



## Peaks Island Council

### MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

6:15 p.m., Peaks Island Community Room

**NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting—October 23, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER: 6:16 p.m.**

### ROLL CALL

Randy Schaeffer, Lisa Peñalver, Michelle Winchester, Steve Anderson,  
Absent: Andrea Kelly-Rosenberg, Devon Kraft, Stuart Jackson

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 9

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

***Anderson made the motion to approve the August 28th meeting minutes. Winchester seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.***

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Schaeffer stated that the total remaining budget is \$11,627.42 as of September 23, 2019. Schaeffer reported that the Taxi had received its \$20,000 payment, \$1727.31 of the police cadet expense was paid, the Friends of Peaks Island Library received \$500 for website development, and PITEA has received \$4750. ***Winchester made the motion to accept the budget report. Penalver seconded. Budget report unanimously accepted by all councilors.***

### COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

#### **Parking Committee**

Winchester provided an update on these Parking Committee projects:

- 1) The Marginal Way remote parking and shuttle service is wrapping up September 30th.
- 2) Parking inventory – the Parking Committee is determining what parking is currently available for islanders by calling lots and garages.
- 3) Island Resident street parking zone – the Parking Committee asked if street cleaning restrictions for Fore Street can be on different days of the week than Thames Street, making it easier for island residents to find somewhere to park during street cleaning closures.
- 4) Survey – the Parking Committee finalized islander parking survey and will send out soon.

#### **Golf Cart Committee**

Anderson reported that the next steps for the golf cart committee are focused on restrictions to personal golf carts, namely the migration of new golf carts to electric golf carts only. Of the five islands joining together to approach the city, Little Diamond, Great Diamond and Cushing Island already have all electric golf carts. Cliff Island wants to go to all gas.

Long and Chegeague both have the same problems that Peaks has – but they are not part of Portland. So committee is deciding how they want to approach the city about the migration of personal carts to electric—either as a bundle of all islands that are part of the city of Portland, or as a bundle of islands that have rental cart companies and high number of home rentals.

Schaeffer asked golf cart committee to define the City Manager’s role in establishing a cap on the number of golf carts on an island and the number of golf cart rental companies on an island.

Schaeffer also asked if new carts that have been recently delivered to the island will be included in a cap going forward --- which would be more than the number of golf carts that were on the island when the ordinance was written.

Schaeffer stated that a Tufts professor has offered to do a noise study on the island next summer for gas versus electric golf carts.

### **Ferry Service Committee**

Chuck Radis reported that he attended the ferry operations committee with Robin Clark, Twain Bradenday and Dan Doane (chair), their first meeting since April or May. Items discussed:

1) Car reservations:

– Nick provided an update about looking into car reservation viability. He did not have a clear recommendation, he will continue to research.

2) Priority boarding:

-- Possibility of priority boarding for passengers. Nick did not have an update on that. Caron Chess provided her research on what priority boarding for year-round residents looks like for other ferry systems.

3) Casco Bay Lines passed a resolution that the CBL board continue to look into what a reservation system looks like.

Radis reported that Robin Clark (CBL board member) proposed that Casco Bay Lines should implement a pilot priority boarding system in the winter before passenger volume increases in the summer.

Schaeffer said the Ferry Service Committee needs to find out how the community feels about various priority boarding approaches via survey.

Anderson stated that the question about priority boarding has already been surveyed during the survey on the new boat. That survey indicated that 55% felt islander priority was very important and 19% felt island priority was somewhat important. The wording was “How important is the following issue to you> priority boarding?”

### **Proposed schedule changes:**

Caron Chess (member of Ferry Service Committee) reported that Casco Bay Lines wants to vote on schedule now because event planners are already calling Casco Bay Lines to find out when the boats will run next summer for the events they are planning next summer. Chess said that Hank reported that changes to the down bay ferry schedule are in response to complaints from parents and commuters.

Audience member stated that Hank said the Peaks Island schedule changes will help the front office accommodate tourists.

Audience member suggested that the Peaks Island Council could make a resolution that asks the CBL board to postpone their decision about implementation of the new schedule.

Schaeffer made a motion to be read before the public vote:

***The Peaks Island Council urges the Casco Bay Line board to delay the vote on the proposed schedule change until the full impact on and needs of the Peaks Island residents can be assessed.***

Anderson seconded.

Councilor discussion:

Winchester said that Casco Bay Lines has already provided opportunity for Peaks Island residents to have input to the schedule change.

Anderson made motion to amend. Schaeffer seconded.

**Amended motion:**

***Because of significant concerns on Peaks Island about the disruption to islanders' lives due to the proposed schedule changes, the Peaks Island Council urges Casco Bay Island Transit District Board to delay the vote on a proposed schedule change for Peaks.***

Amended motion passed unanimously.

### **Recode and Tax Assessment Committee**

Schaeffer said the committee (Bill Hall, Judy Walsh, Phyllis MacIsaac, Alicia Krenshaw, Randy Schaeffer) are doing research to discover all the data sources available from the city providing information about the project.

The purpose is to help residents to stay apprised of any coding changes that the city is being proposed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Peaks Island Council – three positions up for election

Winchester will run again so two PIC positions remain unfilled. Peaks Island Council needs to decide how to proceed in the event that no one comes forward to fill the two open positions because the quorum remains 4, even if there are only 5 councilors. It is already too late for people to come forward and be included on the ballot. However, Peaks Island Council could appoint two councilors. Decision postponed until October meeting.

- Community meeting with Portland Recreation Department re: programming and community room access

Meeting with Marie Davis has been set up for October 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm in the Community Room. Islanders will send in questions prior to the meeting with her.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Transfer Bridge Maintenance -- Motion to create a petition to request the Maine Department of Transportation delay maintenance until next time that Machigonne II is offline for maintenance.

Schaeffer made the motion:

***Motion to Petition Maine Department of Transportation to Delay Ferry Transfer Maintenance***

***The Maine Department of Transportation plans to remove the Peaks Island ferry transfer bridge for maintenance between January and April of 2020.***

***This schedule would result in the car ferry being off-line for significant lengths of time in three consecutive years: 2019 for maintenance of the Machigonne II; 2020 for maintenance of the transfer bridge; and again in 2021 for maintenance of the Machigonne II.***

***This schedule will result in significant negative economic impact to our island's business owners, especially those Down Front, and inconvenience to our full-time residents.***

***It is requested, therefore, that the transfer bridge maintenance be scheduled to coincide with the next scheduled maintenance of the Machigonne II in order to minimize these negative impacts.***

***Rescheduling in this way would also enable the Maine Department of Transportation to consider and plan for the addition of a second filled walkway and handrail to the side of the bridge opposite the existing handrail and walkway.***

***This addition of these accommodations would enhance accessibility of those with mobility challenges and help alleviate congestion during disembarking of pedestrian passengers.***

***It is moved that the Peaks Island Council prepare and conduct a community petition to be conveyed to the Maine Department of Transportation in support of the above concerns.***

Penalver seconded.

One AM spoke in support of the motion.

Councilor discussion.

Winchester asked why a petition would be required, why not just go straight to DOT to ask them directly to delay the ferry transfer bridge maintenance.

Schaeffer said that CBL has already asked DOT and the request has been turned down. The hope is that a neighborhood petition makes a stronger point.

Winchester suggested that the petition be complete before the next PIC meeting in October.

Penalver stated that the Peaks Island Council should write a cover letter to accompany the petition.

Schaeffer will develop a draft of the petition and the cover letter to circulate among councilors for comment.

***Motion passed unanimously.***

- Deer culling – update

Update from Bill Patnaude on pending deer culling. Patnaude reminded everyone that in 2000, the sharp shooter removed 223 deer from Peaks Island in 3-4 days at the cost of \$60K.

This year, hunting will begin in mid-November to early-December. The licensed sharp shooter (possibly two) won't hunt on Friday, Saturday, Sunday or school vacations. There will be signs out the day before the hunt and Patnaude will send a message to Peaks Island Council when he is hunting so the notice can go out on NextDoor and Carol's list. Hunting will be done at night with spotlights and night vision goggles.

The hunter does not want to reveal where his bait sites are because he suspects there is poaching going on.

Patnaude said if residents are hearing lots of gun fire, they should report it and it will be verified that the sharp shooter is the source of the gun fire.

- Candidates Night – update

Scheduled for October 3, 2019 at 6:15pm in the Community Room, which is the night when most candidates could attend.

Ethan Strimling and Kate Snyder cannot make it that evening, but they may send a representative to read a statement.

- Mainland parking – motion to conduct survey of island residents regarding parking needs and resources

Winchester made the motion:

***Motion to Develop and Conduct Parking Survey***

***The Peaks Island Council Parking Committee is in on-going discussions with members of the Portland City Council, City administrators, management of privately-owned parking facilities and others in addressing the need for mainland parking for island residents. For maximum effectiveness these discussions need to be informed by data regarding island resident parking needs and practices.***

***It is moved that the Peaks Island Council Parking Committee shall prepare and conduct a survey of islander parking needs and practices. The results shall be provided to the Peaks Island Council along with recommendations for further action by the Council.***

Schaeffer seconded.

No audience discussion.

Councilor discussion:

Winchester stated that the survey to be conducted in early October, online and as a paper survey. City is very interested in results of the survey especially the radius that people are willing to travel for parking.

***Motion passed unanimously.***

- Peaks Island Website and WebCam

This item will be delayed until October Peaks Island Council meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES**

**Next PIC Meeting:** Wednesday, October 23, 2019, 6:15 pm at the Community Room

**Meeting Adjournment:** 7:52 p.m.