



**Peaks Island Council
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

6:15 p.m., ZOOM meeting

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting–June 22, 2022

May PIC meeting will be a ZOOM meeting

CALL TO ORDER: 6:17 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: SE Rafferty, Fred Somers, Peter McLaughlin, Jerzy Sylvester, Natasha Markov-Riss, Scott Mohler

Absent: Peter Eckel

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance:11

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rafferty made the motion to accept the April 27, 2022 meeting minutes.

McLaughlin seconded. Two corrections to be made.

- 1) Date correction (meeting date should be April 27, 2022 NOT April 27, 2021).
- 2) Treasurer's Report acceptance should state "Somers made a motion to accept the treasurer's report" NOT "Somers voted to accept the treasurer's report."

McLaughlin asked secretary Hanley to make those corrections and resend the minutes. Hanley will do so. ***Motion to accept minutes with corrections passed unanimously.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peter McLaughlin, chair of communications committee, said that PIC will now have a presence in the STAR newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

McLaughlin shared the expenditure report as of April 27, 2022 via Zoom. Bill Patnaude noted that there were no additions to the report this month, so it is the same report as April. **McLaughlin moved to accept the treasurer's report. Mohler seconded.** No discussion. **Treasurer's Report accepted unanimously.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

• **Parking – MHR parking garage request, mainland parking**

Barbara Carter of Parking Committee said the Ocean Gateway Parking Lot lottery has taken place. Letters are going out to islanders who won a space in the lot.

Carter said the Parking Committee asked the city if people with parking stickers could park at meters without incurring fines. City said no.

The Parking Committee is exploring a new option, asking the city to allow people with Island Resident parking stickers to be able to park at the meters on Thames Street and Commercial Street (after it crosses India Street) from 4pm without paying a fee.

Timmi Sellers said that the Parking Committee asked for a “seat at the table” for the development of the Whale Wall building. The city said they could attend the public forums. Peter Eckel will ask City council directly at the next PIC/city councilor quarterly meeting for more proactive involvement with reuse of the Whale Wall building, beyond attending public meetings.

- **Golf Cart –**

Somers said the rental golf cart companies are in compliance with registration requirements. Somers will follow up with the City’s Transportation and Sustainability committee for the status of the annual report that is required by statute.

- **Ferry Service – update**

Somers said CBL board members held a special meeting to reconsider approval of the new, bigger boat. The reconsideration motion was defeated 7-5, and the bigger boat is moving forward. Bids have come in from 3 different ship yards. CBL has secured additional funding to meet the budget of the bids that are coming in.

No update from the city about the web cams to be installed at the Peaks Island landside ferry terminal.

City will be installing three temporary restrooms in downtown Portland as a pilot program to “test drive” the type of restroom. Somers said he reminded the people at the meeting that Peaks Island also requires additional restrooms. Somers will provide meeting materials to McLaughlin so they can be posted for the community.

McLaughlin asked if Somers felt the city would continue to build more restrooms. Somers said the city has \$600K in CARES Act funding and the three temporary restrooms have a budget of \$150-300K. Somers said that permanent restrooms will cost millions of dollars and may not happen unless more federal funding is available.

- **Anti-racism Committee – annual update**

Rafferty said that meeting with Anna Trevorror, District 1 City Councilor, has not happened. It had to be rescheduled but a date has not been set yet.

- **Environmental and Sustainability**

Mohler said some progress was made on the EV charging stations. McLaughlin said the taxi board has been involved so that their next vehicle can be an electric vehicle.

The committee has been speaking with Andrew Zarro, chair of city's Sustainability and Transportation Committee. He is very supportive of Peaks getting an EV charging station.

McLaughlin said the Environmental and Sustainability Committee met with Ethan Hipple to discuss the use of the Trott Littlejohn Park. Although Trott Littlejohn is the only city-sanctioned park, it is not very park-like. There is approximately \$12K available for park improvements, donations made by individuals that is earmarked for Trott Littlejohn Park. There is an older version of a master plan for the park that can be used as a starting point for how the park can be used.

- **Housing**

Markov-Riss said first meeting of the Housing Committee was held. Two PIC councilors attended and a couple of community members were there. They worked on the mission statement. They discussed combining housing committee with zoning committee. Chris Roberts of HomeStart provided a history of HomeStart. Markov-Riss felt the committee's best opportunity to increase affordable housing on Peaks is to express Peaks Island input to new zoning rules that are being developed by the Re-code project.

Next meeting will be June 2nd at 7pm to discuss a six month strategy. All are invited to attend.

- **Jetport Noise**

Basil Klosteridis, chair of the Peaks Island Flight Path Committee, said the Jetport Noise Advisory Committee agreed to hold a sub-committee to discuss the Peaks Island proposals to mitigate flight traffic noise over Peaks Island.

Peaks Island proposals are:

- Move flight paths over water
- Move flight paths further north, possibly over Hussey Sound

Jetport is proposing a consultant to consider these proposals. If they make it out of the Noise Advisory Committee they will go before the FAA. Klosteridis said the affected neighborhoods are speaking with one community voice – the Diamonds, West End, East Prom, South Portland, and Peaks Island.

Klosteridis said that if the flights are not moved before the upcoming RNP technology is implemented, the island will become the primary flight path in and out of the Portland Jetport.

Somers thanked Klosteridis and Randy Schaeffer, former PIC chair, for their work.

Klosteridis said the initiative is still in early stages but he will continue to update PIC as more progress is made.

- **Voter Education Committee**

McLaughlin said the Voter Education Committee (Sylvester and McLaughlin) have been in touch with all school board candidates and the state house representative candidates. Four of the school board candidates and the democratic candidates for the state house representative position have agreed to attend a candidate forum. The public forum will be held via zoom on June 8th at 6:15pm. Members of the community can submit questions to the candidates who will attend the forum by emailing them to PIC@portlandmaine.gov.

- **Executive Committee**

Rafferty said the meeting with the Police Chief will be May 26th at 7pm. McLaughlin said community members should email questions to PIC@portlandmaine.gov.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) ***Markov-Riss made a motion to combine the PIC Housing Committee with the PIC Zoning Committee, and change the name of the committee to PIC Housing and Zoning Committee.*** McLaughlin seconded.

AM supported the motion because the two issues overlap in many areas.

No councilor discussion. **Unanimous vote to approve.**

- 2) McLaughlin made a motion on behalf Peter Eckel, who was not present at the meeting. Peter Eckel will send a letter to the city Sustainability and Transportation Committee that says:

The PIC requests that the 37 metered spaces within the IR Zone be available to vehicles with IR Zone stickers starting at 4pm.

AM said the motion should be more specific. The motion does not clearly state which metered spaces the PIC Parking Committee is talking about.

McLaughlin made a motion to amend Peter Eckel's motion to say:

The PIC requests that the 37 metered spaces within the IR Zone on Thames and Commercial Street be available to vehicles with IR Zone stickers starting at 4pm.

Somers seconded. McLaughlin noted that the vote is not about the letter itself, just the general idea and Peter Eckel can develop a more precise definition of where the spaces are located, the motion is to approve a letter being sent to the city.

No public comment.

Rafferty said the 37 metered spaces are not “IN” the IR Zone, they are near the IR Zone. McLaughlin said that Peter can define the spaces more precisely.

Unanimous vote to approve.

OLD BUSINESS

• Discussion regarding returning to in-person meetings - public comment

McLaughlin made a motion to postpone action on this item and consider it again next month. Rafferty seconded.

AM said that although there are many cases in Maine, we need to learn how to live with COVID and face-to-face meetings are a better forum for community meetings. The danger is that zoom meetings could go on for years. PIC could explore the outdoor meetings or meeting in the community center with masks. The best thing would be a combination of zoom and in person meetings.

Mohler said he would like to meet in person but he is deferring to other councilor’s comfort level.

Rafferty said the city council moved to in-person meetings and have since moved back to remote meetings. She is in favor of continuing to use remote meetings.

Markov-Ris said outdoor in-person meetings could be possible during the warmer, summer months. She said she is willing to help with logistics of an outdoor meeting and she is in favor of in-person meetings.

McLaughlin said he is also willing to help to organize an outdoor meeting.

Mohler said following the lead of Portland city council is a good idea.

Sylvester said the community center does not have the technology to host a hybrid meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

AM said that at the District One city council meeting, Ethan Hipple erroneously said we have no leash laws on the island. AM said this is why Ethan Hipple is backtracking on creating a dog park at Trott Littlejohn Park. There is a group organizing called “Friends of Trott Littlejohn Park” that should be involved in the discussion of the park’s development. There is clearly an interest in developing the park. McLaughlin said he

would like to connect with the group that is forming. McLaughlin also said that Ethan Hipple now knows that there are leash laws on the island.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, June 22, 2022, at 6:15 pm via ZOOM.

McLaughlin made motion to adjourn. Mohler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjournment: 7:20 p.m.