



**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, Andrea Kelly-Rosenberg

Absent: Devon Kraft

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 10

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Somers made the motion to accept the September 22, 2021 meeting minutes.

Rafferty seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Schaeffer shared the expenditure report as of October 25, 2021 via Zoom. Schaeffer reported that the total remaining budget for FY22 is \$7,770.25. Rafferty noted that there were no amounts taken out of the line items for Needs-based tickets or Bike tickets, although there were expenses. Bill Patnaude will investigate and make sure amounts are deducted from the remaining balances.

Rafferty made a motion to table accepting the expenditure report until the next meeting, since some information is missing. Eckel seconded. Unanimous vote to table accepting the expenditure report until the November PIC meeting. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

• **Executive Committee update --- Filling PIC vacancies**

Schaeffer presented an announcement that will go out to the Peaks Island community after election day (Tuesday, November 2nd) regarding open positions on the PIC.

Schaeffer said the city recommends that PIC fill vacancies on the council via committee, and subsequent board vote. The committee will post the vacancies and invite candidates to come forward. The committee will then interview people who are interested in becoming councilors. The committee will then make recommendations to the full board. There is a write in candidate during the regular election, Jerzy Sylvester, so there may be only one opening on the PIC.

- **Fire Safety Committee - update on forest fire threat assessment and emergency island evacuation procedures**

Kent Nelson of Maine Forest Service was on Peaks Island to evaluate forest fire threat on October 21st and 22nd. He worked with Bill Flynn and Ralph Ashmore to assess 30 samples of housing plots on Peaks Island. Results of the survey will inform the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which will be released next spring/summer. As a result of participating in the study, Peaks Island will be allowed to have a day with the chipper for homeowners to assemble brush at the curb so that it can be chipped and hauled off the island.

- **Air Traffic Noise – update from Peaks Island Flight Path Committee**

Basil Klosteridis of the Peaks Island Flight Path Committee said the committee met last week with the Noise Advisory Committee (12 members from different neighborhoods) and the Jet Port. The Peaks Island Flight Path Committee is working to get as many incoming arrival and outgoing departure flights over water. He said that in 2-3 years, the inbound flight path (used by Southwest Air now) will become set in stone via RNP (Required Navigation Performance) and will be used by all airlines. Klosteridis said that any work to change flight paths has to happen now to avoid flights being directly over the island.

Jennifer Laventure of the Noise Advisory Committee (NAC) added that the meeting last week had good support from the Peaks Island community and good work was accomplished.

Laventure said that additional waypoints are scheduled to be added to the Harbor Visual Approach on December 2nd. The Harbor Visual Approach is an arrival route into the Jet Port over Whitehead Passage and the southern side of Peaks Island. As a visual approach, there is a lot of variation in the approaches. Additional waypoints are intended to improve the consistency of the approach.

Laventure said that NAC passed a recommendation that FAA and local officials review the departure procedure that currently goes over Diamond Pass and over the north of Peaks Island. Laventure said that the lead time on review of this procedure is five years and change won't happen overnight.

Laventure said noise studies for the Jet Port are out of date and due for an update. The noise studies are the basis for recommendations for changing flight paths in and out of the Jet Port so they are fairly critical to what future changes can be made. There is a 3-5 year lead time on this activity.

Laventure said that islanders who are affected by noise should continue to file noise complaints via phone, online form, or a newer online portal.

Klosteridis said the Flight Path Committee will be issuing a one page document which summarizes the websites and format for filing noise complaints about planes flying into and out of the Jet Port. That information will be issued next week in a mailing and via PIC distribution list.

Eckel asked if complaints ever reach the pilots? Laventure said certain complaints are forwarded from Jet Port personnel to specific airlines depending on the degree of non-compliance with recommended flight paths.

- **Parking – update on parking at Ocean Gateway lot**

Eckel said the Parking Committee is meeting again. Members are Peter Eckle, Timmi Sellers, Barbara Carter, Chip Nelson and Baron Coughlin. They will begin meeting Wednesday, November 3rd. Eckel said a resident has asked about off-hour access to motor vehicles and Eckel will be contacting MHR to ask more about that.

- **Golf Cart – update on regulation of golf carts**

Somers said he will be bringing a motion forward to approve 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.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Road Icing and Flooding Conditions – DPW update by Bill Patnaude**

Eight of the 28 road icing and flooding problems have been addressed.

Lower A – graded and milled road

- Intersection of Island and Ocean – paved and crowned
- Central Ave - graded
- Alderbrook Road – graded
- Skillings – filled hole and sloped away from abutting home
- Seashore Ave south of Brackett – repaired
- Hussey Rd – filled and banked one side
- Tolman, Highland, Lydon Ave – graded

Some of the items require significantly more engineering and will take longer to complete.

Schaeffer and Somers thanked Bill Patnaude and the DPW team for their work in addressing the road repairs.

Patnaude will create a written report that summarizes all the road work to date.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Rental Golf Carts – motion to send letter acknowledging creation of caps by City Manager**

Somers made a motion:

It is moved to approve sending the draft memo presented at the October 27, 2021 PIC meeting expressing support for recently issued regulations limiting the number of rental golf cart vendors and the number of golf carts available for rent on Peaks Island to the Portland City Manager and copying the members of the City Council.

Eckel seconded.

AM asked why this letter is so supportive of the limits imposed by the City Manager. AM suggested adding that the community would like to reduce the limits even more and enforce tighter, more stringent controls.

Schaeffer said the limits came out of a lengthy community process for coming up with recommendations for a City ordinance regarding golf cart rental restrictions. Schaeffer pointed out that community members have counted more than 45 golf carts on the island already, so the cap will effectively reduce the number of golf carts on the island.

Councilor discussion:

Eckel said that the letter should also go to the incoming city manager, since John Jennings' last day is November 1st. Schaeffer agreed.

Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passes.

- **Island Resident Parking at Gateway – Motion to continue current monthly parking for island residents**

Eckel said that this summer the City established a section of the Ocean Gateway surface lot for monthly parking for islanders. It was extremely successful with over 140 applications for the 50 spaces. Based on that demand, and there being few alternatives for islanders seeking the certainty of a designated main land parking spot, the Peaks Island Council is requesting that the 50 spot lot continue. noted that only one of the open PIC positions would be filled as a result of the upcoming elections.

Eckel made a motion:

It is moved that the Peaks Island Council request that the City of Portland continue the operation of the 50 space monthly parking lot within the Ocean Gateway lot beyond the planned November 1, 2021 termination thereby continuing to provide much needed parking for island residents.

Somers seconded.

AM asked if letter would be sent from the PIC tomorrow, since John Jennings will be leaving on Monday. If not, AM will send a letter as a member of the public.

Schaeffer said members of the public may send personal letters in addition to a letter to be drafted and sent out by the PIC.

Eckel said both the PIC letter and personal letters will probably be seen by the interim City Manager, not John Jennings since he leaves the office of City Manager on November 1st.

AM urged PIC to work with the other islands on parking issues as much as possible to have more clout with the city council.

Eckel said he would work with CBIA to develop contacts on other islands.

No councilor discussion.

Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passes.

- **Peaks Island Information Service webcam proposal**

Proposal to add a web cam to the site showing the Casco Bay Car Ferry line on the Peaks Island side.

Alicia Kershaw reviewed what's available on the PeaksIsland.info website and its intention. She said the site intends to include paid sponsorship, which would be easier to attract with increased "hits." A webcam would help increase engagement and would support advertisement revenues. Cost would be \$4,500 per year and webcam would look at Welch Street to provide real time view of ferry line (no host has been identified on Island Avenue). Webcam images are stored for 24 hours so could assist public safety investigations.

- **Down Front Infrastructure – motion to urge CBL and City of Portland to install message board and webcam**

Somers made the motion:

It is moved to approve sending letters from the Peaks Island Council to the Portland City Manager and General Manager of Casco Bay Lines supporting installation of webcams on Welch Street and Island Avenue and real-time electronic schedule displays of ferry arrival and departure information at the Peaks Island ferry landing consistent with the near-term strategies articulated in the Peaks Island Ferry Landside Operations Study.

Eckel seconded.

AM said they are opposed to electronic signage at the Peaks Island ferry landing.

AM asked how the actions in this motion will be funded. Somers responded that the motion asks the city and CBL to fund these actions.

AM said they oppose signage at the Peaks Island ferry landing. They thought the signage and webcams should be on the Portland side.

Somers said people should read the Peaks Island Ferry Land Side Operations study to understand the recommendations put forth in that report. He said electronic signage would be small displays housed in the waiting areas near the boat.

Eckel said signage displays at the Peaks Island ferry landing would remove confusion and make things more orderly. Somers said other recommendations from the Peaks Island Ferry Land Side Operations study would help reduce confusion as well – seasonal staff to manage queues is one of them.

Eckel asked if motion supports webcams installed and supported by the City and CBL or webcams supported by PeaksIsland.info. Somers said it would be funded by the City and CBL.

Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passes.

- **Candidates Nights – motion to create PIC committee to plan and implement**

Eckel made a motion:

It is moved that the Peaks Island Council establish a standing committee charged with organizing candidate nights. The Committee's recommendations will be reviewed and approved by the PIC.

Somers seconded.

Rafferty and Somers supported the motion.

Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

AM asked if a committee is exploring the Peaks Island Ferry Land Side Operations study. AM also asked if there is a timeline to implementing recommendations in the report. Somers said it was just issued in September and the intent is to involve the community in a discussion before anything moves forward. There is an effort underway to have the authors of the report present to the community. Somers said there is no timeline established. He said we are early in the process.

AM asked if the PIC could explore the issue of reducing raccoon population on the island. Schaeffer said he would bring it forward to the Environmental Committee.

AM thanked PIC for CBL candidates night.

AM thanked Peter Eckel for moving so quickly on getting parking letter to John Jennings.

AM asked about Bill Patnaude's comments about possible sewer extension from Belvedere to Trefethen, and if there is any way to find out more about that. Schaeffer said Bill Patnaude will report on that at the November meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

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

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

Meeting Adjournment: 7:49 p.m.