



**Peaks Island Council
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

6:15 p.m., ZOOM meeting

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting–April 28, 2021

April PIC meeting will be a ZOOM meeting

CALL TO ORDER: 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 4

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kraft made the motion to accept the February 24, 2021 meeting minutes. Somers seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Schaeffer shared the expenditure report as of March 23, 2021 via Zoom. Schaeffer reported that the total remaining budget for FY21 is \$9,979.30.

Rafferty made a motion to accept the expenditure report. Eckel seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to accept the expenditure report. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

• **Anti-Racism Committee – update on planning**

Rafferty said the committee of about eight people has been meeting to discuss a wide variety of initiatives and they are working to select one or two items to pursue. When those items are selected, Rafferty will bring them forward to the council.

• **Ferry Service Committee – update**

Somers said there was no update on the Machigonne II maintenance work. The DOT said the transfer bridge project should be complete by the end of April.

Somers gave an update of the CBL Finance Committee meeting held this week. The CBL Finance Committee considered priority boarding for Peaks Island residents. CBL staff recommended that the estimated costs of the program be offset by a \$40 fee for each priority boarding pass application. Staff said that half the fee would be for

administration costs and half for hiring a priority boarding ambassador. CBL Finance Committee members discussed the fee at length. Finance Committee adopted a motion to proceed with priority boarding and make a recommendation to the full board for a \$20 fee for a “residential” boarding pass. The Finance Committee also discussed vehicle reservation system but their vote to make a recommendation to the full CBL board will wait until the April CBL Finance Committee meeting.

Eckel asked Somers what he expects the full CBL board to do about priority boarding. Somers said he expects the full board to adopt the policy and further discuss the fees attached to the program.

- **Parking Committee – update and outreach to City Council**

Eckel reported that there has been no progress getting Belinda Raye to respond about PIC requests to increase mainland parking. Peter McLaughlin is going to try to put a vote about the three PIC Parking Committee suggestions for increasing mainland parking for island residents on the City Council Transportation Committee agenda. Eckel will be recruiting people to speak on the topic during public comment at upcoming City Council meetings. Kelly-Rosenberg offered to help recruit people to speak.

Eckel clarified that PIC has made three requests to address the lack of mainland parking for islanders. The first request is to make an island resident parking lot in a portion of the \$15/day lot. The second request is to increase street parking designated for island residents on Thames Street extension. The third is to add island resident zone parking to the new street (as yet unnamed) that is being created near Thames Street.

- **Priority Setting Committee – update on survey**

Eckel thanked PIC for their input on the first draft of the survey. He said the Priority Setting Committee will next meet on April 7 to finalize the survey and bring it back to PIC for a vote at the April meeting.

Somers asked about the timeline for the survey. Eckel said that after the survey is approved, it would be available to the public for about 4 weeks. If the survey is approved at April PIC meeting and launched at end of April, the results would be analyzed and available by the end of May.

- **Recode and Property Re-evaluation – outreach re: pending re-evaluation results**

Bill Hall presented a historical perspective of property evaluation on Peaks Island. Property assessments were conducted by state employees in 2019. The process was interrupted by the coronavirus, but it has now been restarted. The Assessors gave a report to the City Council a few weeks ago. By late May, individual property owners

should receive a notice of their new property evaluation and new property tax bill. The new bills will go into effect as of the September 2021 tax bills.

Hall stated that the re-evaluation process is actually a tax reapportionment. Properties that have gone up in property value will be apportioned more tax. Hall said that the two previous re-evaluations hit Peaks Island very hard, but the assessor did not think the tax increase this round would be as high as it has been in the past.

Hall said there is a website that has additional information:

<https://www.portlandmaine.gov/2444/2021-Revaluation-Project>

Somers asked when people can appeal their tax re-evaluation if they chose to. Hall said it would be after the re-evaluation notices are sent out in May.

Rafferty asked if there is a way to get the assessor's property summary that was created in 2019, for people who may have moved into their homes after the assessments were done. Hall said it should be available through the city.

- **Community Arts Planning – update on preparation of proposal**

After researching the grant, McLaughlin recommends that PIC not apply for this grant. During the discovery process, he found that a requirement of the grant is to use a consultant to guide the project, with less community involvement than he originally thought.

Schaeffer pointed out that it is worth continuing the general conversation for understanding how PIC could apply for grants as a subset of the Portland municipality.

McLaughlin said that generally speaking, if the City was not applying for the same grant that PIC is applying for, then there is not a big issue. The grant would need to come via a partnership between PIC and the City. Any money granted would be awarded to the city and then be apportioned to PIC via the city council.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Ferry Tickets and Passes – motion to solicit community input**

Rafferty said that 22% of the PIC budget is used for various ferry tickets and passes programs. A summary description was created to clarify how the money is used.

Motion made by Rafferty and Schaeffer:

It is therefore moved that the Peaks Island Council distribute the attached description of the current program of ferry tickets and passes to the community and invite Peaks Islanders to offer their comments.

Somers seconded. No public comment. No councilor discussion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

- **Ice Hazard inventory – results of inventory and motion to forward to Public Works Department**

Schaeffer reported that the ice hazard on Trefethen Avenue has been getting extra salt to keep it under control.

Schaeffer presented a summary document detailing 27 places on Peaks Island where there are hazardous icing conditions due to poor drainage. PIC will send the document to Patnaude who will share it with his department.

Patnaude cautioned that some solutions are complicated and will require city engineers so that the solution does not create another problem.

Eckel asked to add the large pot hole on Hussey Road to the summary list. Schaeffer said he would add it.

Somers asked if any of the federal COVID assistance money that is being apportioned to the city via the state is coming to public works. Patnaude said he was not sure.

- **Welch Street Lot – update**

Patnaude said work was delayed in late February and early March due to weather. At this point, the retaining wall is almost complete. The contractor is getting the lot ready for paving and installing curbing to define the golf cart parking area. Permeable paving is being installed to facilitate drainage, then rest of paving will be done in late May.

Eckel asked if the flow through the pickup circle will be reversed? Patnaude said the current plan reverses the flow through the pickup circle. Schaeffer said there was community pushback on changing the flow in the pickup circle and the design may not work in practicality. Eckel said loss of the waiting lane in the design is the real issue. Patnaude said he would follow up with the engineers, and see if the plan could include a waiting lane.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Maine Island Coalition – motion to pay for Peaks Island one year membership to the Maine Island Coalition of the Island Institute**

Schaeffer explained that in the past, PIC's membership in the Maine Island Coalition of the Island Institute was paid for by the City. This year, the City asked PIC to pay for it out of the administration budget.

Schaeffer made a motion:

It is moved that the Peaks Island Council pay \$200 for Peaks Island's one-year membership in the Maine Island Coalition of the Island Institute located in Rockland, Maine.

Somers seconded. No public comment. No councilor discussion.

Motion passed unanimously.

- **New Brackett Church and Peaks Island Fund Communications Project – motion to endorse proposed activities**

Schaeffer made a motion:

It is moved that the Peaks Island Council endorse the Island Institute Fellow request being jointly submitted to the Island Institute by the New Brackett Church and the Peaks Island Fund.

Eckel seconded. No public comment.

Eckel asked when Peaks Island last had a fellow. Schaeffer said it was two years ago.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

AM asked if Peaks Island Council could pursue getting a second police officer on the island. Schaeffer said they would discuss offline and put it on the April agenda.

AM asked if new car ferry deck would be wide enough to allow people to get out of their cars as a safety issue. Somers said the new car ferry deck is being designed wider but he was not sure if it would be wide enough to open doors. Eckel said he thought that had been a requirement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at 6:15 pm via ZOOM.

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

Meeting Adjournment: 7:44 p.m.