



**Peaks Island Council
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

6:15 p.m., ZOOM meeting

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting—January 27, 2021

January PIC meeting will be a ZOOM meeting

CALL TO ORDER: 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Devon Kraft, Randy Schaeffer, Peter Eckel, Fred Somers, Andrea Kelly-Rosenberg, SE Rafferty

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 9

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kraft made the motion to approve the November 18, 2020 meeting minutes. Somers seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Schaeffer shared the expenditure report as of December 10, 2020 via Zoom. Schaeffer pointed out that the payments have been made to the Peaks Island Taxi, PEAT, Peaks Island Food Pantry, Fifth Maine Museum, and PITEA for a total of \$29,150. Rafferty will discuss possible changes to the needs-based tickets and other ferry ticket programs at the budget preparation meeting.

Eckel made a motion to accept the expenditure report. Rafferty seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

• Parking Committee – update

Eckel reported that the Parking Committee recommends that PIC request a new section of Thames Street be part of the IR Zone pre-emptively, even before the new section is officially accepted as a new City Street. The Parking Committee also recommends that PIC request eight additional IR Zone parking spaces on a small street that runs parallel to Thames Street that has already been accepted as a new city street.

Kelly-Rosenberg asked if PIC should encourage islanders who want additional IR Zone parking spaces to reach out to Belinda Ray individually. Eckel agreed that it is a good strategy.

Eckel also stated that the Parking Committee recommends that PIC send a letter to USM to see if there could be any islander parking incorporated into the proposed USM parking garage.

The Parking Committee also recommends that PIC set up an orientation meeting for the two new city councilors to familiarize them with PIC and issues that PIC is engaged with.

Eckel said the Parking Committee would draft a letter to USM in time for review by the PIC at the January meeting.

- **Golf Cart Committee – update**

Somers said the Golf Cart Committee drafted a letter to send to John Jennings about the status of setting caps on the number of golf carts and the number of golf cart rental companies that can operate on Peaks Island. The statutory regulations require the new caps to go into effect in May 2021. The letter will be reviewed later in this meeting under new business.

- **Ferry Service Committee – update**

Somers said the CBL Operations Committee met December 10th and Hank Berg updated attendees about the status on electronic ticketing and priority boarding. CBL is in the process of evaluating electronic ticketing proposals from two firms. CBL has retained legal counsel from Drummond and Woodson to determine the legal constraints to a priority boarding policy.

Next steps: The CBL Operations Committee is going to develop a formal proposal for priority boarding that meets legal criteria set out by Drummond Woodson to present to full CBL board. Timeline is to launch in spring 2021 (late April).

- **COVID Response Committee – update**

Bud Higgins stated that people know much more about COVID than they did 8-9 months ago at the outset of the pandemic. Healthcare providers are not anxious about running out of capacity to treat people. Hannigan's, CBL, and the Peaks Island Health Center have demonstrated resiliency during the pandemic. Higgins recommends that the committee remain involved in island-specific COVID-related issues, such as facilitating vaccination of the island population as the vaccination initiative develops during the upcoming months.

Susan Hanley reported that the food pantry is in good shape and has been able to accommodate the uptick in usage during the pandemic.

- **Priority Setting Committee – update**

Eckel said he is still sourcing members for the committee. He expects to have a committee roster set by the January PIC meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- **FY 2022 Budget Request – Review of materials**

Schaeffer asked councilors to review materials in advance of the budget workshop in February 2021.

- **Anti-racism – discussion of next steps**

Rafferty stated that a main outcome of the anti-racism workshop was to identify actions that PIC could take to support an anti-racism initiative. One idea was to have a community meeting on anti-racism. Another idea was to talk to island organizations to discuss how to make the island more welcoming to people of color. One organization to approach is CBL. Specifics to discuss CBL are to include non-white people in ads that promote coming to the islands and to look at the CBL charter to see if there is any language that excludes and, if so, to address that language. A second organization to approach is the Lions Club to ask about incorporating diverse voices in their summer concert series.

Rafferty said she would form a committee to tackle the action items.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Filling of PIC vacancy – anticipated motion to approve committee recommendation of new member**

Rafferty made a motion to nominate Peter McLaughlin to fill the vacancy on the PIC. Eckel seconded the motion.

No public discussion.

Eckel said they had three great candidates for the position.

Schaeffer said McLaughlin did a great job organizing and running the summer concert series at the Lions Club so he is happy to see him join the council.

Motion passed unanimously.

Schaeffer will inform Peter that he will be sworn in prior to the January PIC meeting so that he can begin to participate at the PIC meeting in January.

- **Thames Street Parking – anticipated motion on letter to Belinda Ray re extension of IRZ on Thames Street**

Eckel made a motion:

That PIC request that the City designate the new section of Thames Street to be part of the IR Zone. This would take place once the section is accepted by the City. The PIC also requests that the new street that runs parallel to Thames and leads to the narrow gauge railway also be designated as part of the IR Zone. That section is currently signed for one hour parking so that change can happen immediately.

Somers seconded.

Public comment:

AM suggested that the letter be sent to April Fournier, councilor at large, in addition to Belinda Ray.

Councilor discussion:

Somers asked if PIC communications are copied to all members of the City council. Schaeffer said that since Belinda Ray is the councilor that represents the islands, it is expected that PIC communicate with her.

Eckel suggested that PIC send the letter to Belinda Ray, and copy Spencer Thibodeau, the City Manager, and members of PIC.

Schaeffer agreed to Eckel's recommendation.

Motion passed unanimously.

- **PIC Meeting Calendar for 2021 – motion to approve meeting schedule**

Rafferty made a motion to accept the proposed calendar for PIC meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month (except for November and December). Kraft seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

- **Recording of PIC Meetings – discussion regarding documentation of PIC meetings – possible motion regarding video and audio recording**

Kraft made a motion:

In an effort to provide members of the Peaks Island community with information discussed during Peaks Island Council meetings, it is moved that the council record their monthly Zoom meetings and post them on the Peaks Island website, peaksisland.info.

Eckel seconded.

Public comment: None.

Councilor discussion:

Rafferty asked if Portland City Council is recording their meetings. Schaeffer said they are.

Schaeffer noted that PIC needs to approach the people who run peaksisland.info to see if they have the bandwidth to support the recordings, which are very large files. Kraft said posting the video on YouTube and posting the link on the website is a simple solution. Kraft said she would look into the technical aspects of posting the recordings and discuss with Dave Stankowitz or Art Astarita.

Motion passed unanimously.

- **Caps on golf carts available for rent – anticipated motion to approve letter to City Manager to determine status**

Somers made a motion:

That a letter asking for update on status of Order 11-19/20 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapter 20 relating to the regulation of Rental of Golf Cart for Operation on City Streets, prepared by the PIC Golf Cart Committee, be sent to the City Manager.

Eckel seconded.

Public comment: None

Councilor discussion: None

Motion passed unanimously.

- **Wildlife Management – motion to convene community meeting on wildlife management**

Randy Schaeffer made the motion:

It is moved that the Peaks Island Council arrange a community meeting on the subject of wildlife management practices, particularly deer culling. The session would inform residents about the rationale, method, and effectiveness of the programs currently in place on Peaks. Pertinent city and state wildlife management officials would be invited to explain the current program and answer questions from the audience.

Somers seconded.

Public comment: None

Councilor discussion: Somers said it's a good forum to update islanders who may not understand the background to the deer culling.

Motion passed unanimously.

- **Ice Hazards on Island Streets – motion to conduct inventory of ice hazards from water collecting or flowing over streets**

Randy Schaeffer made the motion:

It is moved that the Peaks Island Council prepare an inventory of those locations on the island where water collects and/or flows over island streets and when frozen presents safety hazards to pedestrians and drivers. The information collected will be shared with the City of Portland as part of an effort to get such conditions remediated.

Somers seconded.

Public discussion

AM asked if other types of road problems could be considered as well as water-related hazards.

Schaeffer said that the current strategy is to focus on water-related hazards during the cold season, when ice is a serious hazard.

AM said the development of rain gardens can solve some of the drainage issues.

Kelly-Rosenberg asked what a rain garden is. AM said it is a low level spot where soil treatments encourage water to percolate down into the soil.

AM said Jamie Semon recommended that individual islanders should call the City of Portland public works, who will tell the island public works department what to do to address the issue.

Schaeffer said the inventory will be presented to the city so that a work schedule can be developed.

Councilor discussion: None.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

AM asked how islander parking will be affected by the construction schedule for the Welch Street parking lot at the landing.

Schaeffer said he has asked the City for further definition about the parking impact.

AM asked about bringing the vaccine to the island. Is the Peaks Island Health Center prepared to deal with reactions to vaccinations?

AM further asked what provision is there for people returning to Peaks who need to be in quarantine? How can they be in quarantine and ride the boat?

Bud Higgins, co-chair of COVID committee, said things are a work in motion.

At this point, the health center is really only providing care with people associated with the health center as a primary care site. Regarding the vaccination, it is too early to know if the vaccine can be administered safely on the island. Higgins offered to provide vaccine information to islanders if it would be helpful.

Schaeffer said that in regards to riding boat and maintaining quarantine, refer to CDC guidance.

Rafferty suggested that riding in your car with windows up is the best practice for coming to the island under quarantine.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at 6:15 pm via ZOOM.

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

Meeting Adjournment: 8:00 p.m.