



**Peaks Island Council  
MEETING MINUTES**

March 30, 2016

6:30 p.m., MacVane Community Center

**Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.**

**Roll Call:** Lisa Peñalver, Timmi Sellers, Kathleen Hayward, Howard Pedlikin, and Mike Murray, City Liaison. *Excused absence: Sid Gerard, Tim Wyant, Mary Anne Mitchell.*

**Special Guests:** City Councilors Jon Hinck and Jill Duson

**Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance:** 24

**Approval of Minutes:**

***Hayward moved to approve the February 24th minutes, Pedlikin seconded, motion was passed unanimously.***

**Treasurer's Report:** Kathleen Hayward, PIC Treasurer

76% of the \$40,000.00 FY16 Budget has been used as of 3/29/16 leaving a total of \$9,464.00, or 24%. Fixed items include the Cadet, the taxi service, PITEA, Food Pantry, and Skate Park so those are all zeroed out and balances remain in ferry tickets and administration.

**Committee Reports:**

City Manager Neighborhood Meeting

Peñalver attended the last meeting where Jon Jennings, City Manager, explained how he has been going over the budget to determine where to make cuts and which programs and positions have huge impacts for the communities (like addiction programs) and should remain funded. He stated that he felt that government shouldn't try to solve all people's problems although there are ways in which the government can be helpful to communities which is what he will focus on.

Zoning Committee

Sellers provided an update on the Committee's community meeting regarding paper roads (See PIC Paper Roads 3-23-16 Notes taken by Megan Selby; addition to those notes: John Kiely is also a committee member) and reported that 35 people attended. This meeting will be hosted again in August for summer residents.

AM: Felt that the Committee should host a community meeting to provide information on animal regulations, such as leash laws and the backyard chicken ordinance, as they relate to Peaks Island. Sellers felt that this community meeting would be a good one to organize in the summer to reach summer residents and will look into having a zoning person come from the City to provide the pertinent information.

### Environmental Committee

Sellers informed that members of several Island organizations including PEAT, PIC, and PILP will meet with Jeff Tarling, City Arborist, and Marty Mulkern, Public Works, on Friday morning, to review the state of the Backshore, along with other matters such as removal of invasive plants, memorial tree plantings, and designing down front gardens. She stated that this was the first time in a few years when all these organizations have come together over an issue.

### Safety Committee

Peñalver explained that this Committee has not met recently; however, current project items include: updating the golf cart ordinance and designing an ordinance limiting the size of transportation buses on the Island. Tim Murphy, a member of the committee, stated that he and John Kiely have been working with Mike Murray on updating the golf cart ordinance and looking at alternatives that have worked to make golf cart use safer. He informed that the golf cart vendors have been talked with concerning safety issues and are willing to retrofit their golf carts to meet any future requirements.

Hayward asked the Safety Committee to look into repainting the crosswalks down front. Sellers will remind Mr. Jennings, City Manager, that he had promised an informal study to be performed by a City Traffic Engineer before summer. John Kiely informed that Marty Mulkern has put a few new speed limit signs on the Island.

Public discussion on removable speed bumps to slow people down -- but not be a barrier for snow removal -- and a reminder to Islanders to always use the dispatch number to report any non-emergency situations. This will accurately log the number of calls for proper consideration for Police Services. The phone number will be posted around the Island, and in the Island Directory.

### **Dispatch number for non-emergency Police or Fire calls: 207-874-8575.**

Hayward recommended that the report on Needs-Based Tickets be deferred until next month. Peñalver agreed.

### **Old Business:**

CADET FUNDING REVISITED: Peñalver explained that, on Friday 3/25, Mike Murray relayed an email message from the City Manager that was a counter-offer for funding the Cadet: instead of the City funding the full amount for the Cadet in the Police

Department Budget, as was originally discussed, PIC was instructed to pay half, so that the City and PIC would split the cost 50-50.

The PIC had already expected to fund the Cadet for the remainder of this fiscal year-- from mid-May 2016 to June 30, 2016 -- from the FY16 budget (approximately \$2,454). Funding the Cadet for the rest of the summer 2016, for five days a week, until Columbus Day 2016, with coverage resuming from mid-May to June 30 2017. The City Manager quoted an amount totaling --- approximately \$7,838.

Peñalver provided the history behind the Cadet explaining that last summer's "experiment" which used PIC and donated funds to hire a Cadet to manage traffic down front has largely been regarded as a great success, so she considers the Cadet presence important for traffic and public safety. Peñalver also believes that, since this is a "public safety" issue, responsibility to fund this belongs to the City, especially given the high taxes paid by island property owners, and public recreation benefits all residents of the City enjoy on Peaks Island.

Sellers explained that PIC was instructed by the City Manager to rewrite the FY17 budget to fund half the cost of the Cadet (for most of this summer season and into the beginning of the summer OF 2017). She personally feels that it is a City responsibility, and a public safety issue, and she would vote on not changing the PIC Budget for 2017.

Based on her 30 years of creating budgets for universities, Hayward explained that the City Manager has the authority to rewrite budget submissions on his own (i.e., should the PIC refuse to allocate \$3,800 for the Cadet in its FY17 budget submission, the City Manager can simply reduce the PIC FY17 budget submission by \$3,800 and add that \$3,800 to the Police Department budget submission). Personally, she does not think that the Island should spend any money on the Cadet but, professionally, she wanted to make this point about the budgeting process.

Hayward explained that if PIC took the position that it will not provide any funds for the Cadet in its FY17 budget submission, there is a high probability that there will not be a Cadet after June 30.

Pedlikin believes that the City should pay for the Cadet, especially given that the money provided to PIC has been reduced, although the property taxes collected by the City are increasing. He also believes that public safety is clearly a City obligation.

AM: One of the taxi cab drivers reported that the Cadet was the best thing that could have happened, from her on-site observations, and thinks that the Cadet was important for the weekend. Cadet should also be on patrol on Wednesdays, which are also very busy times down front due to "cheap" Wednesdays.

AM: We are now one of the few Islands that have to pay stormwater taxes [sic] and Peaks also generates a lot of revenue to the City, what with 200,000 people visiting here in the summer, so doesn't feel that asking the City to fund the Cadet is unreasonable.

Public Discussion on the opinion that this is not a transportation issue, but more of a safety issue, so funding should not have to come from PIC or local Peaks' businesses.

AM question regarding asking Casco Bay Lines (CBL) to help with funding the Cadet, but Charles Burr, CBL Board Member, explained that the ferry system is not a patron but a nonprofit organization, established to serve the Island, and CBL would not have funds available to help with funding the Cadet.

Mr. Murray further suggested that PIC could actually fund the Cadet from mid-May 2017 to June 2017 in the FY 17 budget and then reevaluate if it really needed the Cadet five day per week after summer 2016, or if three days would be sufficient, and re-adjust the budget accordingly. In response to a question from Hayward regarding timing of funds being taken from the PIC budget and the Police Department Budget, he explained that the Police Department funds will be used first.

Peñalver thought that the PIC could ask to simply accept the lesser amount (\$3900) for a reduced number of Cadet days, but Mike Murray believes that this offer was only valid for the requested 5-days-a-week Cadet position in the Police Department Budget.

AM asked if PIC is willing to NOT have the cadet for 5 days if the city doesn't budge? Hayward explained that PIC has not had a chance to determine their responses. Sellers reported that there are other ways to spend the money that could be useful to the community if it is not spent on the Cadet.

City Councilors Jon Hinck and Jill Duson had to leave to make the 7:45 p.m. ferry but voiced their support of obtaining City funding for the Cadet, and expressed that this discussion had been helpful to hear. PIC members and audience thanked them for coming to the meeting.

***Peñalver motioned to not reduce the PIC FY17 Budget by the amount the City Manager proposed. Sellers seconded; unanimous vote to approve.***

***Peñalver moved to recommend that the City Manager reconsider fully funding a full-time Cadet for five days a week, as per the original, fairly modest, request, Sellers seconded, unanimous vote to approve.***

Personal vs. PIC business (self-identification)

Peñalver offered the following examples for appropriate text depending on the situation:

Personal position, not PIC endorsed:

**“I am writing to you today as a resident of the Peaks Island community, and not as a representative of the Peaks Island Council. The views expressed here are mine alone and are not endorsed by the PIC.”**

Official communication, PIC endorsed:

**“I am writing to you today in my capacity as an elected officer of Peaks Island Council. I have been authorized by the Council to convey the following.”**

***Hayward moved to accept the above wording as official PIC policy for board members, Pedlikin seconded, unanimous vote, unanimous vote to approve.***

## **New Business**

### Bicycle Coalition of Maine proposal:

Peñalver informed about the Bicycle Coalition of Maine's current work prioritizing an update to the 1988 Parking Master Plan for Downtown Portland and/or the 1992 Transportation Plan.

Peñalver is concerned about maintaining nearby and affordable parking for Peaks Islanders in Portland, and believes that becoming a member would insure that we were part of the process, which will help make sure that parking remains available in Portland for Islanders.

Sellers believes that PIC should have a connection with this issue so that we can keep up to date on parking changes.

Hayward is uncomfortable with signing on to anything that pushes any agenda unless she knows the Island residents support it. She would not support a representative to attend the meetings until she feels that Islanders would support being involved in this issue.

***Peñalver moved to table this discussion for another meeting, Sellers seconded, unanimous vote to approve.***

***Peñalver moved to table the discussions on drafting an ordinance to limit bus size and range on the Island, and on updating the Golf Cart Ordinance, until next month, Sellers seconded, unanimous vote to approve.***

***Tim Wyant volunteered to be PIC representative for the City's new Affordable Housing Committee. Peñalver nominated, Pedlikin seconded, unanimous vote to approve.***

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

AM suggested that the Safety Committee should also talk to Police Chief Sauschuck to gain support for the City fully funding the Cadet for next year. The Cadet needs to work the entire season and not just until July 1st.

AM recommended that any additional funds that are not used by the end of the year go towards the Loretta Voyer fund.

AM voiced support for a community meeting on the City's animal ordinances.

**Next Regular PIC Meeting:**

April 20th at 6:30 p.m. with City Councilor Belinda Ray expected to be in attendance.

**Meeting Adjournment:** 8:00 pm

**Individual Councilor Action Items:**

- The Safety Committee will look into having the cross walks repainted down front,
- Sellers will remind Mr. Jennings, City Manager, that he had promised an informal study to be performed by a City Traffic Engineer before summer.
- Sellers will look into organizing a community meeting in the summer regarding City animal ordinances as they relate to Peaks Island.
- Discussion items moved to next month: Being a participant in the Bicycle Coalition of Maine's effort to update the 1988 City Parking Master Plan, Limit on bus size ordinance, updating the Golf Cart Ordinance, and an update on Needs-based tickets.