



**Peaks Island Council  
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

6:15 p.m., ZOOM meeting

**NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting–October 28, 2020**

**October PIC meeting will be a ZOOM meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER: 6:15 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

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

Missing: SE Rafferty

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 9

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***Anderson made the motion to approve the August 26, 2020 meeting minutes. Kraft seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.***

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Bill Patnaude is on vacation so there is no treasurer’s report. Schaeffer stated that the Portland City Council unanimously approved the entire \$40,000 funding request that the Peaks Island Council submitted back in February 2020. Schaeffer suggested that the Peaks Island Council should revisit the previously approved budget at the October meeting, given the change in circumstances since the budget was approved by the PIC in February.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES**

**• Noise Study Committee – update on air traffic concerns and community meeting with JNAC**

Jennifer Laventure reminded the council that the last Noise Advisory Committee meeting was held at the end of January. At that meeting it was proposed that Jetport and FAA would hold a community update meeting. The community update meeting is proposed for October 15, 2020. That meeting will include a thirty minute presentation by Jetport staff, followed by one hour Q&A from audience. The public is strongly encouraged to attend.

Laventure stated that two recent changes in the airport approaches/departures will affect islanders.

The FAA had proposed adding more waypoints that guide planes further south for the Harbor Visual approach. This approach is used for daytime/good weather approaches to the jetport. The waypoint adjustments have been delayed until 2021. The planes would then fly over the water between Cushing and Peaks Island.

The RNAV approach has been moved further north, over the north end of the Peaks Island. This approach is currently only being used by Southwest Airlines but is expected to be adopted by other airlines in the future.

There is also a departure procedure that is putting flights over the island.

Recommendations to islanders:

- Continue to file noise complaints on the jetport website if you are being adversely affected by jetport noise.
- Attend the FAA/Jetport community update meeting scheduled for October 15, 2020
- Attend the next Noise Advisory Committee meeting which is scheduled for October 30, 2020

Schaeffer asked if the FAA has moved the Harbor Visual approach waypoints further south as was requested at the January meeting. Lavanture stated that the single existing waypoint has already been moved further south. Additional waypoints will be added in 2021.

Anderson asked Lavanture if she knows of any research that has been done about the noise impact of aircraft noise over water versus over land.

Lavanture stated that the most current noise compatibility study is sufficiently dated that a new noise compatibility study should be performed. She stated that the community could push for a new study, although it may not be necessary as conducting a new study is almost a given.

#### **• Peaks Island School Committee – update on the opening of school**

Kraft reported that the first few weeks that the school has been open for in-person learning have gone well. Children are working outside as much as possible. Some outdoor classrooms are already set up, others are being set up. After school is dismissed at 12:20, children go home to eat lunch and then have remote “specials” – i.e. art, library, physical education. School sends text message to parents each morning reminding them about masks.

Kelly-Rosenberg asked how many kids are attending school in person. Kraft said there are 40 kids actually at the school, although audience member heard there were only 28 kids in the school and the other families were opting to do remote learning. Kraft will find out how many kids are in Peaks Island Elementary and report next month.

**• Golf Cart Committee – update on rental cart caps and electrification**

Anderson reported that both the registration process and inspection processes have been delayed.

Schaeffer asked if conversion from gas to electric carts has also been delayed, and Anderson said it has been. Anderson added that since the registration process has been delayed, the setting of a cap on the number of rental carts has not been done either.

**• Parking Committee – update on efforts to increase mainland parking**

Eckel reported that he had a conversation with John Peverada, Parking Manager at Portland Parking Division, and with MHR manager about the Casco Bay Lines garage.

418 spaces in the CBL garage with 540 monthly passes – so there has been an oversubscription of the available spaces by monthly pass holders. 315 of the monthly passes belong to island residents, 96 monthly passes belong to people with Portland addresses, and 129 monthly passes belong to people with addresses that are not in Portland or the islands.

There is no requirement that any percentage of monthly passes be given to islanders. Only 10-12 spaces become available per year. At that rate, the waiting list is already 10-15 years long. Opening up the waiting list beyond 10-15 years is not helpful.

Eckel also had a conversation with Belinda Ray and Spencer about expanding the IR zone.

Eckel also spoke with Asher Chappell of United Parking Partners at Ocean Gateway Garage which was so oversubscribed with monthly parkers from people working in Portland that they were having to valet park up to 70 cars a day when the garage was full. This is an undesirable situation for UPP.

Eckel said the 15 year waiting list at CBL should prove that there is significant demand for parking. The city parking committee people recommended that Eckel go back to Asher of UPP to ask for an islander parking rate.

Sharoan read An Act to Update the CBITD Enabling Law, 1981, section. This bill amends the charter of the CBITD by giving the district authority to provide services such as parking for inhabitants of the islands as well as other passengers served by the district. Schaeffer stated that the document was relevant but Eckel pointed out that there is no documentation saying that monthly passes at the CBL garage can only go to island residents.

Kelly-Rosenberg asked Eckel what he believes is the best path forward to get more parking for islanders at this time.

Eckel said the best option is if UPP to provide a monthly rate for island parkers. Second option is for the city to expand the Island Resident Parking Zone (on street parking). The two solutions are not mutually exclusive – they both need to happen. Eckel does not believe there is any way to remove any non-islanders from the CBL garage so that islanders can get those monthly spaces.

Kelly-Rosenberg asked how the PIC can help get the UPP monthly rate for islanders. Eckel said that would likely be driven by a market decision. If corporate parkers do not return because they start working from home, UPP may be willing to create an island parking rate to fill their garages. If the corporate parkers come back, it's unlikely they will want to fill their garage with island parkers.

Kelly-Rosenberg asked about how the PIC could help create storm parking at the Oceangate terminal parking lot.

Eckel said he would draft a letter for the PIC to send to Belinda Ray to revisit that topic with the city's Parking Committee.

#### **• Ferry Service Committee – update on priority boarding, vehicle reservation, and terminal improvements**

Chuck Radis is no longer able to chair the committee. Kelly-Rosenberg will act as interim chair until elections. Fred Somers, who is running for PIC, is interested in chairing the committee if he is elected to the council.

Sharoan Cohen, member of the CBITD board, was invited to report on three items:

- Status of priority boarding
- Status of vehicle reservation program
- Status of renovation/improvements to Portland CBL terminal

Schaeffer stated that in the meantime, Hank Berg sent an unsolicited letter with updates from CBL, which Schaeffer made available to the public via the google drive.

Cohen stated that none of the items above have been addressed at board meetings, executive committee meetings, or operations meetings in the last six months. Operations committee meetings have been suspended due to COVID-19. After a quick response to her original emails, neither Nick Mavadones or Hank Berg responded to Cohen's follow up emails asking for specific information about priority boarding, vehicle reservations or terminal improvements.

Cohen said the funding for the bigger boat has been approved and that project is moving forward.

Cohen said that drydock for the car ferry will occur in January 2021.

Since Hank Berg did not answer Cohen's questions about priority boarding, vehicle reservations and terminal renovations, she suggested that individuals contact Hank Berg directly to get their questions answered.

Anderson said that the building at the end of the Whale Wall is being taken down to allow the buses to turn around without driving all the way down to the boat. He stated that the CBL website has information about the terminal renovation.

Text update from Twain Bradenday said that vehicle reservations at the next operations committee in October, Priority Boarding will be discussed at the October board meeting, the building renovations will start at the end of October.

Schaeffer asked Kelly-Rosenberg to alert him about the dates of those upcoming meetings, so he can inform the community.

#### **• Executive Committee – updates on 2020 PIC election**

City documents indicate that Schaeffer is running for an upcoming three-year term, Eckel, Rafferty and Fred Somers are running for an upcoming two-year terms.

Schaeffer suggested that the Peaks Island Council host a candidates night sometime in October.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Welch Street Parking Lot**

Schaeffer stated that the City Engineer said the contract for the work on the Welch Street parking lot is supposed to go out to bid at the end of the month. Schaeffer reported that the City Engineer stated that island input was useful and incorporated into the RFP. Schaeffer's conversation took place before the announcement that the City will be laying off 65 people. The city's engineering department could be impacted by the layoffs, so further update from City Engineer will be required.

#### **PIC Anti-Racism Workshop**

Schaeffer made a motion to proceed with an Anti-Racism Workshop:

***It is moved that the Peaks Island Council conduct a workshop entitled "Authentic Dialogues: Talking about Racism and Moving to Action" on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 beginning at 6:15pm.***

***The workshop will be developed and facilitated by Peaks Island resident Shay Stewart-Bouley. Shay serves as Executive Director of Community Change, Inc., a***

**non-profit organization headquartered in Boston, MA. Please see Shay's bio and workshop description in the attached pages.**

**The session would be conducted on Zoom for the members of the Peaks Island Council. The workshop will be open to the public however there will not be opportunity for public comment. The session is scheduled to last approximately 90 minutes. The cost of the workshop will be \$500 for Ms. Stewart-Bouley's services which will be paid for by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.**

Kelly-Rosenberg seconded the motion.

No Public Comment.

No Councilor Discussion.

**Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2020 Municipal Election – motion to proceed with recruitment of candidate for vacant PIC position**

Schaeffer made a motion:

**There are five positions on the Peaks Island Council up for election in November. However, after passage of the deadlines for ballot registration (August 25, 2020) and registration as a write-in candidate (September 4, 2020) one of those positions remains without a prospective candidate.**

**Based on the advice of the City Manager in 2019 and the process put in place that year, it is moved that:**

- **The Peaks Island Council will recruit potential eligible candidates for the unfilled position.**
- **The Peaks Island Council will designate a committee which will interview prospective candidates and make a nomination for consideration by the full Peaks Island Council.**
- **The Peaks Island Council will give consider the committee's nomination at a public meeting of the council, provide opportunity for public comment regarding the nomination, and then vote to appoint the candidate to a term beginning the date of the PIC meeting at which the nomination is approved and ending at the November 2021 PIC meeting.**
- **The PIC will plan to have the position filled by its November 2020 regular monthly meeting.**

Anderson seconded.  
No public comment.  
No councilor discussion.

***Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.***

**2020 Municipal Election – Update on Peaks Island Candidates night**

Schaeffer reported that all of the 15 candidates in the upcoming election will participate in the PIC candidates night on October 21, 2020 at 6:15pm via Zoom.

Schaeffer said one candidate sent campaign materials and asked that they be distributed. Schaeffer said that distributing materials electronically is not something included in the Zoom format.

Each candidate will have 3-4 minutes to make an introductory statement and then the floor will be open to the public to ask questions.

**Peaks Island Community Plan – possible motion to proceed with development of a community plan for Peaks Island**

Eckel made a motion:

- A motion to authorize the formation of a committee of PIC members to:***
- 1. Develop the outline of a community planning program that is focused on developing a 5-year plan for the Island – what does the community want Peaks Island to look like in 5 years?***
  - 2. Identify funding sources the support the planning program***

***The Committee will report back by the November meeting.***

Eckel said the committee would generate a statistics that give a snapshot of what the island looks like now and what people would like it to evolve into in the future.

Kelly-Rosenberg seconded.

Public comment:

Audience member asked if committee could include members of the public?  
Schaeffer stated that PIC committees typically include members of the public.

Eckel offered a revised motion with change to say “***A motion to authorize the formation of a committee of PIC and community members to:***”

Anderson seconded the revised motion.

No councilor discussion.

***Unanimous vote to approve revised motion. Motion passed.***

**Ferry passes – possible motion to allocate funds for reimbursement to CBL for student ferry passes in light of reduction of PIC funds provided in City Budget**

No longer an issue with passage of full \$40,000 for PIC budget by Portland City Council.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Audience member said that Allison at MHR was always the person to call about questions about the Casco Bay Garage and the last time the audience member spoke with Allison, she said the garage only gives a very few passes to non-islanders. She also said they were in the process of checking car registrations to see if people were islanders, and if they are not, they are going to be kicked out of the garage.

Eckel replied that his information was from the city and that he will check with MHR and ask for a breakdown of who is parking in the garage.

Audience member said that developers have recently been submitting projects without additional parking, which will consume existing garage parking in the downtown area. Of note is 200 Federal Street which is proposed to be 14-18 story complex without the addition of parking. Audience member asked if PIC will engage with the city at the committee level to provide comment on lack of parking and the impact that projects that don't include parking have on island residents.

Eckel said the proactive conversation is a good idea.

Schaeffer asked Eckel who is on the PIC Parking Committee. Eckel said he will re-engage some of the previous members of the parking committee.

Audience member volunteered to be a member of the PIC Parking Committee and Eckel will contact her.

Eckel made motion to adjourn.  
Kelly-Rosenberg seconded.  
Motion passed unanimously.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES**

- Jetport Noise Advisory Committee Peaks Community Meeting – October 15th – 6:15pm

**Next PIC Meeting:** Wednesday, October 28, 2020, at 6:15 pm via ZOOM.

**Meeting Adjournment:** 7:54 p.m.