Tremblay, Senior Engineer of City of Portland, will leave the flow of traffic around the drop off circle as it has always been.

Schaeffer said Tremblay pointed out that, strictly speaking, the traffic circle is not wide enough for two lanes of traffic but islanders will probably continue to use it that way.

- **City Charter Commission – update**

Schaeffer thanked McLaughlin and Eckel for the candidate forums they conducted.

McLaughlin said he hopes PIC will do similar forums for candidates in the fall election. He encouraged everyone to vote on June 8<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center, or via various early voting methods currently available.

- **PIC Ferry Tickets and Passes – motions to implement recommendations**

Rafferty said PIC is re-evaluating the ferry tickets and passes programs.

Rafferty said the public overwhelmingly supports the programs although some did not know how to access it and some did not even know it existed.

Rafferty said the past fiscal year was non-normal, due to the pandemic. But generally, the PIC would like to increase awareness of and access to the various ferry tickets and passes programs.

**Rafferty made a motion:**

***That PIC subsidize a \$10/month cost so that people who buy monthly passes could add a monthly bicycle pass.***

**Kelly-Rosenberg seconded.**

AM said they heartily support this program.

Schaeffer asked Rafferty what the estimate of additional cost may be.

Rafferty said she did not know.

AM said the overall cost of the program could remain the same and if the funding ran out before the end of the year, it could be re-adjusted for the following year.

Schaeffer asked Rafferty how this \$10/month bicycle pass would be administered.

Rafferty said she thought it would operate similar to the college pass in which users pay up front and get a reimbursement from PIC.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Rafferty made a motion:**

***That PIC remove the requirement for a library card before they can access the summer bike ticket program.***

**Kelly-Rosenberg seconded.**

AM said the library card requirement was instituted as a way to restrict the program to island residents.

McLaughlin said non-citizens are often reluctant to fill out any form that they associate with the government so the library card requirement becomes a hurdle to them participating. McLaughlin said that transient day-trippers or weekly renters are unlikely to know about and use the program.

AM asked if library staff is still willing to administer the program.

Eckel said he doesn't understand the requirement.

**Motion passed with 5 yays and 2 nays.**

**Rafferty made a motion:**

***That PIC should add New Brackett Church and a PIC contact as a source for needs-based tickets.***

**McLaughlin seconded.**

AM supported the motion because the public has limited access to the tickets from the food panty (only open 1.5 hours/week) and St. Christopher Church (available by phone call).

Rafferty said this motion only involves needs-based passenger tickets. The health center distributes medical needs-based tickets.

Schaeffer said he supported the expansion of the number of places that can distribute needs-based tickets but the inclusion of a PIC contact in distributing the tickets did not seem like a good idea.

**Schaeffer made a motion to amend the motion:**

***To remove "and a PIC contact" from Rafferty's motion.***

**No second.**

Eckel said he thought a PIC contact was important.

McLaughlin said he thought a PIC contact was important.

Kelly-Rosenberg said she thought a PIC contact was important.

Schaeffer said he has a question about an individual PIC contact maintaining the confidentiality of who is using the needs-based service. He also questions the public accountability aspect of a PIC contact being given the authority to make the decision about the distribution of a public benefit.

Rafferty said that people are qualified for the needs-based service in other ways (free school lunch, SSDI benefits, for other state services) so there is no decision on the part of the PIC contact who is distributing the tickets.

Kelly-Rosenberg said PIC could provide some training around maintaining confidentiality. She supports expanding distribution of the tickets.

**Somers made a motion:**

***To defer Rafferty's original motion until the next meeting.***

**Kelly-Rosenberg seconded.**

**Somers' motion passed with 4 yays and 3 nays – motion is tabled until next meeting.**

**Rafferty made a motion:**

***To define eligible institutions for the college student passes as ones that students commute from the island for purposes of in-person instruction.***

**Kraft seconded.**

No public discussion. No councilor discussion.

**Motion passed with 6 yays and one abstention.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **PIC 2021 Budget – discussion regarding anticipated balances at end of fiscal year**

Schaeffer said the council will vote at the June meeting whether to re-distribute unspent budget to organizations or to return the funds to the city of Portland.

- **PIC Procedures – discussion of need for written procedures for PIC operations**

**Schaeffer made a motion:**

***That the PIC conduct a workshop for the purpose of discussing the need for and the creation of by-laws that would guide the operation of the Council. Such workshop would be open to the public.***

**Somers seconded.**

No public comment.

Schaeffer clarified that this motion does not say that by-laws are needed, it is just to conduct a workshop to discuss whether they are needed.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment via email – AM would like PIC to write letter to Maine DOT asking them to put an independent gas generator on the Peaks ferry landing that they own and manage.

Public comment via email – AM would like PIC to write letter to MHR Management asking them to install at least ten electric outlets in the Casco Bay Garage for electric cars.

Public comment via email – AM asks if PIC can designate one person to be the communication hub with CBL every Sunday afternoon. Crew or CBL central would be expected to let that person know of extra boats being scheduled and person could immediately post that information on sandwich board.

Public comment via email – AM comments that a big, highly visible electric sign that could share updated boat schedule information would be a huge help. Can we get on this summer? Can CBL provide one? Can we rent one? Does an island business have one?

Public comment via email – Have Welch Street and adjacent property been assessed for designating a lawn/beach area for waiting families with kids, keeping them out of the crowded line but able to get back in line as the ferry is seen approaching?

Public comment via email – I heard that Robin (and others) would be interested in hiring private ferries for events but CBL (or other authority?) won't allow. Is this true?

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES**

**Next PIC Meeting:** Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at 6:15 pm via ZOOM.

***Eckel made motion to adjourn. McLaughlin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***

**Meeting Adjournment:** 8:11 p.m.