



Peaks Island Council

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

6:15 p.m., ZOOM meeting

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting—June 24, 2020

May PIC meeting will be a ZOOM meeting

CALL TO ORDER: 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Devon Kraft, Randy Schaeffer, Steve Anderson, Peter Eckel, Andrea Kelly-Rosenberg, SE Rafferty

Absent: SE Rafferty

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 19

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Eckel made the motion to approve the May 6, 2020 meeting minutes. Kraft seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Schaeffer stated that the total remaining budget is \$4830.42 as of May 7, 2020. There will be additional expenditures for water taxi rides for healthcare professionals as some rides have not yet been invoiced. However, with the updated ferry schedule, the healthcare professionals are now able to get in to town with the ferry.

Kraft made the motion to accept the expenditure report. Eckel seconded. Expenditure report unanimously accepted.

COVID-19 Response Committee has issued 800 newsletters to Peaks Island households via the United States Postal Service. Buck Benedict paid for this expense and would like to be reimbursed for \$257.85. Anderson requested that the reimbursement come out of the administration costs. Councilors agreed to reimburse Buck Benedict out of the existing funds in the administration account.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

Executive Committee – Filling of PIC Vacancy and four PIC positions that will be up for election in November 2020

Discussion regarding filling of current vacancy on PIC in light of advice provided by City Clerk.

Four seats, plus one newly vacant seat due to Michelle Winchester moving away, would be open in November 2020. Turn over for the foreseeable future would be clustered, with a group of five councilors leaving at once. This would have a negative impact on continuity for the council.

Current deadlines:

Nomination papers will be available July 1 and will be turned in August 15 or 16.

Write in candidates have to declare by September 6, 2020.

Councilors want to try to stagger when terms expire to avoid mass exodus of councilors.

Schaeffer suggested waiting for input from City Clerk.

Ferry Service Committee

Report on steps being taken to ensure social distancing on boats and at landings as well efforts to educate the traveling public re health concerns

Chuck Radis reported that the board of the Peaks Island Health Center sent a letter to Hank Berg about ferry riders not wearing their masks. The Peaks Island Health Center said they understand that the crew cannot police the wearing of masks during the ferry ride to the island. They suggested that the people at the ticket counter require passengers to have a mask before getting a ticket – i.e. no mask/no ticket. If passengers don't have a mask, CBL can provide one. If the person refuses to put on a mask, the ticket window person will not sell them a ticket.

Hank's reply said that Casco Bay Lines has been abiding by the Governor's order that people wear cloth face coverings. At the last CBL Executive Committee meeting, Hank Berg said that members of the public who observe passengers not wearing face masks should send an email to Hank Berg, Nick Mavadones, or Caitly Gildart.

Eckel asked about the status of priority boarding for residents. Radis said it has been put on hold. Although the issue was brought up in the fall, Berg did not prepare a report before the onset of the pandemic.

Public comment

Audience Member asked what happens when one person buys five tickets for a larger party. Radis said the ticket window person will hopefully ask if all five people have a mask.

Audience Member stated that priority boarding should not be put on hold at this time, especially because reduction in boat capacity numbers in order to maintain social distancing. Radis said community members should reach out to their CBL representatives to press them to implement priority boarding. Schaeffer said there is a CBL board meeting on May 28th and community members should plan to attend or send emails to their representatives so that the issue is elevated.

OLD BUSINESS

Improvements to the Welch Street Parking Lot

Keith Gray presented a plan at a February 26, 2020 PIC meeting. He will provide a revised plan that incorporates comments from the public.

Schaeffer noted that there was no indication that the fencing surrounding the parking lot is part of the plan.

Kraft asked when the vote on parking lot revisions would take place? Schaeffer said he didn't recall that there would be a vote, but that bids for contracts would be going out. Schaeffer asked Patnaude to check on where things stand at the moment with the parking lot plans and bidding process.

Cadet

The City Manager said that the city cannot afford to fund 100% of the Cadet program.

Eckel asked Patnaude if other community organizations are asked to fund community policing programs. Patnaude said that the downtown businesses do fund a cadet program for local policing.

Chief said the Peaks Island cadet program has always been a 60/40 cost sharing (city/Peaks Island). The Peaks Island cadet program costs \$6982/year – Peaks Island's portion is \$2793.

Anderson said lower traffic this year probably does not require a cadet so he would not fund the cadet for this summer. Anderson stated that the public safety concern addressed by the cadet should not be funded by Peaks Island as it pulls funds away from other island organizations.

Rosenberg-Kelly and Kraft agreed that a cadet is not required this summer. Kraft raised the concern that declining a cadet this summer might impact the availability of a cadet next summer.

Eckel stated that the cadet is an essential police function (public safety) and cost sharing in other communities is not comparable (i.e. Munjoy Hill organization doesn't pay for additional policing for the July 4th fireworks).

The councilors agreed that they will not fund the cadet past June 30th. Patnaude will deliver that message to the police chief.

Nurse/Water Taxi Project

Schaeffer to contact Jeannie Gulnick to get the total count of rides on the water taxi taken since the last invoice.

FY2020 Budget Reallocation

Schaeffer said that at the June 24th meeting, surpluses will be transferred to organizations that are in need of funds. Schaeffer noted that city revenues have been reduced by the COVID-19 shutdown and that the city may reclaim budget surpluses.

Patnaude said that there will not be a new budget on July 1, 2020 – so the city may recommend carrying over budget surpluses to fund organizations before a new City budget goes into effect, probably sometime in September.

Anderson suggested PIC should reach out to island 501(c)3 organizations within the next week to ask them if they would need additional funds if budget surpluses must be spent before the end of the fiscal year. Schaeffer and Anderson will prepare an email to send out to island non-profits.

NEW BUSINESS

CBITD Plans for new ferry

Schaeffer makes a motion to submit the following resolution to CBL board prior to its board meeting on May 28th. Eckel seconds.

Resolution Asking CBITD to Re-examine Economic Assumptions Used to Support 599 Capacity Ferry

The future prospects of the world economy have been negatively impacted by the COVID 19 Pandemic. Economic trends assumed just months ago are no longer valid.

The Peaks Island Council urges the Casco Bay Island Transit District Board of Directors to not vote to proceed with detail design for a new Peaks vessel until the board has re-examined the basic economic assumptions upon which they based their decision to proceed with the construction of a 599 passenger capacity boat to replace the Machigonne II and until the results of that re-examination have been shared with the public.

Public comment – None.

Councilor discussion – Anderson said it makes sense for CBL to re-evaluate its economic models.

Motion passes unanimously.

Peaks Island Community efforts to deal with COVID-19

Schaeffer made a motion to Convene Community Forum. Kraft seconded.

It is moved that the Peaks Island Council convene a virtual community forum to solicit suggestions of measures, within the reach of volunteer efforts, that could be taken by our residents, to help us deal with the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the social, health, economic, environmental, and safety conditions of our island community.

Public comment - None.

Councilor discussion – Anderson stated that this forum may not be necessary.

Kelly-Rosenberg said there is value in capturing the learnings, and the forum may elevate the presence of the Peaks Island Council in the community. That could be important with five PIC vacancies coming soon.

Eckel said the ancillary effect of elevating presence of PIC in the community is valuable.

Motion passes unanimously.

Noise Advisory Committee

Jen LaVenture stated that additional GPS waypoints to the Harbor Visual flight path will move the flight path over the water between Peaks and Cushings Island. However, they will not be implemented at this time due to resource drain caused by COVID-19.

A second approach over the northern end of the island, called the R-nav flight path to runway 29, will be implemented this summer. Initially it will only be used by Southwest Airlines, but more airlines will adopt it over time. This flight path will eventually become the preferred approach in visual conditions.

LaVenture stated that public input from various neighborhoods does have an effect on final decisions. Islanders should continue to file noise complaints with the Jetport in order to impact the FAA and Portland Jetport decision about flight paths over Peaks Island.

Anderson asked if the R-nav flight path that used to be over Evergreen/Pumpkin Knob/water at the north end of the island has now moved over the center of the island. Anderson also asked what percentage of flights land at runway 29.

LaVenture said that the R-nav flight path has always been over land, not over water to the north of the island. She also stated that wind conditions control which runway is used, so it's not completely predictable. In the summer, runway 29 is used frequently.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Audience member said that there should be instructions at the outset of the meeting to instruct members of the public who may not be familiar with ZOOM "raise your hand" feature. That enables public to provide input. There was no public comment on several issues, but it may be because people do not know how to make public comment on ZOOM calls.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

None.

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, June 24, 2020, at 6:15 pm via ZOOM.

Meeting Adjournment: 7:46 p.m.