



**Peaks Island Council  
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

6:15 p.m., ZOOM meeting

**NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting–March 24, 2021**

**March PIC meeting will be a ZOOM meeting**

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 12

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***Somers made the motion to approve the January 27, 2021 meeting minutes. Eckel seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.***

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Schaeffer shared the expenditure report as of February 22, 2021 via Zoom. Schaeffer reported that the total remaining budget for FY21 is \$10,109.30.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES**

**• Executive Committee – update**

- Schaeffer reported that there was no update.

**Parking Committee – update**

Eckel reported that he and Schaeffer have been trying to get a response from Belinda Ray about the two requests that the PIC Parking Committee made to the City. Deena city manager's administrative assistant said she would be getting back to PIC within a week with an update.

Eckel clarified that the first request was to make an islander resident parking lot in a portion of the \$15/day lot. The second request was to increase street parking designated for island residents on Thames Street extension and a new street (as yet unnamed) that is being created near Thames Street.

- **Ferry Service Committee – update**

Somers said the CBL board will be meeting February 25<sup>th</sup> to decide on executing the contract for the replacement ferry to replace the Machigonne II. Work on the transfer bridge work will continue into March.

- **Golf Cart Committee – update**

Somers provided the update. Steve Clayman (Golf Cart Committee chair) has a was unable to attend. Somers exchanged emails with Belinda Ray regarding the process for regulation of golf carts and golf cart companies on Peaks Island. Somers said that PIC sent a letter to both John Jennings and Belinda Ray but neither person has responded. The goal is to get regulatory requirements in place before the beginning of the new season.

- **Priority Setting Committee – update**

Eckel said the Priority Setting Committee has met again and the community input survey will be sent over to PIC councilors prior to the March PIC meeting.

- **Update from HomeStart on Accessory Dwelling Units**

Betsey Remage-Healey presented a one page fact sheet about ADUs that summarizes new regulations since the City Council voted to pass zoning changes regarding ADUs on December 1, 2020.

Rafferty asked Remage-Healey if ADU restrictions apply to existing ADUs? Remage-Healey said no, existing ADUs do not have to meet the newly adopted restrictions.

Eckel asked if the affordable housing committee has done any analysis on how many affordable housing units might be added as a result of this zoning change? Tim Wyant answered that previous analysis for items that depend so heavily on owner financed adoption of zoning changes were not fruitful, so they have not pursued.

McLaughlin asked if the restriction about no short term rentals apply to ADUs in other part of the city. Remage-Healey said that restriction only applies to Peaks Island.

McLaughlin asked how city will enforce that ADUs are not used as short term rentals. Remage-Healey said it will rely on Peaks Island community to identify non-compliant ADUs.

AM asked if Peaks Islanders can now build tiny houses as ADU. Remage-Healey said there is no minimum size requirement specified in the ADU regulations but she doesn't know if the Portland building code allows tiny houses. McLaughlin added that the City dropped the size restriction of ADUs intending to allow tiny houses.

AM asked if composting toilets and hose-fed water is allowable in place of water and sewer hook-up. Remage-Healey did not think so, although it is governed by the building code and not the ADU regulations.

## OLD BUSINESS

- **FY 2022 Budget Request – Review of materials**

Schaeffer presented the draft FY2022 PIC budget that resulted from the budget workshop held on February 15, 2021 at 6:15pm via Zoom. During the budget workshop, PIC decided to allocate an additional \$4,800 that was not already allocated to organizations that had applied for funding. After that decision, PIC asked organizations to submit amendments to their applications to identify how they would use additional funding.

***Schaeffer made a motion to increase the allocation for Island Transit District from \$18,984 to \$20,984 per the organization's request. Rafferty seconded.*** No public discussion. No councilor discussion. Eckel abstained from voting. Four other councilors voted in favor. **Motion passed.**

***Schaeffer made a motion to increase the allocation for the Peaks Island Tax and Energy Assistance from \$4,000 to \$5,300 per the organization's request.*** No public discussion. No councilor discussion. Eckel abstained from voting. Four other councilors voted in favor. **Motion passed.**

***Schaeffer made a motion to increase the allocation for the Peaks Environmental Action Team from \$360 to \$860 per the organization's request.*** McLaughlin seconded. No public discussion. No councilor discussion. Five councilors voted in favor. **Motion passed.**

***Schaeffer made a motion to increase the allocation for the Fifth Maine Museum from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per the organization's request.*** Eckel seconded. No public discussion. No councilor discussion. Five councilors voted in favor. **Motion passed.**

***Schaeffer moved that the proposed FY2022 budget be forwarded to the City Council.*** Rafferty seconded. No public discussion. No councilor discussion. Eckel abstained. Four other councilors voted in favor. **Motion passed.**

- **Ferry Passes and Tickets – update**

Rafferty said PIC has historically allocated some portion of PIC budget for needs-based tickets, bicycle tickets, college student tickets and private/public student tickets.

Rafferty presented a summary document of each of the programs.

Schaeffer said the committee will fill in the blanks on the first draft of the document and there will be more discussion about possible changes to the ticket programs at the March meeting.

- **Ice Hazard – update**

Schaeffer presented a summary document detailing 14 places on Peaks Island where there are hazardous icing conditions due to poor drainage. Schaeffer said PIC will give people a bit more time to submit additional locations that are hazardous. Then the committee will work with the city and Peaks Island public works department to prioritize the work that needs to be done.

Bill Patenaud said that the City Water Engineer may have to be involved in some of the more complicated situations.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **PIC Environment Committee – motion to create PIC Sustainability Environment Committee**

***McLaughlin made a motion to re-establish the PIC Environment and Sustainability Committee. Schaeffer seconded the motion.***

AM asked if committee will include community members. McLaughlin said it will include community members.

No public comment.

Somers thanked McLaughlin for bringing the motion forward.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- **Peaks Island Arts Development – motion to lead preparation of proposal to Maine Arts Commission**

***McLaughlin made a motion to pursue a cultural planning grant that is being offered by the Maine Arts Commission. Schaeffer seconded.***

McLaughlin said that for this year, applicants do not need to provide matching funds. Grants are up to \$10,000. McLaughlin said that if Peaks Island received the grant, a committee would be formed to incorporate input from the community for the creation of a broad cultural plan. McLaughlin said he would write the grant.

No public comment.

Eckel thanked McLaughlin for taking the initiative to pursue the grant.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- **City Charter Commission – motion to consider holding candidate’s night for those running for District 1 and At-Large positions**

***Schaeffer made a motion to hold a candidates night for City Charter Commission candidates.*** Somers seconded. No public comment.

McLaughlin said that PIC should schedule the candidates night well before the date when mail in ballots will be sent out. McLaughlin said PIC will need to think about format regarding the large number of at-large candidates.

Schaeffer said papers need to be filed with the City Clerk by March 29, 2021 and more candidates may join the race.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- **City Charter Commission – motion to inform public regarding the purpose and function of Portland Charter Commission**

***McLaughlin made a motion that PIC provide Peaks Island voters basic context and key information for the election of charter commissioners in June and the complex charter commission process.***

Schaeffer seconded.

No public comment. No councilor discussion.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

AM asked whether the Peaks Island Parking Committee will raise the point that restaurant barricades have taken a lot of parking away from street parkers and this affects islanders, especially as we head into the summer.

AM said community members should provide input on seating, accessibility, and rest room access on the new ferry.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES**

**Next PIC Meeting:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at 6:15 pm via ZOOM.

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

**Meeting Adjournment:** 7:47 p.m.