



**Peaks Island Council
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

6:15 p.m., ZOOM meeting

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting–October 27, 2021

October 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

Absent: Andrea Kelly-Rosenberg

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 17

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Somers made the motion to accept the August 25, 2021 meeting minutes. No discussion. Kraft seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Schaeffer shared the expenditure report as of September 15, 2021 via Zoom. Schaeffer reported that the total remaining budget for FY22 is \$7,770.25. Schaeffer pointed out that there were no expenditures in the Needs-based tickets or Bike tickets. Rafferty will craft a message to publicize the resource so that Schaeffer can send it out on island lists.

Eckel made a motion to accept the expenditure report. Somers seconded. Unanimous vote to accept the expenditure report. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

• **Executive Committee update --- Meeting with Police Chief**

Schaeffer asked the police chief when he is available to reschedule the community meeting. He has not heard back yet, but will follow up next week.

• **By-laws Committee update**

McLaughlin said the first By-laws committee meeting will be held October 6th, and the public is invited to attend. Schaeffer asked McLaughlin to share the agenda and materials for the meeting so that he could include them with the public announcement.

• **Island Priority Survey – update**

Eckel said he is working with Steve Anderson to analyze the comments to find insights that will guide the presented a summary of the survey. Steve Anderson is going to do a text analysis of the comments and results are expected in two weeks. Eckel said he would schedule a follow up workshop to review the results of Steve's analysis.

Eckel said the goal of the survey was to prioritize work for the PIC according to islander concerns and to determine if the committee structure is aligned with the islanders' priorities. Eckel said early analysis does not indicate that there is any significant change required to current committee structure.

- **Golf Cart – update on implementation of City Ordinance**

Schaeffer presented response from City Manager Jon Jennings, regarding caps that will be set on rental golf cart companies.

That communication states:

1. As of October 1, 2021, the number of rental golf cart operators in the City of Portland shall be capped at two (2).
2. As of May 1, 2022, the number of rental golf carts allowed to operate in the City of Portland shall be capped at 45.

Schaeffer said that there appear to be currently more than 45 golf carts on the island according to resident reports.

Somers said the communication is a very positive result of 2-3 years of work by the Peaks Island Council. He pointed out that the regulation requiring golf cart companies to migrate to electric carts has already been put in place.

Joanne MacIsaac, acting chair of the PIC Golf Cart Committee, said the public initiative to regulate golf cart rentals started five years ago, driven by noise, pollution, and safety issues. She said that the migration to electric carts has addressed those issues. The cap addresses the concern about how many golf carts the island can safely absorb. MacIsaac encouraged the PIC to develop a public awareness campaign around the necessity of having a cap on the number of rental golf carts, and to support the city in enforcing the cap at 45 rental golf carts on Peaks Island.

Schaeffer suggested that the PIC Golf Cart Committee meet in the next two weeks to develop a strategy around how to respond to anticipated push back from the golf cart rental companies.

Rafferty asked if the cap applies to the entire city of Portland, or just Peaks Island. MacIsaac said it applies to the islands in general, but, as of one year ago, no other islands that fall under the city of Portland have rental golf carts.

Schaeffer suggested that some members of the PIC Golf Cart Committee should attend an upcoming City Council meeting to thank the City Manager for enacting the rules and regulations around golf cart rentals.

Schaeffer pointed out that there is nothing preventing the new City Manager from revoking the rules and regulations.

Somers suggested that PIC send a letter to the City Council members to establish the importance of the issue to islanders, especially since there is a lot of turnover coming on the City Council. Schaeffer agreed and asked Somers to develop a draft for the Golf Cart Committee to review at their upcoming meeting.

MacIsaac pointed out that the existing golf cart companies should applaud these regulations that give them a duopoly and prevent further competition from entering the market.

- **Emergency Evacuation Procedures - update**

Schaeffer stated that the fire in the spring has resulted in a PIC investigation of fire safety issues: number of hydrants, firefighting equipment, communication systems, water supply, evacuation procedures.

Last week, the Portland Fire Chief, met with stakeholders.

Jamie Brennan, Chair of the PIC Fire Safety Committee, said the first meeting was a brainstorming session between the fire chief, city emergency planner (Katie Hagar), CBL staff, Peaks Island CERT, and island community. This meeting is precursor to a public workshop session to be held in the next few months, after which a written emergency evacuation plan will be developed.

Next steps: waiting for the fire threat assessment report from the State Forester before the committee can convene the workshop.

Brennan encouraged public to review background materials on emergency evacuation procedures that are available on the shared PIC drive.

Brennan gave other updates:

1. "New" fire truck coming to Peaks Island in 2022
2. Cell tower in Cape Elizabeth expected to improve cell and emergency communications on Peaks
3. New equipment for Peaks CERT has been purchased, training to be provided.

Schaeffer suggested that the Environment and Sustainability Committee should be part of the discussion as well. Schaeffer and McLaughlin will discuss ways to involve them.

- **Anti-racism Committee – update**

Raffety said the committee meets the third Tuesday of the month. The committee expects to have a motion next month. No further update at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Infrastructure improvements Down Front – Peaks Island Ferry Landside Operations Study - discussion**

Schaeffer invited PIC members and public to review the Peaks Island Ferry Landside Operations Study document, available on the public drive.

Somers encouraged people to review the third chapter which outlines many new ideas about short term, medium term and long term options for infrastructure improvements.

NEW BUSINESS

- **2021 Municipal Election – Candidates Night – discussion**

Schaeffer presented a list of candidates in upcoming municipal election. McLaughlin highlighted nine candidates that are pertinent to Peaks Island --- At-Large Candidates and District 1 candidates.

Somers said that Peaks Island residents can vote on all eight of the CBL candidates as well.

McLaughlin suggested that there are two separate candidate nights – one for municipal elections and one for CBL elections.

- **Filling PIC Vacancies after Municipal Election - discussion**

Schaeffer noted that only one of the open PIC positions would be filled as a result of the upcoming elections.

Schaeffer said the PIC would follow procedure outlined by City Clerk to fill other open positions via a committee that would:

- advertise availability of open positions to the community
- accept applications from interested parties
- interview applicants interested in serving for a one-year term
- make a recommendation to the full PIC
- provide an opportunity for public comment at the full council meeting

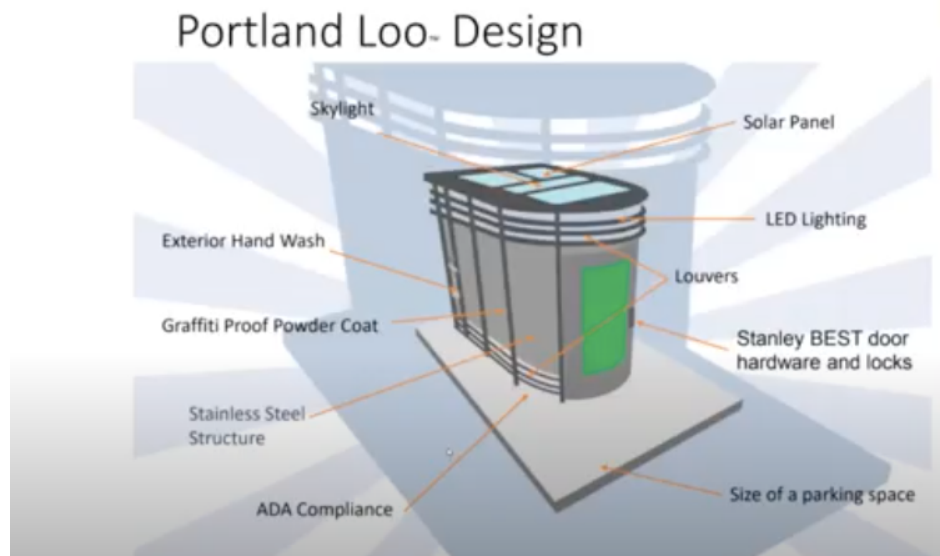
Schaeffer asked McLaughlin and Somers to serve on the nominating committee.

- **Public Restrooms – possible partnership with Downtown Portland**

Kerry Tyson, executive director of Portland Downtown, presented research that his organization did regarding public restrooms. Tyson said the number one question they get from visitors at the Visitor Center and at businesses in down town is “Where is there a public restroom?” Tyson is working to get funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to support the creation of public restrooms.

Tyson said Portland Downtown has done a lot of research into public restrooms that are available. They favor the Portland Loo – an ADA-compliant, unisex restroom with grates at the top and bottom (to improve air flow). They can have advertising to help underwrite the cost of maintenance and cleaning.





Kerry said associated costs are:

Purchase price – \$136K

Site preparation – \$7-\$12K

Delivery – \$9.3K

Installation – \$3.6K-\$8K

Maintenance – \$11-\$12K

Schaeffer asked if there are also models that do not require sewage connection.

Somers said Portland Loo does have models that do not require sewage connection.

Somers said preliminary discussions with the City have begun to identify city land on Peaks Island that would be suitable for a public restroom.

Eckel asked if it is likely the Portland Loo would become shelter for homeless people. Tyson said the open grates are meant to discourage people using them for housing.

McLaughlin said some Portland Loos installed on the west coast have been removed after communities were unable to prevent them from becoming shelter for the unhoused community.

Eckel commented that in order for this initiative to be successful, PIC needs to commit to ongoing funding to support maintenance and cleaning. Although grant funding is available for initial purchase, PIC will be responsible for ongoing costs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

AM asked PIC to write to the Portland City Council to get MHR Management to install electric outlets in the garage for electric cars.

McLaughlin said the Environment Committee has not addressed that yet, but is supportive of the idea.

AM suggested that PIC pursue a generator for the transfer bridge in the event of a power outage on the island. Somers said he would pursue with the State of Maine and CBL.

AM asked PIC to write to the Portland City Council to oppose the new park proposed for the waterfront at the expense of public parking used by islanders.

McLaughlin said islander parking in general continues to be a need and PIC should continue to pursue expansion of islander parking.

Eckel said he would take the issue to the Parking Committee.

AM thanked PIC for setting up input from Kerry Tyson about Portland Loo but AM feels there is probably a better, less expensive solution for the islands.

AM asked if anything is happening with the dog park and general improvements at Trott-Littlejohn Park. AM offered to reach out to Ethan Hipple, who is a personal friend.

McLaughlin said it was a big topic of discussion at last Environment Committee meeting and that the committee wants to pursue grant money that might be available now to improve park infrastructure and

AM said PIC should advocate for increased parking in the area around the boat without objecting to the development of green space along the waterfront. AM agreed to join parking committee.

Several chat comments said that downtown Portland restroom needs are not the same as Peaks Island restroom needs, and questioned duplicating Portland's decision to install a Portland Loo. Schaeffer said that inviting Kerry Tyson was just an opportunity to dovetail PIC's research with Portland Downtown's research, and did not represent a decision to use one system or another.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, October 27, 2021, at 6:15 pm via ZOOM.

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

Meeting Adjournment: 7:50 p.m.