

Peaks Island Council
MEETING MINUTES

February 24, 2016

6:30 p.m., MacVane Community Center

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Lisa Peñalver, Timmi Sellers, Kathleen Hayward, Sid Gerard, Howard Pedlikin, and Tim Wyant. Mary Anne Mitchell, excused absence.

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 7

Approval of Minutes:

Sellers moved to approve the January 27, 2016 minutes, Pedlikin seconded, motion was passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Kathleen Hayward, PIC Treasurer

As of 2/12/2016, about \$29,500 of the \$40,000 FY16 PIC Budget has been expended, leaving about \$10,500 left so far unspent. In percentages, about 74% has been expended, leaving 26% so far unspent. The categories that have been fully expended include: Cadet, ITS, PITEA, Food Pantry, and the Skate Park.

Committee Reports:

Island Advisory Committee

The last committee meeting was cancelled because Mike Murray was unable to attend due to other City commitments. Sellers reported that she continues to work with another member of the committee from Cushing Island to develop signs for tourists at the Portland ferry terminal that will inform them of Island rules and regulations. There is \$300 set aside in the FY17 budget to assist in developing that signage.

Environmental Committee

Sellers provided notes from the meeting with Jeff Tarling, Portland City Arborist, Public Works Department: There is money in the City budget for tree planting along the street and to plant a native garden where invasives were removed above the public beach at the boat landing. Because of the location of that future garden, some research will have to be done to determine what plants would be appropriate there. There are plans to replant six or seven street trees on Peaks this Spring. There will be a push to plant more memorial trees versus benches. The Portland City Tree Coop program will happen again this Spring on the island and will be advertised at an Earth Day Celebration in April and on the email lists.

Zoning Committee

Sellers reported that the Committee is working to schedule a community meeting on paper roads and access sometime in late March, early April and will be well-advertised. There will also be a similar meeting planned for summer so that summer residents can also attend and provide feedback. These will be followed by public meetings that include City personnel to explain the process. Wyant explained that this meeting is important because, in 2017, the city will be reviewing the status of paper roads on Peaks Island to determine, along with local residents, which ones should be accepted or vacated to adjacent property owners.

AM feels that this may be contentious because people don't like changes. Sellers explained that the meetings will be focussed on public education and to provide community feedback to the City. She further explained that the general PIC philosophy, regarding the future of paper roads on Peaks, is to maintain as much land as possible open for public use and access.

Old Business:

Island Fellow Discussion

Sellers reported that she had sent out questionnaires to various Peaks Island organizations asking them for their views on requesting an Island Fellow from the Island Institute this year to help with updating the 2003 Peaks Island Comprehensive Management Plan. Of the organizations that responded, most felt that it is appropriate for PIC to update the 2003 Plan and would be willing to provide input relating to their particular organization's concerns, however; they did not have funds available to help pay the cost of an Island Fellow and did not have a residence available for the Island Fellow. One organization was willing to assist in fundraising. Sellers will continue to request replies to her questionnaire since not all organizations have responded at this time. When she gets an adequate number of responses, the ad hoc committee that is reviewing this action will then reconvene to discuss the results and present them to the full Council.

Sellers will be informing Karen Burns, who manages the Island Fellow program for the Island Institute, that PIC is serious about having an Island Fellow and will be looking into requesting one for next year as this budget review period is now over and there was little support to fund an Island Fellow for FY17. She still believes that the process needed to update the Comprehensive Plan would benefit from an Island Fellow.

FY17 Budget Discussion

Wyant discussed an idea that had been presented to PIC to provide funding for path maintenance; however, this has not been explored any further due to little interest from Island organizations to proceed, so that action item was taken off the FY17 budget.

AM encouraged PIC to consider helping fund an island newspaper since it was difficult for a private party to personally fund the last island newspaper. Sellers said that this would be a good item to consider for next year's budget review.

Regarding more than \$2,000 or so of excess funds that are still available from the FY17 budget, Peñalver pointed out that there are many organizations that could use the excess. She suggested moving \$1000 to the taxi for the replacement fund which was done. Sellers also suggested adding some of the excess funds for website development under the Administrative budget item. Wyant explained that the Administrative budget item could also be considered PIC's "rainy day" fund so that budget item was increased to \$4000. Additionally, \$150 of excess funds was moved to the PITEA budget item and \$150 to the Food Pantry budget item.

Peñalver moved to approve the FY17 as a block, Sellers seconded, the floor was then opened for discussion:

Public discussion: Should website development be listed more prominently under the Administrative budget item? Wyant felt that providing additional funds to the Administrative budget item in general was justifiable as it is the "rainy day" fund for PIC

Motion to approve

The approved PIC

ly approved.

New Business:

A discussion of the FY2017 budget...

Ferry tickets, passes, vouchers, loading control		
A. Cadet/Safety	0	
B. Elementary school "turning 10"	0	
C. Middle & High school passes	4,300	53 students x 82.45 = 4,205
D. College students	750	
E. Private school tickets	450	
F. Needs-based tickets	5,000	
G. Bicycle tickets	500	
Loretta Voyer fund	1,000	
H. ITS ("The Taxi")	16,000	Over 15,000 for new vehicle fund
Islanders in need		
I. PITEA (for PIC, heating assistance only)	3,150	
J. Food pantry	1,150	
Parks, recreation, open space		
K. Skateboard park	1,000	
PEAT brochure	400	
Island services		
Signage in ferry terminal	300	
Website development	2,000	
L. Administrative	4,000	
Total	40,000	40,000 Full budget

as that is usually

Regarding a discussion of the golf cart safety rules and the development of an ordinance to restrict tour bus size on Island road; this will be tabled for now as Timothy Murphy and John Keilly, who have done the research and have the information on these items, are not present at this meeting.

AM was concerned about the “tour bus size restriction” proposed ordinance as he felt the tour buses serve a purpose and is a good alternative to move people to events on the Island. Another AM feels that this is a public safety issue as Peaks Island roads were not designed to accommodate larger vehicles, have caused traffic issues, and should be regulated. There was also public concern that, by limiting the size of the tour buses on the Island through an ordinance, this may also negatively affect other large vehicle access to the Island like construction vehicles, etc. It was explained that the ordinance recommendation that PIC is working on specifically addresses public transportation vehicles.

Wyatt again suggested waiting to discuss these issues further until Timothy Murphy and John Keilly are present so that they can provide their research findings and answer questions.

Peñalver proposed a general disclaimer to assume that Peaks Island Councilors speak as an individual when providing their views but, when speaking for the Council, they will specifically represent it as such. Peñalver clarified that the Council needs to make decisions as a group before Councilors can then discuss those decisions as a representative of PIC. Seller suggested that Peñalver send this proposal around to the other Councilors to consider for a vote at the next meeting which Peñalver agreed to do.

Announcements/Updates:

Sellers presented the Casco Bay Parking Garage General Manager’s email she received on 2/12/16 in response to the PIC email requesting that they address the use of cameras, pedestrian road lines, and problems with the Garage’s golf cart transportation while going through construction. The garage responded that they are basically taking under advisement the use of cameras, can’t paint pedestrian lines because of current low temperatures and have increased signage instead, and that handicapped spaces will meet ADA requirements. Sellers will advocate to keep those handicapped spaces where they are. Also, there was general consensus that the Garage is doing better regarding their golf cart pedestrian transport system although it has been difficult to load grocery carts onto the golf carts.

AM suggested to leave your grocery cart at the ferry terminal while you retrieve your car and ask someone to watch it for you until you can return with your vehicle.

Kathleen suggested that the Casco Bay Parking Garage response letter be posted on the two social media sources for the Island.

Peñalver motioned to post the letter, Pedlikin seconded, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

AM suggested a crosswalk sign in front of Hannigan's that says "Stop for pedestrians, it's the law."

AM brought up that there is a move afoot at CBL to restrict public committee members right to vote. He felt that this is wrong and needs to put up for a vote by CBL. This item will be discussed at the CBL board meeting tomorrow morning. Charles Burr, who is on the CBL board, explained that, lately, public members have outnumbered CBL board members on CBL committees because many CBL board members on committees have not been participating. This has resulted in public committee members controlling the committee vote. CBL is still encouraging the public to attend committees to provide input but that they will have no vote.

AM also brought up that CBL is considering adding a 2.5 % fee to the use of credit cards to buy ferry tickets.

Next Regular PIC Meeting:

March 30, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. with City Councilors Jon Hinck and Jill Duson as alternates for Belinda Ray.

Meeting Adjournment: 7:45 pm

Individual Councilor Action Items:

- Sellers will reconvene the ad hoc Island Fellow/2003 Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan Update Committee after she receives adequate questionnaire responses in order to discuss the results and present them to the full Council. She will also update Karen Burns from the Island Institute that PIC will probably be requesting an Island Fellow next year,
- Peñalver will send around a proposal to other Councilors to introduce a disclaimer about when a Councilor is speaking as an individual versus representing PIC for their consideration for a possible vote at the next meeting.
- PIC will post the response letter received from the Casco Bay Parking Garage on the two Island social media sources.