



## Peaks Island Council

### MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

6:30 p.m., MacVane Community Center

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

**Roll Call:** Lisa Peñalver, Timmi Sellers, Mary Anne Mitchell, Tim Wyant, David Stankowicz, Mike Murray, Island/Neighborhood Administrator

**Absent:** Howard Pedlikin, Belinda Ray, Portland City Councilor

Kathleen Hayward has resigned from the Council. An additional Councilor will need to be appointed following the November election to fill this seat, as there is not enough time to place this vacancy on the ballot.

**Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance:** 16

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

***Sellers made the motion to approve the August 17th meeting minutes, Wyant seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.***

#### **Treasurer's Report:** (Mike Murray)

The current balance in the FY17 budget is \$11,522.91.

The FY17 budget estimate for Middle School extension to year round passes of \$4300 was too low based on FY16 costs. \$400 has been reallocated from Administrative to adequately fund the Needs Based Tickets budget item.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**POLICE REPORT:** Officer Rob Lauterbach, Portland Police.

Officer Lauterbach reported that with summer over it has been pretty quiet on the island.

Officer Lauterbach stated the police department will soon initiate the effort to identify and remove abandoned vehicles on the island. He explained that removal is being coordinated with Lionel Plante Assoc. and a specific date has yet to be determined, but he expects the effort will begin in the next month or so. Peñalver asked where the money from this effort goes. Mitchell believes PITEA received the donation of funds from the last time abandoned vehicles were removed from the island. Officer Lauterbach stated he is unsure what the plans are for this year's proceeds. He encouraged anyone with knowledge of an abandoned vehicle to contact himself or Officer Danny Rose, stating that more information will be announced when details are finalized.

Stankowicz discussed Sacred & Profane next month, mentioning the concern for fire hazard and asking what awareness and role can be expected from the police and fire staff. Officer

Lauterbach stated that a representative from PILP had informed him that the event will be held during the day and ending earlier than previous events, in an attempt to make it more family friendly. Officer Lauterbach reported he and a firefighter conducted a thorough inspection of each exhibit last year and removed any items of concern. He stated that pretty much everyone from the event left the island on the 5:50 boat last year, and feels that it will be similar this year. He went on to say that by walking the trails near Battery Steele he has discovered some of the spots used for camping and fires which is helpful for ongoing enforcement, especially in the evening following the event.

AM asked for the status of pedestrian signs to be placed on the side of the street marking the crosswalk in front of Hannigan's. Officer Lauterbach said he is unsure of the current status, but knows that Marty Mulkhern is aware of the request. Further discussion brought up the occurrence of cyclists using the crosswalk, and that the crosswalk is intended for pedestrians (on foot) only. AM asked what is legal for parking in or near a crosswalk. Officer Lauterbach stated he is unsure of the specific distance required to park away from a crosswalk, but is certain it is illegal to park in the crosswalk.

### Safety Committee

Peñalver stated the PIC Safety Committee met with CBL staff in August. Notes from that meeting have been posted on Nextdoor. She went on to say the PIC plans to hold a public meeting with CBL for which the date is TBD.

Peñalver reported that a public meeting was held with Police Chief Sauschuck in August, during which she asked if there is a certain ratio of officer per number of people. It was explained that police coverage for Peaks Island is determined based on the number of calls to dispatch. It was reported that the number of calls to dispatch this year is lower than last year. Peñalver explained that a call to the dispatch number ensures that the call is sent to the PI officers and a response is required, stating that a call to the local station may not be documented in the same way. Notes from that meeting have been posted on Nextdoor and Carol's List.

Peñalver explained that Councilor Belinda Ray spoke with VIP Bus Company, and stated that VPI has recently been sending smaller busses to the island. AM stated he witnessed a full size "greyhound-sized" bus this past weekend. AM asked if the wedding venues can restrict bus size in their rental contracts. Peñalver stated it is her understanding that the venues can make suggestions, but that the wedding planner is the final decision maker. Peñalver stated she would follow up on these concerns. Sellers asked the status of the City to make an ordinance for the size of bus allowed on the island. Peñalver explained that the City Council has been working on other priorities, but is working their way toward the bus size allowed on the island.

AM stated the concerts at the Maine State Pier are of great concern to her. She explained that she and her husband were driving to the Casco Bay Garage on the night of a concert, and had to stop the car due to congestion. She went on to say their car was surrounded by concert-goers who were pounding their hands on the windows. She stated the attack was terrifying. She explained that her husband continued moving the car forward very slowly until finally the crowd parted to let them through. She stated that same evening, when they got into the CBL terminal, there was a fight underway involving four drunk men with five police and two firemen watching. She stated this was unacceptable and explained that she and her husband filed a report that evening.

AM stated she would like to get rid of the concerts completely, stating there is not enough room, concert attendees are drunk and she feels unsafe.

Sellers stated that she has experienced delays of 30 minutes or more due to the security staff stopping each car before the entrance to the parking garage, asking Murray who is in charge of the logistics for the concerts. Murray explained the staff is hired by the concert promoters, not the City, noting that the voiced concerns would be helpful for the pre-season meetings between the City and the concert promoters. Sellers stated that the island communities should be consulted and part of the conversation. Murray stated the City Council is in charge of approving the contract, and stated he made note to have the appropriate City representatives engage with the council.

#### Environmental Committee:

Mitchell reported that the Annual Coastal Clean Up occurred last week, and recognized the Public Works staff for doing a great job collecting all of the bags. She stated that there was an incredible turnout of islanders and visitors alike, making the effort a success. She offered thanks to those who take the time to keep the island clean on a daily basis as well.

Mitchell stated that Revision Energy is working to get households signed up to buy shares for the proposed solar farm on the landfill. She stated the proposal has not yet been passed by the City Council, and that nine households are required. Anyone interested should contact Revision Energy or Mary Anne Mitchell for more information.

There will be a window insert build in November, date TBD.

Mitchell reported that a new trash receptacle has been placed in the park across the street from Hannigan's/Cockeyed Gull area. A recycling bin has also been placed in that park and near the post office on a trial basis. Mitchell stated if the recycling bins are not contaminated with trash, they will be allowed to stay in those spots, noting that recycling bin at the ferry landing has been consistently "clean" with recycling only. AM asked how the park across from Hannigan's came to be. Mitchell explained it as private property, but the public is welcome to use it.

Mitchell announced the Maine Island Trail Association will be presenting "Leave No Trace" on October 5. The presentation is a way to educate people on visiting and enjoying the island without being destructive and is being sponsored by PIC, PILP and PEAT. Mitchell stated she feels this is a great opportunity for islanders to determine what they would like to see change before next summer, identifying opportunities and ways to educate people in a proactive manner.

Mitchell shared that the The Parks Commission 6th annual Green Space Gathering will be held on October 20, 2016 at King Middle School from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

<http://www.portlandmaine.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/14141>

Mitchell announced the Maine Broadband Coalition is sponsoring two upcoming events: Bringing Broadband to Maine's Rural Communities event on Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> and Broadband for Islands Summit on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Both events will be held at Maple Hill Farm in Hallowell.

Mitchell stated that King Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> graders are looking for projects to give back to neighborhood communities, requesting the PIC to consider getting involved to propose projects that could be done on Peaks.

### Zoning Committee:

Sellers stated a meeting will be scheduled with island fisherman to discuss the ferry beach waterfront area. Any recommendations from this meeting if passed by PIC will be forward to the City Council for approval.

Sellers explained the City Parks Department has a brochure that offers information on dog ordinances and rules. She stated that she has discussed several issues related to dogs with the Parks Director recently and has requested that Peaks Island be mentioned on the brochures in the next printing. Further discussion included leash laws, signage and questioned whether beach areas are considered private or public. Murray sated that beach property being private vs. public is a long discussion that does not have one definitive answer.

Sellers stated that there is a budget allocation for signage that would address issues related to zoning, environmental concerns in order to inform visitors to the island on proper use. She said that the Board of Directors of Casco Bay Island Development Association has agreed to collaborate on this and she will also be asking the Island Advisory Committee for their participation.

Sellers asked Murray if the portable toilet located at the ball field is owned by the City. Murray explained it is not owned by the City, but is recognized as being neglected and will be taken to the transfer station for some period of time to allow the owner to claim it prior to permanent removal. Peñalver asked Murray if the City could provide and maintain a portable toilet or restroom in that location. Murray explained that would be a request for the Parks Department. AM stated that it was quite a struggle to get other teams to agree to come to the island for games, and suggested that a simple outhouse structure with microbes would suffice, noting again that it is important to encourage the continued use of the island field for ball games.

Sellers asked Murray about the library renovations and impact to the public restroom facilities. It was determined the restroom in the parking lot is not heated, and is not an option for the winter months. Murray stated that it is under consideration at this point.

Sellers asked if any fines have been imposed for the boat on ferry beach. Murray stated no fines have been imposed at this point.

Sellers explained that Jeremiah Bartlett conducted a traffic survey but there has been no further communication or follow up since his visit. Murray stated he would distribute the memo that was created.

### **Old Business:**

*Council Vacancy:* Peñalver explained that with the resignation of Kathleen Hayward, there is a Council Seat Vacancy. As previously noted, there is not enough time to get this seat placed on the ballot for the November election. A new Councilor will need to be appointed after the election to fill this for a 1 year term. Anyone interested should submit a letter of intent to any member of the PIC.

*Banners and Sandwich Boards:* Peñalver stated that as communicated by Councilor Ray, no action will be taken by the City at this time on the advertising banners on the Welch Street fence. Sellers stated she does not understand the decision, stating she feels it is the obligation

of the City to either enforce amend the existing ordinance, noting that it does not make sense for the island to remain out of compliance with the current ordinance. Sellers stated she did not feel it was the correct process for Councilor Ray to make a discretionary decision. Sellers suggested the issue be revisited by the Zoning Committee to make a recommendation for a long term solution. Mitchell stated she feels this would best be revisited after the November Council election, and with public input. AM stated support for the banners and the local service-oriented businesses that are advertised, saying that it important that we all embrace support for our local businesses. Wyant stated the Council has an obligation to listen to all and any concerns or complaints and respond respectfully, which is what initiated this as an area of consideration. Murray stated that Councilor Ray was not the decision maker, but the messenger of the decision made by the City Manager. AM stated this is a matter of rule of law and said that discretion compromises integrity and credibility of the government, suggesting that the law either be enforced, amended or removed.

***Sellers made the motion to have the PIC Zoning Committee revisit the issue of the advertising banners following the November election. Stankowicz seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.***

*Waterfront Zoning:* Murray stated that the owner of the boat parked on the ferry landing beach is working on getting the boat removed, and has been in communication with City Zoning representatives.

*Dog Park:* Peñalver shared that Jamie and Amy Semon have a petition with approximately 100 signatures to request a designated dog park in the Trott-Littlejohn Park area. She explained it may be possible to utilize the fence that will be removed from the school.

***Peñalver made the motion to offer support the creation of a community dog park. Sellers seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.***

## **New Business**

*Candidates Night in October:* Peñalver stated that the Candidates Night will need to be rescheduled in order to maximize attendance for the candidates on the ballot.

***Peñalver made the motion to reschedule Candidates Night to Monday Oct 24<sup>th</sup> Sellers seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.***

*Letter to PWD:* Peñalver stated there is a need for better notification for water outages and issues. Murray stated that there is a reverse-911 auto-dialer that is supposed to go out to Peaks, Great Diamond, etc. Murray explained this option only pertains to landline phones, but text messaging is an option for cell phone users. Details on how to sign up for these options will be forthcoming.

*PIC Conduct Policy:* Peñalver explained that some previous meetings have had heated and emotional discussions, stating that she has created a proposed Code of Conduct Policy that has been adapted from the United Way of Greater Portland. She requested that the Council consider adopting it, and read through parts of the policy.

***Peñalver made the motion to adopt the Code of Conduct Policy for the Peaks Island Council. Sellers seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.***

*Affordable Housing:* Peñalver stated the Council would like to invite Home Start to the October meeting to provide an update of activities and an overview of affordable housing. Wyant will coordinate.

Regarding the bowling alley building, Murray stated that when a developer requests zoning changes, they are required to host a neighborhood communication. AM stated that ownership has not changed, suggesting that further speculation and discussion should be tabled or minimized until more information is available. Stankowicz stated that the Home Start visit to the October meeting will be independent of the current pending sale of the old bowling alley building.

*Councilor Retreat:* Stankowicz proposed that post-election with the new councilors in place, that the council holds a retreat possibly having a facilitator come and conduct team building and/or or process review and training. Sellers asked for input from Murray. Murray stated that the Council will need to consider budget and associated costs, or see if a facilitator might donate their time at no cost. He stated that the event would need to be open to the public, even if for observation only. Murray said that the City does not currently conduct team building, but holds goal setting sessions. AM stated that CBL holds similar sessions, and offered the name of a facilitator. It was determined that a decision on this would not be made until after the election and the new Council is in place.

#### **Announcements/Updates:**

October Meeting: PIC will invite Home Start to provide an update of activities and an overview of affordable housing.

November Meeting: PIC will invite Island Taxi (ITS) to provide an update of planning and activities.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

AM asked for the status of the public meeting with CBL, stating it is overdue from August. He suggested that Hank Berg is the CEO and decision maker that needs to be in attendance. Mitchell stated she understood that the Board of Directors should attend. AM encouraged the Council to select a date and schedule the meeting rather than continue to wait.

AM suggested that Marty Mulhern be nominated for exceptional service or Employee of the Month. Further discussion included recognizing the entire Public Works team for their efforts.

***Peñalver made the motion to recognize Marty Mulhern for the City's Employee of the Month award and to recognize the Island Public Works team. Sellers seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.***

Mitchell stated the school is working with CLINK in order to get regular pick up of the bottles, and was approached to have PIC consider getting involved. Mitchell stated that this initiative to get a CLINK truck to the island was made by the school and they should be the contact. AM stated once a month on a Monday, she picks up all of the CLINK bottles at the school and takes them off island. Mitchell stated that if the school already has a means to take the CLINK bags off the island, this needs to be communicated to the person trying to set up this initiative with CLINK and Casco Bay Lines. Mitchell stated she would inform this person that the school

already has a plan to take CLINK bags off the island. AM added that she would like to organize a bottle drive for Columbus Day weekend for the school.

AM requested reflectors be placed on the dumpster behind the school on Island Avenue.

**Regular PIC Meeting:** Wednesday, October 19, 6:30 pm at the Community Center

**Meeting Adjournment:** 8:21 pm.