



Peaks Island Council

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

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

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting—March 26, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Devon Draft, Michelle Winchester, Randy Schaeffer, Steve Anderson, SE Rafferty, Peter Eckel

Absent: Andrea Kelly-Rosenberg

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 20

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

City engineer, Keith Gray, presented an updated plan for the Welch Street parking lot near the ferry.

Gray stated that the scope of work of this parking lot plan includes:

1. Re-stripe, re-surface the parking to generate more parking spaces for cars and dedicated parking spaces for golf carts in existing footprint.
2. Install pervious pavers that filter out oils to capture them before they go into Casco Bay.
3. Change direction of flow at drop-off circle so pedestrians are dropped off curbside.
4. Relocate bike racks to the access road that leads to the Portland Water District building.

Gray stated that striping the parking lot defines vehicle spacing and guarantees a certain number of spaces in the lot. Gray observed that cars often leave more space between them as they park now.

Gray stated that adding a way out to the parking lot to provide circular flow and prevent cars from being trapped in a dead end lot – is NOT part of the scope of this project. It is too expensive and would require a switch back to ascend the embankment between the parking lot and Island Avenue.

Gray stated that bike parking will not be covered.

Several audience members offered to meet one-on-one with Gray to provide information about how the parking lot “really works” in various seasons.

Residents are invited to please send further questions by email to Celina Azevedo at cazevedo@portlandmaine.gov.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Eckel made the motion to approve the January 22nd meeting minutes. Anderson seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Schaeffer stated that the total remaining budget is \$6744.72 as of February 11, 2020. Needs-based tickets and bike tickets have larger balances than in prior years.

Anderson made the motion to accept the budget report. Rafferty seconded. Budget report unanimously accepted by all councilors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

Parking Committee

Winchester provided an update from the parking committee. Parking committee is pursuing meetings with city and parking garages in order to define island parkers as a group, eligible for group parking rates. Nothing definitive has been decided about extending resident parking further along Thames Street. Peter Eckel is going to take over the chairmanship of the Parking Committee.

Ferry Service Committee

Caron Chess said Casco Bay Lines (CBL) presented their new boat design at a recent board meeting – it will carry 600 passengers with a double-ended design so that the boat won't have to turn around at either Portland or Peaks Island. Compared to the Machigonne II, there will be more outdoor seating, and a larger bike parking/freight storage area. The new ferry will be ADA-compliant.

Chess stated that while the current Machigonne II uses diesel engines, designers are investigating a battery-powered option for the new ferry. A ferry with battery-powered propulsion system will require \$2-4million more funding, but CBL board is hopeful that they can secure additional funding.

CBL will be presenting plans to the entire community, at 10:15 a.m. on Saturday, March 7th at the Peaks Island school.

Noise Survey Committee

Schaeffer reported that eight sensors were placed around the island and 24/7 data collection is underway for a week. The sensors will also collect data 24/7 during the third week of July.

All residents can participate in collecting the data that goes into the final study via an app where people can record sound events. The App can be downloaded here: <http://communitynoiselab.org/noisescore>. Residents can also complete a Community Noise Survey form via this link: <https://form.jotform.com/200064502468145>.

Jetport Noise Advisory Committee

Jennifer Laventure thanked islanders who attended the last Jetport Noise Advisory Committee meeting on 1/30/20, or who provided input otherwise.

Laventure reviewed two updates regarding planes flying over Peaks Island.

- 1) A new nighttime flight path has been proposed so that air traffic would proceed directly over the center of Peaks Island, bisecting the island before planes turned over Casco Bay to proceed along the Fore River. Airlines have agreed to entertain changes to this flight path that would move the flight path further north, so that it would go over the northern tip of Peaks Island and perhaps even all the way off the island.
- 2) The daytime flight path currently used is the visual flight path. Because it is visual, pilot interpretation moves the planes around a little bit and it tends to be sloppy. Inserting GPS waypoints has tightened up this flight path. The location of the first GPS waypoints on the southern side of the island concentrates these flights over the southern end of Peaks Island.

A proposal to move the initial GPS waypoint to the middle of harbor or to the far end of Cushing Island will move the flight path further south, perhaps even off the southern end of the island.

Laventure said that residents should continue to report noise complaints if they feel moved to do so via this link: <https://portlandjetport.org/noise-complaint-form>. She also stated that the Jetport Noise Advisory Committee is receptive to resident input at their meetings and attendance at the meetings will have impact on the committee's recommendations.

The next Jetport Noise Advisory is April 30th at the Jetport. The Jetport Noise Advisory Committee also offered to hold an island-based meeting with Jetport administration and the noise advisory committee. Laventure will update the community via Next Door and Carol's list.

Re-code and Tax Assessment Committee

The city is entering phase 2 of its re-code plan. In this phase, things like set-backs and zoning will be reviewed. The Re-code Committee is going to do identify which existing codes are particularly pertinent to Peaks Island and do research on them so they can discuss with the city.

OLD BUSINESS

FY 2021 Budget

PIC conducted a budget workshop meeting to create a proposed FY 2021 budget. Schaeffer presented the proposed budget to the room.

Eckel made a motion to forward the proposed budget to the City for approval. Rafferty seconded.

No public comment.

During councilor discussion, Schaeffer noted that there was a \$1,800 gap in funding requests and dollars available. Eckel stated that the Peaks Island Council decided to fully fund all island organization requests and to ask the city to help fund the police cadet directly --- instead of its current arrangement to fund the police cadet by funneling money through the Peaks Island Council. Winchester stated that this approach would start a conversation with the city about its responsibility to pay for the police cadet in the same way the city pays for extra police coverage on the Eastern Prom during the July 4th fireworks.

Motion passed unanimously.

City Manager response re rental cart and cart rental company caps

Schaeffer stated that the Peaks Island Council asked City Manager, Jon Jennings, for clarification about how the city manager will set caps on rental carts and rental cart companies. Bill Patnaude provided an email response on behalf of Jon Jennings. However, Schaeffer stated that the council's question has not been answered.

Patnaude stated that before the manager can provide a more concrete answer, he would like to speak with the owners of the golf cart rental companies. The ordinance does not take effect until May 1st. Golf cart rental companies must apply for a license to operate and declare how many carts they have prior to May 1st. Those applications will inform the City Manager's decision about the cap. He expects to make that decision in mid-April, and Patnaude will communicate his decision to PIC.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Community Meeting with Portland Police Chief

Schaeffer made a motion:

It is moved that the Peaks Island Council extend an invitation to Portland Police Chief Frank Clark to attend a community meeting here on Peaks Island prior to Memorial Day.

It is further moved that the Peaks Island community be asked to submit questions and/or concerns in writing they would like to have addressed by the chief submitted to the Council in advance of the meeting. These will be shared with the chief in advance of the meeting. Questions and concerns will be able to be raised by the public at the meeting after the chief has responded to all of the items that were submitted in advance.

Rafferty seconded the motion.

Public Comment –

Audience member proposed that islanders talk to local police about residents' concerns before the police chief comes out to the island, so that local police are not blind-sided with questions.

Another audience member suggested that PIC ask the police chief to share the list of resident questions with local police, rather than set up a meeting between residents and local police.

Another audience member said we should invite the police to the monthly PIC meetings.

Councilor discussion --

Winchester suggested inviting the police chief back out to the island in September for a debrief to go over how the summer went – what worked, what needed to be improved, etc.

Schaeffer asked Winchester to add the de-brief meeting proposal to the agenda for the first meeting with the police chief.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Audience member asked to find out how many private golf carts are on the island. Anderson said he would report back.

Audience member asked that we forbid golf carts from parking in the lower Welch Street parking lot.

Audience member said enforcement is at the heart of the parking lot improvements.

Audience Member said the Portland Association of Neighborhoods (PAN) is starting up again. When PAN was active previously, there were 4-6 annual meetings with the Mayor to discuss neighborhood issues. Audience member asked to add an item to the March meeting agenda to discuss appointing a Peaks Island representative to attend upcoming PAN meetings. Schaeffer stated that he would add it to the March meeting agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Mayor Kate Snyder will attend the July PIC meeting on July 30th.

CBL will come out to Peaks Island to present information about new boat on Saturday, March 7th.

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, March 25, 2020, at 6:15 pm in the Community Room.

Meeting Adjournment: 7:54 p.m.