



Peaks Island Council

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

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

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting—January 22, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: 6:16 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Randy Schaeffer, Steve Anderson, Devon Kraft, Michelle Winchester, Andrea Kelly-Rosenberg,

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 11

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anderson made the motion to approve the November 20th meeting minutes. Kraft seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Schaeffer stated that the total remaining budget is \$7,110.67 as of December , 2019. Schaeffer will confirm that the Middle/High School passes are paid for as a transfer to the Department of Education. Kraft asked about the negative balance for College Student passes. Schaeffer said it would be covered by moving funds from other line items. ***Kraft made the motion to accept the budget report. Kelly-Rosenberg seconded. Budget report unanimously accepted by all councilors.***

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

Executive Committee

Kelly-Rosenberg made the motion to approve the 2020 meeting schedule. Winchester seconded. Meeting schedule unanimously approved.

Ferry Service Committee

Kelly-Rosenberg provided an update on priority boarding work being done by the Peaks Island Council Ferry Service committee. Kelly-Rosenberg reported that to proceed, Nick Mavadones has to make a plan and bring it forward to the Casco Bay Lines board. Islanders who are interested in providing input about priority boarding should attend Casco Bay Lines operations committee meetings and add a personal comment during public comment period.

Noise Survey Committee

Noise survey committee has met once – Arthurk Fink, Karen Friedman, Jennifer Laventure, Vicki Flannigan, Randy Schaeffer and Ralph Ashmore. Erica Walker from Boston University joined by phone and worked with the noise survey committee to develop a rough plan for implementing the noise study.

Schaeffer presented the rough steps:

- 1) Develop Public Education Message

- 2) Select Locations for 8 Sensors
- 3) Inform the Community that sound survey is taking place
- 4) Recruit Sensor Hosts
- 5) Select the weeks data is to be collected
- 6) Install sensors
- 7) Collect Data
- 8) Analyze Data
- 9) Prepare Report and Recommendations – by September 2020
- 10) Submit Report and Recommendations to PIC for follow up actions to be developed

OLD BUSINESS

Peaks Island Council vacancies

Schaeffer outlined the methodology for selecting community members to fill two open positions on the PIC. Schaeffer thanked Winchester and Kraft for their work to interview candidates for the open positions.

Winchester made a Motion to Appoint SE Rafferty to the Peaks Island Council.

It is moved that, based on the recommendation of the ad hoc PIC Nominating Committee, that SE Rafferty be appointed to the Peaks Island Council for a term beginning upon swearing in by the Office of the Portland City Clerk through the November 18, 2020 meeting of the Peaks Island Council.

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

Kraft made a Motion to Appoint Peter Eckel to the Peaks Island Council.

It is moved that, based on the recommendation of the ad hoc PIC Nominating Committee, that Peter Eckel be appointed to the Peaks Island Council for a term beginning upon swearing in by the Office of the Portland City Clerk through the November 18, 2020 meeting of the Peaks Island Council.

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

Eckel and Rafferty will be sworn in by Bill Patnaude prior to the January PIC meeting. PIC will do election of officers at the January meeting.

Parking Committee

Winchester thanked parking committee members and presented findings of Parking Committee.

Executive Summary of survey:

- 54% of surveyed responders are somewhat or very dissatisfied with their parking options
- Waiting list for garages closest to boat are four years long, and both garages are no longer adding to their waiting lists. Demand for garage parking exceeds supply.
- Concern about stability of islander parking in garages closest to the boat.
- Majority of respondents are willing to park 1-3 blocks away from CBL, for garage, street or lot parking.
- Island Resident Zone street parking have same parking patterns between 2017 study and 2019 study.

Island Resident Parking Recommendations:

- We will work with city and UPP to define island parkers as a “group” eligible for group rates for lots and garages.
- We need to protect the number of spaces reserved for island parking.
- We want to remove the rule that you cannot allow someone else to drive your car in and out of the garage.
- As Thames Street extends, we want to increase the number of island resident parking on Thames Street.
- We want to ask the city to remove the 14 meters on Thames Street and convert to signed parking.
- We want to expand the island resident zone to include India, Fore, Middle and Franklin.
- Make the island resident zone, residential only --- no street parking for cars without a resident sticker, as is done on the West End near Maine Medical Center.
- We are going to ask for more snow ban parking options.

Peak season requests:

- Ask city to find other options for special events (cruise ships) that consume island resident parking.
- Ask city to post emergency parking bans so people know their car is in danger of getting towed.
- Ask for island residents to be able to park in the dirt parking lot for free.
- Let summer residents get free island resident parking sticker, instead of paying \$50 for their stickers.

Fort Hill Study:

- Ask city where they are on the action items developed by the consultants who conducted the study.

Remote Parking:

- We will recommend the city continue the remote parking service, start it sooner in the year, and increase promotion of the service to day-trippers and weekly renters.
- We recommend that parking restrictions are communicated clearly.
- Make more frequent shuttle runs – increase frequency to every 15 minutes.
- Bus must be able to accommodate all the items we carry back and forth on the boat – kids, pets, carts, etc.

Winchester made a motion that the report is approved by the Peaks Island Council to be posted publicly and brought to the city council (specifically Belinda and Spencer), UPP management and Ocean Gateway Garage with a series of recommendations.

Kelly-Rosenberg seconded.

Public comment:

AM – Did you talk to other islands?

Winchester – No.

AM – Could you involve other islands?

Winchester – I will get with Steve Anderson to see how the golf cart committee involved the other islands, and then work to involve them.

AM – Can you clarify what you mean by Casco Bay Garage not allowing other people to drive your car.

Winchester – MHR will not allow other people to drive your car out of the garage.

Other Audience Members said they were told by MHR that they could not lend their car to another person.

Schaeffer suggested that Winchester ask for an updated audit of how many spaces in Casco Bay Garage are identified as “island residents.”

Audience member expressed concern about a broad definition of “summer resident” for parking issues will affect how “summer residents” are defined for priority boarding.

Another audience member expressed concern that short-term rentals being rolled up into resident parking could potentially give them access to island resident parking for a full year, when they are only on the island for two weeks.

Winchester said she will be careful not to expand the definition of “resident.”

Councilor discussion:

Anderson said it is important to figure out HOW these recommendations are brought forward to the city. He said it is important to figure out who to approach with each recommendation and make a strategy for bringing recommendation to the cities.

Anderson said that the idea of “life line” has a lot of power and gives the island some additional leverage with the city.

Anderson said he thinks the parking committee needs to develop the document more to include next steps before sending the document to the city.

Schaeffer said the council can still approve the motion to send the document to the city and ALSO ask Winchester to tweak her document before she sends it.

Winchester said she would change the layout without materially changing the content of the document. She said she would let PIC see the document before sending it to the city council.

Winchester made an amended motion that the to-be-revised copy of the Parking Committee Report (to be edited by PIC via email) is approved by the Peaks Island Council to be brought to the city council, UPP management and Ocean Gateway Garage (specifically Belinda and Spencer) with recommendations.

Kelly-Rosenberg seconded. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Recreational singing for seniors

Kelly-Rosenberg said she was approached to do some recreational signing with seniors on Peaks Island but she has no keyboard and the Parks and Recreation department has no budget for a keyboard.

Kelly-Rosenberg asked if the PIC would fund a keyboard (about \$500), with a caveat about who is responsible for protecting it.

Schaeffer suggested that a non-profit organization, such as Friends of the Library or Parks and Recreation, submit an application for a keyboard in the 2021 budget.

Kelly-Rosenberg also suggested that the PIC could open a meeting with a song by her children's singing group. Schaeffer asked members of the PIC if the children's singing group could open the PIC meeting in January. Councilors all agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Audience member commented that we have three police officers on the island with completely different ideas about the leash law on the island. One police officer thinks dogs can be off leash anywhere on the island and one police officer thinks dogs can be off the lease only at Trott Littlejohn park. The city laws about leash laws is ambiguous and unclear.

Audience member suggested that PIC should invite the city animal control officer to clarify the law, including for the police officers.

Audience member suggested that the leash law should be defined by the animal control officer and put on NextDoor by the police.

Audience member asked about priority boarding.

Kelly-Rosenberg stated that Casco Bay Lines is going to look into priority boarding for residents, handicapped, elderly.

Schaeffer stated that Nick Mavadones will do research, make a report to the operations committee. If the operations committee approves a plan, they will pass it on to the full Casco Bay Lines board for approval.

Audience member asked about whether the noise committee research fits with the FAA process for redefining flight paths.

Schaeffer said the two efforts are being coordinated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Mayor Kate Snyder will attend the February PIC meeting on February 26th.

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 6:15 pm at the Community Room

Meeting Adjournment: 7:42 p.m.