On Island

Sewage

Dear Fellow Peaks Islander,

The purpose of this open letter is to make sure that environmental impact of this project (which has grown from just Torrington Point-Adams Street sections to the sewerage of the whole south quadrant of Peaks Island) is considered and understood. It is to that end that I am expressing concerns that I have and which I feel as chairman of the Environmental Committee, incumbent on me to voice; I feel it would be remiss on my part to stay silent. They are my views and my views alone.

Sewering is an issue of vital concern to all islanders. The proposed project affects everyone, not just those in proposed sewer extension areas. It affects the future potential for housing development on the island. Unbuildable lots can potentially be zoned buildable if water and sewer are available. More cottages could be converted to winter use thereby increasing the density of our population year round. This will drastically impact parking in the winter when snows significantly decrease our mobility by narrowing streets and limiting our already limited parking areas.

Sewering can adversely affect the water table and our air quality. It could potentially threaten the well-being of our trees, including our ancient and majestic oaks. All of this will impact our island way of life, which in addition to investing in the Whale Wall Marketplace, I'd also vote to put signs at drivers' eye level, every fifty feet or so throughout the Old Port (like they do in Brunswick) that read, "State Law says vehicles MUST STOP for pedestrians in crosswalks." Maybe Hadlock Field is safe and convenient (I've never been there), but the streets of Portland are often nerve wracking for pedestrians, especially if you are trying to cross a street with two little kids in tow. I vent by screaming at drivers, "We're in the crosswalk! This is a CROSSWALK! You're supposed to STOP!" Of course, in many places, there are no crosswalks. Franklin Arterial, for example, (I love it in a car), is quite inconvenient to Mamas who want to walk to the store from Kennedy Park.

There is a well worn path alongside the fast road, and a steady stream of daring pedestrians, who run to the store from Kennedy Park.

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City Priorities from an Island Point of View

The City of Portland could have reduced taxes this year, but instead, they traded $1.1 million dollars to cost over runs for Hadlock Field. "Whoops!" City Manager Bob Ganley could have saved on the unanticipated expenses, but instead he said, "We went into it naively, but we ended up doing the right thing. The park has as much to do with the popularity of baseball as the team does." The City did not include the $300,000 of City salaries, which also went into stadium labor (as the Press Herald reported August 12th) "those employees would have been paid that amount for that time anyway." Who was doing the regular City jobs while City Hall employees were swinging rakes at Hadlock? Does this mean we could cut our City Hall budget by $300,000 dollars, because City employees had nothing much to do 'till Hadlock Field put them to work? How can all that value in labor escape City Hall and without replacement?

And (minus the 1.3 million) back on the waterfront, at the 'Whale Wall', a scruffy little market tries to get started, in theory, anyway. A City Hall employee hangs out there, hoping something will happen. But as was true of Hadlock field, the market needs an infrastructure. Marketers are not showing up, for lack of shade, awnings, advertising and vending booths. Investing in the Whale Wall Marketplace so far has not been much of a turn-on to spenders at City Hall. But if the City fixed up the Whale Wall Marketplace, (like Pike's Place in Seattle), with permanently installed booths, awnings, if they subsidized booth rentals for a few start-up years, put in some plantings, enlisted some good musicians and artists, advertised, they would be opening up jobs for many small entrepreneurs, craftspeople.

Here would be a ground level opening for many new Portland businesses, some of which would be impossible to open in any other situation. What an incredible waste of potential (I know someone said this about Hadlock Field last year)! Here we have prime waterfront property, immediately accessible to downtown Portland- why isn't it better used? A waterfront attraction, a social meeting ground, an economic asset in support of Portland's enterprising individuals- what is taking so long? Portland is great about providing social services to 'habitat challenged' folks and high incomes to baseball investors- how about opening up a marketplace accessible to the working middle class, giving us a break for a change, creating low cost retail space for small businesses. Does an open air marketplace on the water sounds expensive? But then how could we afford to flush a million, three hundred thousand dollars accidentally into Hadlock? Suddenly, I hate baseball: I guess I should have figured sports a little higher into my budget. I digress to say...
Friends of Peaks Island Animals

Many of you are probably aware by now that two puppies, about three months old, were deliberately drowned in the ice pond in mid-July. They had been put inside a garbage bag and weighted down with bricks; one of the puppies appeared to have struggled out of the bag, but couldn’t make it to shore. A few people told us that they were bothered by our work posters seeking information on the drownings. We tried to post them at adult, rather than child, eye level, but we felt that the photos were necessary to identify the particular puppies about which we were seeking information.

And we thank the many people who called the Portland Police with information in response to the posters. We hope that people will be angry enough about this needless cruelty to send a clear message that this must not happen again.

We realize that drowning unwanted puppies and kittens used to be the norm; some people think it still is. But some things have changed for the better; and the popular and legal opinion against tormenting animals to death is one of those enlightened changes. The simplification of spaying and neutering, coupled with the availability of financial help for those services, means that there need not and should not be any unwanted puppies and kittens on Peaks. But if there are, we have an exceptional animal shelter, staffed by very caring people (people who doubt this should see for themselves; the shelter welcomes visitors). The animal refuge league in Westbrook has an 80-percent adoption rate; that’s an 80% better chance of survival than an animal has if it’s disposed of like garbage, like these two friendly puppies were, or abandoned to struggle everyday against hunger, inadequate shelter, injury, infection, and disease. In fact, the drowned puppies’ two remaining litter mates were eventually taken to the Westbrook shelter and adopted the following day.

It is against the Maine Law to kill a dog or cat any way except by barbiturate overdose injection, administered by someone licensed to do so, i.e., a shelter or veterinarian. Illegal destruction of animals, abandoning, tormenting, failing to provide adequate shelter from the cold, and other forms of abuse are both civil and criminal violations of Maine law, as they should be; there is simply no excuse for any of these cruelties. If you need help getting your pets spayed or neutered, please give to Peaks Island Animals.

If you have unwanted animals, or animals that you can no longer care for, we’ll take them to the shelter for you if you can’t take them yourself. And if you know of an abandoned animal, please let us know right away so that we can try to rescue the animal before it gets sick or injured, or too wary of people. Our number is 766-5606. Donna Marchinetti

Are you bothered by Deer?

You can install an electric fence for about $150.00, or you can use black, plastic netting (such as is used to cover cherry trees) at a much lower cost.

Buy as much netting as you need at a hardware store, or nursery. Cut to size to cover those parts of the garden to be protected. Then, with a large needle, weave some white string along both sides (not the bottom). This can now be laid lightly over your garden and the corners held down with bricks. Now you can check for cabbage worms, ripe tomatoes, etc. This will also keep rats out of the garden. Sam M.
P.I. Children's Workshop

The Peaks Island Children's Workshop (now the 'Child Development Center) is demonstrating grant writing skills as it seeks to build a new name and a new home for itself. The City of Portland awarded the project $131,000 of HCD (federal funds) money. Grants were also awarded from the Libra Foundation, the Davis Family Foundation, Agnes Lindsay Trust, Nine Wicket Foundation, and the Portland Provident Association. Coastal Enterprise Inc. has committed a low interest loan. The organization has started work on their new site (they intend to renovate the 'Flats' which burned on Herman Ave. a few years ago.), and have a move in target date of summer 1995!

The Children's Workshop now needs to raise just twenty thousand dollars (less than 10% of cost) in local support for their project. They note in their current brochure the CDC's facility problems—regular flooding, poor air quality and ventilation, limited access, lead pollution of the playground, inadequate space. The new Children's Workshop, a 501C3 non-profit organization, will function as landlord, while the Child Development Center (a branch of the Catholic Diocese) will continue to provide services.

The key writer behind these coups de grants is Janine Blatt, Director of the Peaks Island Child Development Center for twelve years. She's collected a yard long list of island supporters for the new project, assisted by former PINA leader, Larry Walden. Before coming to Peaks Island, Ms. Blatt was Director/ Teacher for the Gorham Cooperative Pre-School. According to Larry Walden, she is to be commended for turning this vision of a bright beautiful building into a near reality. Send contributions to the Peaks Island Children's Workshop, P.O. Box 7, Peaks Island, Maine, 04108.

Jenny Yasi

News Bites

I compared Casco Bay Lines figures from the 1993 and 1994 fourth of July weekends (July 1st- July 5th), which show that while passenger rides were up in 1994 (by about 16%), car transports were down by 25%, and bicycle transportation was up by 20%. Just what those of us who love clean air were hoping. The effect of more bikes and fewer cars has been especially pleasant on the back shore, which has had a vigorous people presence all summer. Last Sunday, noticing all the lawn chairs, walkers, rollerbladers, and cyclists basking in the sun drenched view, I thought, "Geezum, it's getting to be like a regular tourist attraction." Let's hope we continue to have visitors who don't need to clog the place up with cars.

At the recent study circle introduction (which was weirdly not run as a study circle), summer residents (most who have owned property on the island for at least several decades) complained about the increase in island taxes, several suggesting that they felt some pressure to sell due to their high costs of owning summer property. Concern about overcrowding also came up at the meeting.

Having morning tea at the 'Right Place' in early August, I spoke with other summer residents who also complained about automobile transport. "For us to go shopping or to buy groceries costs just a fortune." But would Peaks still be an island if automobile traffic were convenient? These summer residents were interested to learn that there is easy access to Shop & Save by bus from CBL, and that groceries can be delivered to the door from Forest Avenue Shop & Save on Tuesdays, if you shop before noon. The island taxi can then take the groceries to your door. This friendly summer residents said, 'If you want people not to use their cars so much, you need to make it easy for them. You need to show them how to get around without a car."

Mayor it's time for someone to start renting (or selling) those red big wheel island hand carts.

The Peaks Island Neighborhood Association held a quiet election ($5 summer and year round residents did notice the signs and voted) for the Mayor's Island Advisory Board. Fortunately, three thoughtful citizens (Kathy Newell, Gerry Garman and Tom Bohan) were on the ball and had the generosity of spirit to run, and will be representing us for the next year.

By the time you read this Peaks Island Neighborhood Association has had it's big annual meeting. August 22 (Monday night) at 7:30 at Greenwood Garden's. Proposed by-law changes will effect how Board Members are elected, and change the qualifying criteria for membership. P.I.N.A., steering committee members hope to drop the $2 membership fee, and they have proposed that any, voting member either owns property on the island, or resides here for at least one month out of the year. Elections for PINA Officers have also taken place on the 22nd also. There were three seats open: Mike Richards, Lloyd Hamilton, Ellen Tripp, Mary Evelyn Holts, and John Flynn (for re-election) ran. John Carroll is resigning his office early, and Janine Blatt is not seeking to renew her expired term. For more information on what transpired at the meeting, call Norm Proulx (2246) or Kay Taylor.

August-September 1994
Will's

The weather is changing and Labor Day is approaching. We'd like to let everyone know what we're up to.
The deck is perfect for these clear, clear days... and nights.
The Fall menu - (after Labor Day) will be including:
* Nachos- handcut chips w/house salsa
* a greater variety of appetizers
* more Mexican dishes
* a greater variety of burgers
* and our fresh dough pizza
TAKE OUT WILL BE AVAILABLE 766-3322

Feel free to call- or look for posters. Live music will continue & watch for more beers from our new local breweries.

Our apologies for any inconvenience. We cannot accept credit cards. Cash and checks are accepted.