



**Peaks Island Council
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

6:15 p.m., ZOOM meeting

**NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting—December 16,
2020**

December PIC meeting will be a ZOOM meeting

CALL TO ORDER: 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 5

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

***Kraft made the motion to approve the October 28, 2020 meeting minutes.
Anderson seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.***

TREASURER'S REPORT

Schaeffer shared the expenditure report via Zoom. Schaeffer pointed out that the only expenditures so far this fiscal year are \$140.70 for needs-based tickets and \$300 for meeting minutes transcription service. Checks will soon be going out to the Peaks Island Taxi, PITEA and the Peaks Island Food Pantry—they should be going out within the month.

***Somers made a motion to accept the expenditure report. Kraft seconded.
Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.***

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

• Executive Committee – election of PIC officers

Schaeffer thanked Steve Anderson for his service to the PIC and wished him luck in his new position as a member of the Casco Bay Lines Board.

- Eckel nominated Randy Schaeffer to be chair of the PIC. Somers seconded. Unanimous vote to approve.
- Schaeffer nominated Kraft for Vice Chair. Eckel seconded. Unanimous vote to approve.
- Schaeffer nominated Eckel for Executive Committee Member. Kraft seconded. Unanimous vote to approve.

- **Executive Committee – update on filling vacant PIC position**

Schaeffer reported that three community members are interested in filling the vacant PIC position for a one year term (ending with the November 2021 PIC meeting). Candidates are: Bethany Glatz, Sarah Goodman Cuetara, and Peter McLaughlin. Eckel is setting up interviews for the candidates and the nominating committee will make a recommendation to PIC so that a new councilor can be selected and then placed on the council for the December 2020 meeting.

- **Golf Cart Committee – designation of new chair**

Anderson said there are three people interested in continuing the Golf Cart Committee after he leaves: Fred Somers, Steve Clayman, and Joanne MacIsaac. Steve Clayman will be the chair of the committee. Anderson said that any other individuals who are interested in serving on the Golf Cart Committee should contact Steve Clayman.

Schaeffer said he would post a notice to island list serves that there are vacancies on the Golf Cart Committee.

- **Parking Committee – update on “\$15 Lot” and other developments**

Eckel reported that the Parking Committee met this month and decided to make a direct request to the city that they designate a portion of the \$15 lot to be used for islander parking. A motion to make that request will be made during new business portion of tonight’s meeting.

Eckel said the Parking Committee will ask PIC to approve a separate request at the December meeting. That request will be to ask the City to expand the IR zone parking on Thames Street.

Eckel stated that as part of its due diligence, a member of the Parking Committee is attending a meeting in town that relates to a proposed USM parking garage. Some islanders may have circumstances that make monthly parking in a USM parking garage feasible.

Eckel said that the larger point is that the mainland parking problem for islanders will not be corrected with one comprehensive solution. More likely, it will be solved with many small solutions.

- **Community Planning – update on project planning**

Eckel said it is important to get feedback from both year-round and summer residents regarding priorities that PIC should be working on in the next few years. The Community Planning committee will make a motion to implement a survey under the new business portion of this meeting.

- **PIC Anti-Racism Workshop – update on preparation of statement**

Schaeffer and Rafferty developed a draft of a public statement in support of Black lives that will be considered during the new business portion of this meeting.

- **Noise Study Committee – update on efforts to address noise from air traffic**

Schaeffer stated that the goal of the Noise Study Committee has evolved into moving flight paths away from going directly over Peaks Island. The committee has about ten members who have met a few times this month to develop a strategic plan that will be presented at the December PIC meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Transfer bridge maintenance update**

No new information.

- **Welch Street Parking Lot Improvements update**

Anderson stated that the bids opened today for the RFP and about twelve companies took an RFP packet. Schaeffer asked if there were any further details about the project available on the website. Anderson said there were no details. Somers asked about the time line for the project. Anderson stated that according to previous discussions, the site work would take place in the fall and the paving/stripping would take place in the spring.

NEW BUSINESS

- **FY2022 PIC Budget Request – review and approval of process**

Schaeffer presented a timeline for the PIC Budget process, allowing the PIC budget request to be submitted to the City on March 3, 2021. This timeline is based on the process that has been used successfully in the last few years.

- **Proposal to City Council re “\$15 Lot” on Thames Street – possible motion re letter by the parking committee**

Eckel made a motion to approve the letter that the Parking Committee drafted requesting that the City set aside a portion of the “\$15 lot” for use as monthly islander parking. Somers seconded.

Public discussion:

AM commented that the letter is great.

Councilor discussion:

Eckel said that although the Parking Committee realizes it is not likely that the City will approve the request, they felt compelled to ask the City for support that really benefits islanders.

Somers asked why the letter says “The PIC understands that the future of the \$15 lot has not been determined and that the existing parking lot will not be there indefinitely.” Eckel said the committee included that as pre-emptive phrasing. By including that statement, the PIC can get the city’s response to the request beyond them stating that the lot may not be there in a few years.

Anderson asked if Belinda Ray is the correct person to make this request to. Eckel said that Bill Patnaude recommended that the letter be addressed to the elected official, i.e. Belinda Ray.

Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

• **Community Planning – possible motion to approve project statement**

Eckel made a motion: The Peaks Island Council shall establish a committee to develop and distribute a survey to island residents (year-round and seasonal) to help develop priorities for the PIC to focus on for the next 2 years. Schaeffer seconded.

No public discussion.

No councilor discussion.

Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

• **Anti-Racism Statement – possible motion re adoption of anti-racism statement**

Schaeffer made a motion that the following statement be adopted:

In an effort to examine how Peaks Island Council contributes to and works to eradicate racism, we the council heartedly answer the request to give validation to Black lives that has long been denied in our country. We wish to affirm and support the humanity of Black lives in a collective statement that Black lives matter on Peaks Island, in Portland, the state of Maine, and the U.S.

Guided by this commitment, the actions of the Peaks Island Council will be guided by the need to ameliorate the effects of systemic racism manifest within our community.

Eckel seconded.

No public discussion.

Councilor discussion:

Eckel asked how the council will comply with the statement in the second paragraph. Schaeffer said the second paragraph would guide the council to find real ways to combat systemic racism in the decisions that the council makes.

Somers made a motion to amend, changing the word “guided” to “informed” in the last sentence. Eckel seconded the amendment.

All voting councilors approved the amendment. Anderson abstained from voting since the motion is forward-looking and he is leaving the council. Amendment passed unanimously.

All voting councilors approved the amended motion. Anderson abstained from voting since the motion is forward-looking and he is leaving the council. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

AM asked if PIC could address why there have been no entries on the police blotter since March 2020. Additionally, there have been no periodic police updates at PIC meetings as previously.

Schaeffer said the summer visit by the police chief was postponed due to COVID. Somers said the reduced police coverage due to COVID may have impacted their ability to enter items in the police blotter. Anderson said he would send Schaeffer the link to the police blotter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 6:15 pm via ZOOM.

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

Meeting Adjournment: 7:20 p.m.