



**Peaks Island Council
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

6:15 p.m., ZOOM meeting

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting—July 27, 2022

July PIC meeting will be a ZOOM meeting

CALL TO ORDER: 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: SE Rafferty, Fred Somers, Peter McLaughlin, Jerzy Sylvester, Scott Mohler, Peter Eckel

Absent: Natasha Markov-Riss, Jerzy Sylvester

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 5

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

McLaughlin made the motion to accept the May 25, 2022 meeting minutes. Somers seconded. Motion to accept minutes passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peter McLaughlin, chair of communications committee, announced that Rafferty would be performing at the Lions Club Concert Series at 6pm on July 5, 2022.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Eckel said that the city approved the FY23 budget and that he sent a note to city manager and Anna Trevorow thanking them for the good news.

McLaughlin shared the expenditure report as of June 22, 2022 via Zoom. Remaining balance for FY2022 budget is \$37,766.75. Outstanding bills that need to be settled are to Susan Hanley for taking June meeting minutes, and to Zoom for the annual fee. There is \$2,233.25 remaining to pay outstanding bills. More about the disposition of remaining funds during new business.

Somers made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Rafferty seconded. Unanimous vote to accept.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

• Parking – MHR parking garage request, mainland parking

Peter Eckel said that the Transportation and Sustainability Committee approved the City's staff recommendation that the 8 spaces on the south side of the new section of

Thames Street be included in the Island Resident zone parking. Eckel said that he thanked committee members and City staff people for moving that proposal forward. The full City Council will vote on the proposal on July 13th. Public support for the proposal from islanders would be helpful. Eckel commented that it has taken two years to get the 8 additional spaces.

City received over 193 applications for the lottery for the 50 parking spaces in the Ocean Gateway Parking Lot. This reveals the level of demand for mainland parking by islanders.

Eckel said the city is still planning to pursue the CBL/Marginal Way shuttle. He let city staff know that the Visit Portland organization and the Downtown Portland organization are also enthusiastic in participating in the program.

- **Golf Cart –**

Somers said there is no update on golf carts.

- **Ferry Service – update**

Somers said CBL board did not have an operations committee meeting or finance committee meeting this month. At the upcoming CBL meeting the board will seek feedback on the residential boarding program.

Somers has been in touch with Bruce Hyman and Nell Donaldson about the Landside study. The city is still waiting for the equipment list from the contractor so that the web cam can be installed. The electronic displays in the CBL terminal are part of a larger regional project to upgrade GPS systems for transportation providers including CBL, that is being federally funded and that will take a couple of years.

The city is submitting the Welch Street reconstruction project and the Peaks Island Pier upgrade to PACTS as part of a larger regional transportation project and long range transportation plan. By including the projects in the PACTS application, they will be considered for funding.

Eckel asked who “owns” the Peaks Island signage piece. Somers said it is being driven by CBL but it is waiting for some input from the city. The signage upgrades on the Portland side were included as part of the reconstruction of the terminal.

Rafferty passed on a ferry-related question on behalf of a constituent. A Peaks Island resident who is dependent on oxygen was trying to get back to Peaks Island. They waited through two ferry boat trips to get their car on the ferry, and they ran out of oxygen while waiting for the boat. This became an urgent situation. Rafferty asked if the Ferry Service committee could discuss with the Casco Bay Line board the issue of how to make an exception for medically urgent passengers.

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

No update at this time.

- **Environmental and Sustainability**

Mohler said their recent meeting was well attended. The meeting focused on creating a survey for what residents want to see at Trott Littlejohn Park.

Mohler said that Cheryl and Bud Higgins talked about their Pick Up Peaks initiative, where merchants on Peaks Island would be responsible for cleaning the walks in front of their stores.

Barring Coughlin presented additional ideas for keeping the island cleaner: Providing more dog waste bags around the island, keeping the wastebaskets out on Peaks Island all year round, adding small trash bags to golf carts.

Mohler said he'd really like to pursue getting more bathrooms out on the island and would like to discuss with PIC councilors who have already tackled this issue.

McLaughlin said Portland Downtown has a program requiring Old Port businesses to keep the sidewalks in front of their stores clean. McLaughlin asked Eckel if he could ask Portland Downtown director to extend the program to Peaks Island. Eckel said that the Old Port program is slightly different because the businesses are in a special taxing district and the businesses pay into it to support the program. Eckel said that it seems like a good idea and he would discuss it with the director of Portland Downtown to see if the program could be extended to Peaks Island.

McLaughlin said the idea is to issue an island-wide survey about use of Trott Littlejohn Park.

Mohler said there is some movement to create a Friends of Trott Littlejohn Park. Ann Coughlin said the Friends of Trott Littlejohn Park is being formed and they would like PIC to keep them in the loop about uses of the park.

- **Housing**

Markov-Riss sent a report since she could not attend the meeting. The Housing Committee met on June 9th. They reaffirmed that the committee is interested in being informed about the city's Re-Code project. Nell from the Planning Department said they would send a first draft for feedback as soon as it is done. During this coming month the committee will locate a public source of current zoning information in order to talk with Ann Machado about current zoning and the zoning appeals board. The committee's next meeting is July 7th at 6pm on the porch of 79 Island Avenue.

- **Jetport Noise**

Somers said that the Noise Advisory Committee of the Jetport met to consider the proposal of the Jetport Noise Committee and Neighborhood Coalition brought forth but

Somers did not attend and he did not connect with Basil Klosteridis, chair of the Peaks Island Flight Path Committee, to get an update. Eckel said that Klosteridis was cautiously optimistic about how the committee's message was received but Eckel did not have any further details.

- **Voter Education Committee**

McLaughlin said Candidate Night went well and should be repeated in the fall for the November elections. McLaughlin noted that the candidates who attended the Candidate Night won their races.

McLaughlin suggested that PIC may want to start a yearly meeting with our state representatives.

- **Executive Committee**

Patnaude said the applications for the Defensible Space Chipper Program are due in about a month. If residents remove brush from beside their homes and pile it on the side of the road with the stems facing the road, the Fire Service team will chip it. Residents can keep the chips if they want them. It is limited to 20 island residents – first come, first serve. Patnaude will log the first 20 applications. This is the first year Peaks is in the program.

McLaughlin noted that the applications are on the PIC Google Drive.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RGGwdx-jxD7F5jAbC1RR0WaKHBK20syj/edit>

Eckel said he sent a note to Hank Berg at CBL, the Police Chief, and Bruce and Nell to set up a meeting to discuss queueing issues for the ferry. PIC will create the agenda.

Eckel will set up dates to meet with city councilor Anna Trevorow and for another meeting with the city manager and staff. Other PIC members can attend if interested.

Eckel said that a resident told him that recently, when there was a house fire on the back shore and the fire hose was connected to the water line, there was no water in the homes on the north side of the island. Eckel will pursue this issue with the Portland Water District.

Mohler asked why the red fire hydrant directly across from the house that was recently on fire wasn't used instead of using a long hose from a fire hydrant that was much farther away. Eckel said that it could be because of the sediment in the ice pond.

Eckel said he would bring that question up to the fire chief when he meets with him.

McLaughlin said that a number of the fire hydrants on the back shore are seasonal. When he asked for a map of which fire hydrants are available year round, the fire department didn't have the information readily available. McLaughlin said that would be a good thing to follow up on. Also, general maintenance of the fire hydrants should

be attended to. When there was a fire at the transfer station, the first hydrant didn't work.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) McLaughlin proposed a method to reconcile the final FY22 budget, with a current surplus of \$2233.25. There are some outstanding costs. The cost of six months of zoom will be \$92.64, the cost of June minutes will be \$100. So the actual surplus will be \$2,040.61.

If the remainder is split between four organizations (PI Taxi, PEAT, Fifth Maine, PITEA), each organization will receive \$510. Final remainder of 61 cents will go back to the city.

Rafferty made a motion to approve the reconciliation as proposed by McLaughlin. Mohler seconded.

No public discussion. No councilor discussion. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

Patnaude will submit the proposed adjustments to the finance manager for approval. He noted that there is no guarantee that the adjustments will be accepted.

OLD BUSINESS

• Discussion regarding returning to in-person meetings

Councilor discussion:

Mohler said he would like to return to in-person meetings if it is possible to find a way that everyone is comfortable.

Rafferty said she would be willing to meet in person with a mask mandate and a social distancing mandate. She works in the hospital and COVID is still an issue.

McLaughlin said that a mask mandate may not be possible during a city meeting.

Eckle asked Patnaude what the city is doing. Patnaude said it is hybrid. McLaughlin said the councilors are in person, but public can attend via zoom.

McLaughlin said the community room does not have a real system for a hybrid meeting.

Eckle said he is anxious to get back to in person meetings but doesn't want to create a super spreader event.

Mohler asked if the PIC meetings have to be in the community room. Patnaude said meetings can happen anywhere.

Public comment:

AM said the Peaks Island Council will be more effective with in person meetings. AM felt it would be OK to recommend masks or meet outside to make people feel safe. Islanders are now going to musical events and restaurants. So it should be fine to attend public meetings.

AM said doing hybrid meetings is not that difficult. But some people would have difficulty attending meetings in person. They would prefer a hybrid version so they could attend via zoom.

No motion made. The discussion will continue during July meeting.

McLaughlin suggested that PIC members re-visit the Community Center to see if something can be set up to facilitate a hybrid meeting. Mohler said he would be happy to work on it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

AM said PEAT will be a fiscal sponsor for the Friends of Trott Littlejohn Park, and they will also be a fiscal sponsor for Picking Up Peaks. If PIC could do a community survey and share the information with PEAT, that would be very helpful for their work going forward. PEAT intends to start applying for grants.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, July 27, 2022, at 6:15 pm via ZOOM.

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

Meeting Adjournment: 7:28 p.m.