



**Peaks Island Council
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

6:15 p.m., ZOOM meeting

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting—July 28, 2021

July 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, Devon Kraft, Andrea Kelly-Rosenberg, Peter McLaughlin

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 6

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kraft made the motion to accept the May 26, 2021 meeting minutes. Somers seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Schaeffer shared the expenditure report as of June 21, 2021 via Zoom. Schaeffer reported that the total remaining budget for FY21 is \$8,553.55.

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

• **Priority Setting – update on survey**

Eckel said the Priority Setting committee has received over 200 responses to its survey. The deadline is in three days. Schaeffer will send out one more reminder for people to respond to survey.

• **Parking Committee – update**

Eckel reported that all 50 spots at the Ocean Gate parking lot have been assigned via lottery (open to residents of all the Casco Bay Islands). Schaeffer commented that the 50 spots are great but only a temporary solution. Schaeffer attended the meeting that discussed changing Ocean Gate parking lot in to a green space. He was the only attendee at that meeting who spoke in favor of the City investing in year-round, accessible parking spaces for islanders.

Eckel clarified the name of the new street created near Thames Street is Amethyst Court but it is uncertain that the city will add eight additional Island Resident Zone spaces on that street.

Kelly-Rosenberg asked if the pilot shuttle program created last year to shuttle people between the Marginal Way parking lot and the ferry terminal would be reinstated this summer. Eckel said he heard the city is not going to bring it back this summer.

Somers asked if the City provided any usage data of the shuttle last summer. Eckel said he would check into it. Kraft said that Michelle Landry had some figures. Eckel said he would go through files he has from Landry.

Schaeffer asked if the PIC parking committee could raise the shuttle issue at a future city council meeting. Eckel said they could.

- **Broadband survey – update on City’s plan to survey**

Eckel said John Jennings sent out a letter asking people to complete a survey about city-wide broadband service in order to select a service provider for the city. Eckel said the bigger purpose of the survey is to provide background information for the city to use when applying for grants.

- **Ferry Service Committee – update**

Somers said CBL board will meet tomorrow morning. Residential boarding pass program has been implemented. The electronic ticketing initiative has been delayed because of hardware issues. The ferry terminal work is proceeding.

CBL is working with Congressman Pingree for a federal appropriation to help fund the next vessel that needs to be replaced. CBL is seeking \$7.5million in federal funding.

- **Public Restrooms – update**

Kelly-Rosenberg said calculating how many restrooms to be provided for the public should be based on the number of people on the island who don’t have access to a private bathroom during their typical three hour visit:

Using those parameters, the standard for restroom allocation is:

500 visitors to the island – recommended number is 5

1000 visitors to the island – recommended number is 8

2000 visitors to the island – recommended number is

Kelly-Rosenberg said that using those standards, we have enough public bathrooms on the island. She said those standard allocation figures are used by event planners.

Schaeffer asked if the committee is looking into standards from the National Park or State Park Services as opposed to event planner standards? Kelly-Rosenberg said

they could only find standards that related to events. Somers said he found some workplace standards but nothing to do with outdoor space.

McLaughlin suggested calling some local parks and asking them what guidelines they use.

- **Anti-Racism – update**

Rafferty said the committee has been working on a value statement that will be presented as a motion later in this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Needs-based Tickets – Discussion and possible vote on motion previously tabled**

Rafferty made a motion:

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

Somers seconded.

AM asked why Health Center is not listed as a distribution site for needs-based tickets for the current practice. Rafferty said the Health Center was approved to remain a distribution site for needs-based tickets during a motion that passed last month.

No councilor discussion.

Motion passed unanimously.

- **Summer Bicycle Tickets – discussion regarding procedures for implementing**

Rafferty said there are two separate potential issues with monthly passes, identified by Bill Patnaude. One is how users will prove purchase of a bike pass. Another is how many users actually add a bike pass to their monthly boat pass.

Rafferty said a separate receipt is given when people purchase a bike pass to add to their monthly pass. She has asked CBL for information about how many people purchase monthly bike passes but she has not received that information.

Schaeffer proposed postponing voting on the motion until all the information is gathered. Rafferty agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

- **FY2021 Middle and Secondary School Student Passes – discussion and possible motion regarding summer passes.**

Schaeffer said there is an outstanding invoice to pay for student school year boat passes to be extended for the summer. The estimate in February was \$4,500 but the actual amount required to extend school year passes into year-round passes for 35 students is \$5,771.50.

Patnaude said that the invoice has not been paid, but it is too late for the city to provide a purchase order to pay it. He said Schaeffer should not yet announce that the extended summer passes will be available this year. Patnaude will investigate how to pay this invoice at this point.

Schaeffer said a system has to be put in place to avoid this last minute budget calculation. Patnaude agreed. Schaeffer and Patnaude will meet to discuss how to handle the situation in the future.

Schaeffer made a motion.

It is moved that payment be made to Casco Bay Lines in the amount of \$5,771.50. In order to do so, unexpended funds in the amount of \$1,271.50 shall be transferred from elsewhere in the PIC budget to the “Middle/High School” line item.

Somers seconded.

AM asked for clarification about the increase in the amount of money required. Schaeffer clarified.

No councilor discussion.

Motion passed unanimously.

- **Unexpended PIC allocation funds – discussion and motions regarding disposition**

Schaeffer proposed using money allocated for needs-based tickets that will not be spent before the end of the fiscal year, and use it to cover the shortfall in the middle/high school passes line item.

Eckel made a motion to re-allocate money from needs-based tickets to middle/high school passes in the amount of \$1,271.50.

Kelly-Rosenberg seconded.

No public discussion. No councilor discussion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Schaeffer explained that there will be a total of approximately \$2,400 budget surplus in needs-based tickets, college student passes, private middle/high school passes, and administration.

The choice is to re-allocate to organizations that have already applied for funding from PIC, or to allow the money to lapse back to the city.

Schaeffer made a motion to allow the money to lapse back to the City.

Eckel seconded.

AM said that PIC should not return the money to the city.

AM said that the food pantry has had several generous donations and is in good financial shape at the moment.

AM said that PITEA is doing well but is always looking for more sources of income.

AM said that PIC should not return the money to the city as it is a dangerous precedent and the money should be spent wisely on the island.

Rafferty asked for clarification about the consequences versus the benefits of letting the money lapse and returning it to the city.

Schaeffer said the city has also had reduced income during the pandemic and would benefit by PIC returning the money.

Kelly-Rosenberg said PIC should keep the money to work on Peaks Island problems.

Somers, Eckel and McLaughlin said they do not support sending the money back to the city.

McLaughlin said the small amount of money would not matter to the city but it can make a difference to the small organizations out on Peaks Island.

Motion does not pass --- 6 nays, 1 yay

Schaeffer made a motion:

It is moved that unexpended balances remaining in the Peaks Island Council allocation for FY2021 as indicated in the June 2021 expenditure report be evenly distributed among the organizations previously receiving allocations in FY2021.
Kraft seconded.

AM said that PITEA has an ongoing struggle to meet continuing demand.

AM said that PEAT does not need funds at this point.

AM said that PEAT wants to do a proposal for community composting, so they feel that PEAT could put any money allocated to them to good use.

Kraft commented that it is best to spread the money equally across all the organizations that previously received funding from PIC during FY2021.

Somers said it is best to spread the money equally across all organizations and allow any organization that has sufficient funds to consider their allocations in FY2022.

Motion passes -- 6 yays, 1 nay

• **Forest Fire Risk on Peaks – discussion and possible motion regarding assessment of fire danger on Peaks.**

Schaeffer reached out to the Maine Forest Service and spoke with Kent Nelson (Forest Ranger Specialist) and the Maine Forest Service is willing to do a Wildfire Risk Assessment. Schaeffer also spoke with an organization called Fire Wise which focuses on community planning for fire prevention, and educating home owners how to protect their property.

Somers suggested that PIC invite the fire chief to the discussion.

Schaeffer said that the initial step – risk assessment – could happen without involving the fire chief.

Robert Van Der Steenhoven said the Peaks Island Land Preserve has always been focused on fire risk. He supports a second fire risk assessment.

Ralph Ashmore said there are five areas pertaining to fire danger.

- 1) Need to have resources dedicated to addressing issues identified in the risk assessment
- 2) Need to understand how the fire department communicates and how the fire department trains to deal with forest fires (as opposed to urban fires)
- 3) Need to have clear emergency communication
- 4) Need to have an evacuation plan
- 5) Need to clean up the fuel that is in the woods

McLaughlin said he is in favor of doing a Fire Risk Assessment.

Schaeffer said other concerns are:

- cell phone “dead zones” across the island – prevent calling fire department
- insufficient fire hydrants at some locations around the island

Ashmore said while assessments are being pursued, an evacuation plan should be created. There is currently no plan to remove large numbers of people off the island. He commented that there are up to 5,000 people on Peaks Island during a summer day.

Schaeffer asked if CERT is responsible for an evacuation plan.

Ashmore said CERT is not designing or implementing an evacuation plan.

Schaeffer asked Patnaude if there is expertise within the city government to help PIC develop an evacuation plan.

Patnaude said that Caity Hager is the Emergency Management Coordinator for Portland.

Schaeffer asked Ralph Ashmore if he could reach out to Caity Hager to set up a meeting to discuss starting an evacuation plan.

- **Anti-Racism – motion adopting committee purpose statement.**

Rafferty made a motion to accept the following as the Values Statement for the Anti-Racism Task Force of the Peaks Island Council:

“As an anti-racist task force of the Peaks Island Council, we are here to hold ourselves Accountable for dismantling White Supremacy - by telling the truth about our history, by nourishing a sense of safety & belonging, to make a difference for Future Generations, and to grow Equity among our Community.”

Somers seconded.

No public comment.

Schaeffer asked how the value statement relates to PIC’s previously adopted anti-racism statement that was a result of the workshop PIC did with Shay Stewart-Bouley.

Rafferty said the value statement of the anti-racism task force will guide that committee’s work on an ongoing basis and differs from a mission statement because it is about values that guide the mission.

Eckel asked if the Anti-Racism Committee has developed an action plan and time line for the work they will be doing.

Rafferty said the work plan is under discussion and the committee is working to pare down the enormity of the actions that need to be taken, to identify issues that are actionable.

Motion passes – 5 yays, one abstention

- **Emergency Transfer Bridge Generator** – discussion regarding need for generator to keep the transfer bridge operating during power outages.
Schaeffer asked Somers to research the need for a generator to keep the operating during power outages.

Somers said he would reach out to Chris Hoppin to get the ball rolling.

- **Vehicle Charging Stations** – discussion of need for vehicle charging stations in the CBL garage and Welch Street parking lot.
Schaeffer asked McLaughlin to research the need for vehicle charging stations.

McLaughlin said he will reach out to Chris Hoppin to understand his thinking.

Somers and McLaughlin will team up to reach out to Chris Hoppin together.

- **Trash Compactor** – discussion of whether new trash compactor will have fire suppression system

Bill Patnaude said the trash compactor does not have to have a fire suppression system according to current code.

- **New parking lot** – comments from councilors

Schaeffer asked Patnaude to pass on kudos to crew who did a great job on the new parking lot.

Eckel asked when the bike rack is going in? Patnaude said the bike rack is definitely going back in but he is not sure when because the same crew is working on other islands at the moment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

AM asked Patnaude if he could find out how much extra it would cost to add fire suppression to the trash compactor.

AM commented that bags thrown into the trash compactor can have volatile substances in them.

Patnaude said he would ask the question about the cost of the fire suppression system.

AM asked if the parking lot contract included landscaping. Patnaude said he wasn't sure but he can find out.

AM via email expressed concern about drunk driving. Their own cat was killed by a drunk driver and they have seen near misses involving children. Schaeffer said they would consider the issue for the July meeting agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, July 28, 2021, at 6:15 pm via ZOOM.

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

Meeting Adjournment: 8:24 p.m.