

**Workshop - Peaks Island Advisory Council**  
**Wednesday, October 8, 2008 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Doug MacVane Community Center**

Councilors Present: Hurley, Langella, Moxhay, Richard

Chair Langella called the workshop to order at 7:05

**Welcome**

**Public Comment**

Maryann Oliver inquired about the availability of alternate parking for vehicles on Thames and Hancock, during times of snow emergency.

**Agenda Items**

- Presentation by PEAT - Trash disposal and recycling by CBL.  
PEAT, represented by Mary Anne Mitchell brought their concerns with recycling, trash, and general littering at CBL and the PI dock. She said a letter to CBL had been sent in June from PEAT, asking for certain accommodations in the freight area (i.e., recycling bins and signage, better control of the extensive amount of shrinkwrap used, its proper disposal). Shrinkwrap and cardboard are stuffed in the garbage and recycling is questionable. Mary Anne referred to notification sent to CBL 13 years ago, via the Friends of Casco Bay, reminding them that there is a \$25,000 fine for disposing plastics into the ocean: this had helped to keep things running well. However, perhaps because of new management, there has been some slippage. CBL had agreed to show, via signage, where to dispose of recyclables and so forth, but has not yet done so. PEAT feels that they have been having trouble getting and maintaining the CBL's cooperation, and are asking the PIC for assistance. Of greatest importance is removing shrinkwrap from downfront, where it has been left lying about. Mary Anne confirmed for Councilor Hurley that the wrap is left all day, and that a marked container for it would be helpful. Councilor Langella asked CBL Board member Frank Peretti for his input. Frank thought (in concurrence with Board member Hoppin), that the deckhands were using more shrinkwrap this year, but that they have been instructed to remove it. He also suggested that the problem may be coming from Islanders who arrive to get their goods after the ferry has departed and then leave it behind them. At that point, shouldn't it become the DPW's responsibility? Councilor Langella indicated to Mary Anne that PEAT has the full support of the PIC in this matter, and he will bring the situation to Catherine Debo's attention again.
  
- Presentation by Justin Palmer - proposed Community Garden at Trott/Littlejohn Park.  
Justin provided a 10-page handout showing planning-to-date on this proposed garden, which would provide a clean, non-toxic gardening space for interested Islanders. He has talked to Mike Murray about establishing such a Community Garden at the Trott/Littlejohn site, with a projected Spring 2009 start-date. His initial design is based on raised beds containing organic soil, and a suggested layout of 24 20X20' plots, an 8' welded wire deer fence, and a small shed for water and tools. The source of the water is still unsolved. Included in the handout, a sample work order from Deering Lumber gave estimated amounts and cost of materials needed, comparing pricing for both raised and ground level beds. The raised beds total approx. \$13,000, and ground level beds come in just under \$6,000. Councilor Richard asked who would be responsible for doing the physical hardscape work and how it would be handled? As a co-op arrangement,

a work-for-space? Justin envisioned a co-op, with volunteer labor and loans of tools needed. Councilor Moxhay asked how much of the Park this project would cover: the plan currently totals 16,000 sf. in the lower field at the site and does not affect the upper. Councilor Richard noted that this would be approximately 20% of the total area of Trott/Littlejohn. Councilor Hurley asked for confirmation that no labor costs being included in the estimates meant that all-volunteer labor was fully expected and planned into the project. Justin confirmed this. Councilor Richard asked about running electricity down to the site. Justin said it was not a necessity, whereas the water was. He is hoping that water can be extended from the end of lower Upper A, or run over from the Transfer Station. Councilor Richard pointed out that all these details could probably be worked out, but wondered where the \$13,000 would come from? Justin indicated that, once the soil is tested, the cost could be reduced to \$6,000 by using only ground level beds, with some soil amendment. Councilor Moxhay suggested that this project would be an excellent submission to the Peaks Island Fund for community project support. Councilor Langella agreed, and asked how the 24 plots would be assigned: it could be a lottery, or on a first-come-first-served basis, and the plots can also be subdivided to include more gardens. The 24 plots of 20X20' was an arbitrary number used to create the initial design. Councilor Richard wanted to see more of a group in place. She thought that Justin had done a great job alone, but a cohesive group might be more meaningful (including, i.e., including PEAT, the PI Garden Club). Councilor Langella asked Justin to bring a followup to the PIC in midwinter, and Councilor Hurley thanked him for doing great work on the idea.

· Update on the funding of ferry tickets for non-public school students

Councilor Langella stated that he had spent a good deal of time during the past week trying to track down the actual names of the students involved. The current total is 11, perhaps 12. He has met with Mike Murray and then Joe Gray; the latter has asked for a copy of the PIC resolution which governs supplying the funds. Councilor Langella indicated that when the list is completed and passed along to the City, he will be able to get the checks to the parents. He will keep the Council advised of the status via e-mail.

· Change of Venue for Candidates Night, Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>

Candidates Night has been moved from the Peaks Island School to the MacVane Community Center. The 6:30-9:00 p.m. time has not changed. Councilor Langella said that only local races would be included as there is simply not enough time to do more. This includes those running for City Council At Large, School Committee At Large, the CBITD Board, Water District, and the two spaces on the PIC. He will provide the PIC with an agenda for Candidates Night as soon as he has all the information in hand.

· Discussion of a Meeting Minutes Policy

Councilor Langella indicated that there has been some confusion around the production and acceptance of minutes, some of it due to changes in personnel during the past few months. Councilor Richard presented a proposal, as requested from the last meeting, including using a specified subset of Councilors to approve minutes, a specified turnaround time frame for both Councilors and Scribes, and a formal listing of places the minutes needed to be posted (i.e., website, the library, bulletin board). Councilor Richard offered to write up revisions to be presented at the next PIC meeting.

· Discussion of Ideas for How the PIC will spend the "Parking/Transportation" Funds

Per Councilor Moxhay, the *ad hoc* committee created two weeks earlier to examine this issue has not been able to address it as yet. She wondered if the emphasis of the PIC as a whole was to pursue the taxi concept fully and quickly. Councilor Langella said that the charge to the *ad hoc* committee was the analysis of various ways of appropriating the money, to be finalized at the January 2009 meeting. Councilor Richard recalled that the PIC was to generate a list of potential use concepts, and then send those out to the *ad hoc* committee for research, rather than the other way around. Councilor Moxhay

agreed with Councilor Richard's version. Councilor Langella threw it open to discussion: Councilor Hurley thought the PIC really needed hard data to be able to make a decision based on reality, and thought the use should benefit the most people. Councilor Richard added that it should also benefit those who need it most. Councilor Moxhay recalled that family and kids benefitted last year, so perhaps someone else should this time: perhaps the taxi, which would take up the bulk of the money. Councilor Richard noted that since the money had to be used for Parking and Transportation Issues, it did narrow the ideas for recipients. Councilor Hurley asked, do we want large amounts or small amounts, and who decides? Is it guided by the PIC or the *ad hoc* committee? He thought it a bit "chicken and egg." Councilor Richard agreed this was a good question, and suggested that the PIC should develop the idea(s) and suggest who receives the distribution. Councilor Langella would like this ready for the January meeting agenda.

He also asked if this discussion should be a single item for a workshop of its own, perhaps preceding the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting? Globally speaking, he felt that some ideas needed to be put out there in October, in order to get the conversation started, and waiting until the November workshop was too long. It was agreed that it be put on the agenda for October. Councilor Langella added that he had another wrinkle on the Parking & Transportation issue: a new child who just moved to Cliff has no subsidized ferry ticket. He had a conversation with Mike Murray about this situation, but since she arrived after the June 30<sup>th</sup> date for returning unused funds, there appears little can be done.

· Discussion of New PIC Policy Outlining Member Letters and Other Correspondence.

Councilor Richards stated that, as the result of one person's comment in a public meeting, she has researched other town and board bylaws for suggested usage of letterhead. The PIC may use its letterhead for PIC business, including letters. When such a letter, however, is not created by vote of the Council, a disclaimer may be added that the opinions are of the individual writer only. Councilor Moxhay offered thanks for making the usage very clear, and Councilor Langella reiterated how important it is on the website to differentiate between "letters" and "news." He indicated that he would like this issue to be a motion at the next meeting, so that it could be voted on by all the Councilors.

· Discussion of Kathleen Schneider's application to become the new PIC Secretary and of the role and responsibilities of the Secretary.

Councilor Langella thanked Kathie for applying for the job. The actual job description was not available at this workshop, and will be defined at the October 22<sup>nd</sup> PIC meeting.

· Discussion of choosing a PIC representative to the Franklin Arterial Study Committee.

Councilor Langella said that a PIC representative was suggested by City Councilor Donoghue, and asked if there was any interest. He thought there should be a PIC member on the Committee and, since his PIC Chair duties will be ending shortly, he offered to volunteer as the Representative. Since the Study involves Parking and Transportation issues, Councilor Richard suggested someone from that PIC committee division be the representative. She also recommended that the PIC needed to look at the divisions/committees established a year ago at its inception, to reflect back on successes, and to consider any changes/improvements that should be made. Councilor Langella will, if there was no objection, pass his name onto Kevin Donoghue as a member of the Franklin Arterial Study Committee. His understanding is that there is no date yet set for the initial meeting. Councilor Richard wondered if the Island had a representative on the Peninsula Transportation Planning Committee, but this was not clear.

## Public Comment

Mike Richards offered that he wasn't sure it was necessary to obtain all the non-public student names before the parents began receiving checks, as waiting for the money might be a hardship for some. He suggested that the PIC pay those whom we do know now.

Frank Peretti thought that the Franklin Arterial study was to be about opening and closing streets, and so forth, and was unclear what this had to do with involving Islanders. Councilor Langella said that whatever changes are made to the Arterial, it impacts Islanders getting to and from the terminal area.

Ellen Mahoney noted that the City is about to receive a Community Development Block Grant, and wondered if the PIC had any thoughts about it. Both Councilors Langella and Richard had been told that Peaks no longer qualifies for a block grant under HUD. Ellen had heard the opposite at a housing conference; , she cited the Island Institute's Rob Snyder. Councilor Langella will investigate.

Jane Adams suggested that people wanting the raised beds in the proposed community garden could buy their own lumber, to lower costs. Councilor Langella suggested using less expensive lumber and pricing out with other lumberyards as additional cost-saving measures.

David Adams inquired about the plaque designating the community center as the Douglas E. MacVane Community Center. Councilor Richard reported that the City Council approved the resolution for the renaming at their meeting October 6<sup>th</sup>. She will keep apprised of how the mechanics for creating and officially "placing" the plaque are done, and will also work with Doug's family about when they might best want the ceremony to take place. Councilor Langella added that he had heard the City was sending out bids for improvements to the Community Center, but is not sure what these might be, or if anything will happen at all under the current budget constraints.

Mike Richards brought up the problem of taxis all over the pedestrian walkways at the CBL terminal, whenever cruise ships are in town. He wondered if this was something the PIC could address. Councilor Langella said that he had spoken to Mike Murray about this massive congestion/safety problem, and feels a great need for the PIC to talk to the City about these problem areas.

Sandy Langella wondered why cars were prevented from parking on one side of India Street whenever cruise ships are here. Councilor Richard thought it would be best to put something about this in writing, in order to document it for further dealings with the City, Olympia, and etc.

### **Councilor Comments**

Councilor Langella said that he had arranged a brief meeting with the Mayor for 7:30 a.m. the next morning (October 9<sup>th</sup>) on the mainland, and invited any interested Councilors to join him. He said that among the topics he hoped to cover were unsolved issues, such as a lack of a regular scheduled meeting between the PIC and the City Council, how to improve communication, and how to address the Mayor's feeling of "being shot at," while attending the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. **Workshop adjourned at 8:25**

**Special Meeting - Peaks Island Advisory Council  
Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
Doug MacVane Community Center**

Special Meeting convened by Councilor Langella at 8:26

- Motion to accept Kathleen Schneider as the PIC Secretary. Councilor Richard so moved, Councilor Hurley seconded. Vote: 4-0 to approve
- Motion to accept outstanding minutes (August 13th, August 27<sup>th</sup>, and September 10<sup>th</sup>). Councilor Moxhay so moved, Councilor Richard seconded. Vote: 4-0 to approve.

Special Meeting adjourned by Councilor Langella, 8:30

Future Meeting Dates:      Public Dialogue, Sat. October 18<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.  
   Regular Meeting, Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7 p.m.  
   Candidates Night, Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30-9:00 pm

– All meeting locations are at the Doug MacVane Community Center –

PIC/kgs