

Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting - May 12, 2008

Directors present: Liam Taylor, Denise Bonin, Peter Frewin, Cathy Pearson, Shannon Taylor, Michael MacColl, Alison Watt, and Lynn Roberts

Directors absent: none

Guests: Guests present at the meeting: Carol Mathews, Thora Howell, Jim Harris, Jason Metz, Bernice, Don McQueen, Nella Frewin, Barb Neild, Thora Howell, and Ralph Kirby

1 Opening Remarks

1.1 Call to order at 7:25 PM

1.2 Late Agenda items – presentations by various groups before the more formal portion of the meeting

1.3 Approval of the agenda

MOTION: (moved by Frewin and seconded by Bonin)

That the agenda for the May 12, 2008 meeting be approved

(Motion Carried)

1.4 Presentation from small group of concerned Protection Island citizens

Thora read notes that came out of the meeting on May 1, 2008 – Appendix 3.

Don McQueen spoke about the meeting and issues that this group felt that they could help PIRA with by building grassroots groups to move forward with issues that were identified at the recent community meeting with Chris Sholberg (held March 30, 2008), where 4 key issues were identified.

Liam thanked the group for their presentation. Liam spoke about the Issues Identification Process that had been utilized at the public meeting held on April 7, 2008, he and Chris Sholberg had worked on for some time. He pointed out that the meeting had been very public, open to all, and that as a consequence the issues that had been identified at that meeting could be viewed as both coming from and belonging to a cross section of the island. He described the process that Chris had outlined as having a structure where once identified, each of these issues was to be reviewed by Chris and relevant city staff to ensure issues and potential solutions defined all fell within existing City planning guidelines, and that subsequent meetings held amongst islanders were open public discussions.

Carol Mathews suggested that the city would not be adverse to people from the community meeting to discuss things. Liam said his concern was that people in the broader community could easily view a private meeting set up by invitation only with suspicion, and particularly one that included in it's original agenda items, consideration of the creation of another community group, pursuing a community plan (when Chris had clearly said that would not be possible here) and that then proceeds to divide up amongst that meeting's participants the very 4 issues defined by the broader community in the meeting with Chris Sholberg. He described having made these points in email exchanges before and after the May 1st meeting (See Appendix 1 & 2). He outlined where discussions were at with the City concerning the 4 key issues, and consequent up-and-coming meetings with City planners here on the island.

After the guests left, the board discussed this topic at length, specifically about how to integrate the enthusiasm of this group into the process of island issues with both PIRA and the city. It was suggested that a public meeting of concerned citizens be called with a PIRA director(s) who has knowledge of the particular issue. From that meeting, a list of points, issues, and concerns would be tallied and sent to the person at the City who deals with the issue. Shortly thereafter, another

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public meeting on the island would be called and the City official would be invited to participate. This way a dialogue could be started and hopefully solutions to problems found that would be mutually agreeable to both Protection Islanders and the city.

1.5 Fire truck access in the circle and into Pirates Park – Jason Metz, deputy fire chief.

Jason was called upon to address the issues of fire truck access to Pirates Park and specifically the ability to navigate around the parking circle. He reported that in the summer fire fighting practice takes place in the parks to water down the plants. He thought that they had been in Pirates Park several times last summer; although Cathy Pearson thought that they had not been in Pirates Park at all last summer. Jason said that he would check the logs. The fire truck can make it around circle; they recently tested it several weeks ago. Jason thinks that more signs would be good, e.g. stating that parallel parking is the preferred parking method in specific areas and perhaps in one "corner" on the circle, there should be no parking as it is a bit tight getting around a vehicle parked there.

Cathy Pearson presented photo evidence of parking infractions around the circle, specifically in places that would possibly prevent the fire truck from accessing Pirates Park. Her biggest concern is the fire trucks ability to quickly access the dock in case of a fire.

There are a few vehicles that continue to ignore the 24 hour parking rule, including one golf cart that is covered in a tarp which has been there for some time. Shannon has taken on the task of handing out a note (with chocolate kiss) advising on a parking infraction. It seems to have worked as the offender does not appear to do the same act twice. Constant education is needed. Liam pointed out that the city is too short staffed to come over and ticket people for violations, so it is up to the citizens to report these directly to either the concerned party or to the city.

Liam thanked Jason on behalf of the board for the fabulous job that the fire brigade does on the island.

On one last note, Jason advised that the fire dept would, if called upon and sometimes if they see it is a problem, clear out dangerous amounts of downed trees, etc. in the parks, including interior parks. This is a fire prevention mechanism.

1.6 Playing Surface/basketball court report – Jason Metz

Jason has written to the city about fixing up the court, recommend that it be resurfaced. The current surface is very slippery when it is wet or covered in pollen. The surfacing should be good for multiple uses such as tennis, ball hockey, and basketball. He also recommended that it be fenced and that the grass area next to it be mowed regularly to encourage outdoor play. Liam reported that the Lions would most likely to be involved with the park development in a monetary way.

1.7 Community Garden – Jim Harris

Phase 1, with 10 shared beds, a garden shed, a fence, etc. is now finished and is being fully utilized. The DIGS members met last week and developed a plan for phase 2 and took it to Kristi Macdonald in the city. It still needs Parks board approval, which they hope to get after their presentation to the board next week. The plan involves adding 8 more beds behind the existing garden, towards the trees, plus the incorporation of a donated green house. The new beds would be allocated via a draw and assigned for one year. The user of a bed would be entitled to another bed the following year. Liam asked Jim how much interest there was in allotments and Jim answered that to his knowledge there was only one party expressing interest in an allotment bed.

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The Community Garden grand opening is scheduled for May 25th with many events planned and the members of the Parks Board in attendance. A portable toilet may be on site for that event.

Jim brought up the idea of locating a portable toilet on site permanently and has discussed this with the city, who are willing to pay a person on the island to maintain it. This topic could be added to the next survey.

Jim was thanked for his presentation.

1.8 Parking circle and fire truck access to Pirates Park issues – Cathy Pearson

A discussion with Cathy about this issue ensued. In January 2008 she submitted a document outlining her concerns with the parking issues in the circle and access to Pirates Park by the fire truck. This was sent to the city and Liam and Denise were copied on the main letter via email. In the document, PIRA was named as a party who could be sued if action was not taken to rectify the situation. PIRA met to discuss this shortly after this document was submitted and on legal advice did not discuss the issue further with Cathy at a subsequent board meeting.

Documents concerning dock issues will be posted to the PIRA website.

Cathy has stated that she had not resigned earlier this year because there is no one else to take on the dock liaison.

Cathy has submitted a letter stating that she will not sue the PIRA board over this issue – see correspondence.

2 Minutes of the Previous Directors' Meeting

MOTION: (moved by Watt and seconded by L. Taylor)

That the minutes of the March 10, 2008 Director's meeting be approved.

(Motion Carried)

3 Business Arising from the Previous Directors' Meeting

No business from the previous Director's meeting.

4 Correspondence

Mail: Letter from Cathy Pearson

5 Director's Reports

5.1 Treasurer's report - Peter Frewin

(see Appendix 4)

No changes to general account since last month, but some money was advanced to Larry Iwaskow for repairs.

MOTION: (moved by Bonin seconded by Watt)

To accept Treasurer's report.

(Motion Carried)

6 Committee Reports

6.1 Communications – Denise Bonin

Survey – results of preliminary survey:

- A preliminary survey with 7 questions was developed using Survey Monkey
- 40 people completed survey online and 97% said that they thought that this method would work for our larger community survey
- 6 people volunteered to assist with the larger survey

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- About 25 new questions were suggested
- A meeting will be called shortly of the volunteers to draft the community survey Newsletter – will send out notice to get this together shortly – to be completed and mailed one month before AGM.

6.2 Emergency Access – Michael MacColl

We have not heard back from Brian MacIntosh about egress on Leeshore side of the proposed dock at the bottom of emergency access next to fire hall.
There is a problem with ramp at the south end, – rebar sticking up at bottom of ramp – Michael to contact city about this problem. Liam will set up an introduction to Tom Hickey, in Public Works.

6.3 Dock Committee – Cathy Pearson

Dock registration forms will be posted on the PIRA website and at the dock head.

6.4 Parks- Alison Watt

Alison has arranged with the City Parts Dept to supply plants in the circle.
Work party on 10 to noon on Thursday – City is to bring plants and compost.
Liam will put up traffic cones to block space for truck to dump compost
Garry Oaks also coming over with plants and can be distributed around the island.
Alison will offer another bird walk.
Liam reported meeting with Al Kemp about parks.

6.5 Parking & Roads – Liam Taylor

Liam had a conversation with Tom Hickey as he had a complaint about the dust. The road spaying is only done once on the island, but they would consider doing it twice to resolve issues.

6.6 MOTION: (moved by Roberts and seconded by S. Taylor)

To accept all of the Director's reports
(Motion Carried)

7 Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

8 New Business

8.1 Date of AGM – July 13, 2008

9 Closing Remarks and Announcements

Next meeting: possibly before mail out of survey: TBA

10 Adjournment

MOTION: (moved by MacColl)
To adjourn the meeting at 10:55 pm
(Motion Carried)

Appendix 1 – Liam Taylor email response to May 1, 2008 private meeting invitation, and it's agenda

----- Original Message -----

From: [Liam](#)

To: [Thora & Jerry Howell](#) ; [Alison Watt](#)

Sent: Monday, April 28, 2008 3:39 PM

Subject: Re: Meeting at Beacon House May 1

Thora,

I am very much in favour of getting people out and together to make connections and solve issues. I am free on May 1st and can attend but I do have some questions about the point of forming another neighbourhood group, particularly given the items of focus you mention:

1: Taking up issues of advocacy that are not appropriate to PIRA

Perhaps you could explain what issues PIRA might not be able to advocate, other than those that reference a conflict of private interests. It is a common approach at the City to communicate through the neighbourhood group, where one exists in each area. This is true in all the other neighbourhoods that I am aware of. In our case the City views PIRA as that body, given the length of time PIRA has existed, and the relationships built up through past dealings. I realize that there are people on the island who do not feel that PIRA "represents" them, or their views, and they are quite within their rights to maintain that the only officially elected civic body is in City Hall. PIRA like every other neighbourhood association needs to be as diligent as it can in acting in a transparent and responsive manner. There will be those who will never support any group. My sense is that it could be complicating and counterproductive in garnering assistance and support from the City should another neighbourhood group emerge.

2. Implementing community self-help projects --(community truck, mulcher, etc -- a la Junkaway

These are interesting issues that could easily be handled entirely on the island. (The Lions, for example, have been talking for a while now about how it might be possible to support an Island Truck.)

It would be important in my opinion to clearly differentiate these from the general process and those four areas of concern that were outlined by the group that assembled at the meeting with Chris Sholberg. One of those has already received pretty good attention, and the other three are all in some form of research and discussion amongst members of City staff. As soon as some reasonable lines of direct action can be determined we can meet again where there will likely be groups needed to focus on issues within each area. This is where I am hoping some of those people who came out to meet with Chris and express interest, as well as others in the community learning about it, will come out to get involved in those groups. Those issues as discussed on April 7 are all processes where the City will play an important role.

3. Gathering of input for the development of a community plan.

At the April 7th meeting Chris was pretty clear that there was not going to be any sanctioning by Council for developing a Neighbourhood Plan on Protection Island in the immediate future. This was the reason that we took the course that we did. I had been bugging him to help us figure out a way to get things done anyway. These items, in a mini-action plan, as he referred to it were what the group who met with him decided to start with. The advantage in the short term is we get to build a greater understanding with the City about what we care about, and learn the necessary steps toward seeing things through in at least a few areas that are of importance to the population here. In the long run this serves to bring the neighbourhood together and set us in good stead for the development of a plan, should we decide to make one, when we are sure the City will endorse it.

Those are my thoughts. I hope that in my efforts to ensure support for existing endeavours that I am not

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discouraging involvement elsewhere. I had wanted to be able to post some news from the City by now, (other than the update about the house barging issue) but although some interesting things are happening it is all still quite up in the air.

Liam

| ----- Original Message -----

| **From:** [Thora & Jerry Howell](#)

| **To:** [Liam Taylor](#) ; [Alison Watt](#)

| **Sent:** Sunday, April 27, 2008 2:24 PM

| **Subject:** Meeting at Beacon House May 1

| *April 27, 2008*

| *Could you join a few people to discuss the possibility of forming a neighbourhood group which will deal with some of the issues we feel need to be addressed?*

| *Such a group might take on :*

- | *1: Taking up issues of advocacy that are not appropriate to PIRA*
- | *2. Implementing community self-help projects --(community truck, mulcher, etc -- a la Junkaway*
- | *3. Gathering of input for the development of a community plan.*

| *At this meeting we hope to have representation from the Lions Club*

| *the firefighters, and the museum and PIRA.*

| *Please let me know if you are interested in the development of such a group and if you able to attend a meeting at*

| *Beacon House,*

| *Thursday, May 1st 7:30 p.m.*

| *Thora 753 1913*

| hwijt@telus.net

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Appendix 2 – Liam Taylor email response to May 1, 2008 private meeting minutes draft

----- Original Message -----

From: [Liam](#)

To: [Ralph Kirby](#) ; [Thora & Jerry Howell](#) ; [Michael and Ryoko Maccoll](#) ; [Pamela](#) ; mlamoureux@westerntechnical.ca ; [Don McQueen](#) ; bneild@telus.net ; wayword@telus.net

Sent: Sunday, May 04, 2008 6:46 PM

Subject: Re: Revised notes from May 1 Ad Hoc Brainstorming

This summary does not reflect the meeting that I attended. I am less concerned with the meeting notes than I am the perspectives defined. I must say that the lead up to this meeting and the conclusions that have come out of it have confused and concerned me. This whole process has been frustrating. A private meeting is called to consider starting another neighbourhood group that then shifts direction at the meeting itself to overstate PIRA's authority, continues to declare the importance of working toward a neighbourhood plan that will not happen, then decides that there is a need to define four groups to look at four issues, and it is recommended that these **"be formed and have the opportunity to inform themselves about issues before inviting in "experts" from the City."** It is not clear, imagining reading this from an outsider's perspective, that there is any awareness that these are the very four issues previously defined from the open community meeting with Chris Sholberg on April 7th.

To anyone attending that April 7th meeting this could easily be viewed as having a tone of ownership over a pre-existing process that is first borrowed then misrepresented. This is for example demonstrated by the above quote and elsewhere in the summary where it is declared that *"Michael Maccoll is taking the lead on this issue [emergency access, etc.] and will head up a group of interested residents"* Michael may be the PIRA director that PIRA has designated to look into those issues, but there is no reason to suppose that a community group formed via the process that Chris is helping us with would see it that way. How would it be possible for anyone from the outside to view this as anything but a very private group defining a process without consultation, without regard for a public process that has already begun and that takes a contrary course in several important ways? When definitions are made using language like this summary does, however unwittingly, how might one defend the argument that; While the City uses PIRA as a communication conduit, this Neighbourhood Issues Engagement Process is community driven?

It would be naive to think that it doesn't matter given that this was a private meeting, when the expectation is that the meeting summary is supposed to be considered by PIRA.

Initially this meeting was being called to discuss the possibility of creating another neighbourhood group to advocate things PIRA could not (which is a notion that was never clarified), and for the gathering of input for a community plan, even though Chris made it very clear at the April 7th meeting that a neighbourhood plan was not going to happen. Instead what Chris has actually made feasible is a process that includes steps to define issues, get feedback from City Staff - a kind of reality check that then proceeds along lines of action that would have very reasonable chances of success as a consequence of that feedback.

Some kind of urgency prompted the calling of this meeting which was for select participants and by invitation only. I expressed my concerns about the potential negative response to this kind of thing in the email that I sent in response to first Thora's, then Larry's email. I didn't get any further response. One question I have is if there was concern over perceived lack of progress then why didn't someone just call or email me? The first indication I received that there was concern was the email from Thora. The points from Thora's email ended up on the meeting agenda page along with basic questions about the need for another neighbourhood group. What would have happened had I not sent my email or had been unable to attend? What if I had just said no I'm not interested in starting another group and had no further contact? Even if the motivation was toward some notion of conserving momentum, this is counter-productive if the direction is ill-informed. If one process is already underway it seems only reasonable to

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check in with it before presuming to start another. I realize that the meeting minutes from the 7th didn't ever appear. Diane got so busy that I couldn't even reach her. But anybody could have just called me to find out what was up.

Almost immediately at the meeting the notion of another neighbourhood group seemed clearly unsupported. Did everyone come to the meeting called for the purpose of forming another neighbourhood group, only to declare their support for PIRA? The summation describes this with "Each participant stressed that PIRA speaks for the Island". Perhaps this idea was overstated to express disagreement with forming a new group but this basic notion is simply untrue, and it is not a small point. PIRA can suggest that it speaks for it's membership, but anything more is fatuous, misleading and fuels the aggravation toward a perceived arrogance on PIRA's part amongst a not insignificant number of people on the island. City staff frequently choose to speak with PIRA, sometimes even redirecting Islanders who call, by telling them to speak with PIRA instead. This is a convenience and obviously expedient for City staff, but that doesn't grant PIRA some official authority. The relationships that this contact affords is however, extraordinarily important. The danger here is when people feel that this kind of contact puts the PIRA executive in a position to take advantage. Care must be taken to be clear about the truth of what takes place and stating that PIRA speaks for the Island just fuels those misunderstandings and resentments.

I came to the meeting reluctantly, but I came to help divert confusion about the process that had been started with Chris, and I know from discussions with others that I was not alone in attending with this concern in mind. As it turned out the meeting ended up being in large part a review of the 4 issues outlined in the meeting with Chris with a push toward getting groups started on focusing on each of them. I stressed that this was supposed to include a process where we checked in with City staff to make sure that whatever we were imagining would ultimately work, to reduce the potential for wasting people's time and energy leading to disillusionment.

With Chris' mini-plan we are following a process that usually happens only after the creation process (generally taking about a year) and then ratification of a neighbourhood plan. We are jumping to the stage where the issues are actually dealt with, not simply defined. This mini-action plan is more narrow in focus, but our issues are fewer. In fact if pressure was actually brought to Council to consider the generation of a neighbourhood plan here, and they actually gave it some consideration, the first step would be to pass the issue to staff (in this case the Planning Department) for recommendation. What I have heard from Planning is that they would likely recommend some process like we are currently engaged in, though it would probably still get put toward the back of the queue. I'm not advocating that we accept every suggestion that we are given by staff uncritically, but there are clearly things they know that we don't. This is a step that Chris has stressed as well. It was a very important part of his agreement to work with us. The sentiment of the 2nd recommendation seems contrary to this:

"It is important to have broad community involvement in a ground-up process. It would be valuable for community groups to be formed and have the opportunity to inform themselves about issues before inviting in "experts" from the City."

These "experts" are not people who are going to march in here and tell us what to do. They will, as Chris has, help us to understand what is realistic, and they can offer us enormous insight into the processes that we will have to understand. I have been continually cautioned that if there is a problem that can arise in this process, and here I am speaking of the one that Chris has started us on, it happens when people in the community decide they know best, and then spend energy and focus where few results can be found - causing discouragement and alienation. **The other impact that this Neighbourhood Issue Engagement Process will hopefully do is to bring more people into the process who do not currently get involved. Outsiders offering informed opinion can bring those people out.** We have to reach beyond the converted. This is absolutely essential when you start getting into areas where big changes may be needed. A change that helps something while dividing the community is counterproductive. We also need to have these people from staff who work in the very areas we have concerns, understand and appreciate our circumstance and uniqueness. Many don't have a clue right now, but they are very willing to find out. Their understanding mixed with their connections is an essential

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part of this process. Getting these initial meetings with relevant staff, and beginning dialogs to ensure we develop a sense of how best to proceed was supposed to precede the next more focused community meetings and the formation of groups. The meeting with Chris was only three weeks ago, and one of the four issues has been put to bed. Three information meetings could happen in the next 6 weeks. I think we are making good progress.

Regarding a monthly newsletter - I publish information as soon as I can get to it after something has happened.

Don suggested that I was doing too much. We are quickly getting to the place where this narrow access point will open up. It's what these efforts working with Chris and other Staff have been directed toward; getting clear lines of action defined on pathways that both islanders and City Staff are clear about and in agreement with. I am encouraged by the kind of assistance we're getting with City staff. In fact the work dealing with the City is enjoyable, straightforward, and very interesting. It's the communication with islanders that sometimes gets me wondering if I should continue. There are some preconceived and unexamined notions that can end up undermining the very changes sought.

Liam

----- Original Message -----

From: [Thora & Jerry Howell](#)

To: [Michael and Ryoko Maccoll](#) ; [David Essig](#) ; [Pamela](#) ; [Liam Taylor](#) ; mlamoureux@westerntechnical.ca

Sent: Friday, May 02, 2008 4:02 PM

Subject: Revised notes from May 1 Ad Hoc Brainstorming

If there is anything anyone wants to add, please let me know.

May 2, 2

Ad Hoc Brainstorm Session -- May 1st

Participants: Don McQueen, Russ Morgan (Lions), Mike Lamoureux,

Michael Maccoll, (Pira Access) Barb Neild (Museum, Community Gardens) Veronica Zehntner (Fire department) Liam Taylor (Pira) Carol Matthews (facilitator) and myself.

Invited but unable to attend Alison Watt, Kim Bjarnason, David Essig, Jane Tesky) Larry Wolfe contributed to the discussion before the meeting.

Thora Howell gave a brief introduction and noted that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss whether there is a need for a group or groups to be formed to work on some of the issues identified at the recent community meetings. She noted that there has been a lot of positive feeling about the work being done by PIRA, and the positive relationship that PIRA has developed with the city. She asked Carol Matthews to facilitate the discussion, and a brief agenda was circulated.

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Roundtable Discussion:

Each participant stressed that PIRA speaks for the Island; PIRA has established a good relationship with the City and it would be counterproductive to have a duplication of effort. If any working groups are established they should work in conjunction with PIRA and PIRA must be the liaison with the City. We wish to maintain that.

There is a lot of enthusiasm about the spirit of community engagement and cooperation.

There is enthusiasm about expediting some kind of mini-plan and not lose the current momentum and community interest.

It could be helpful to establish a group to do some of the "grunt work" and present a proposal to PIRA. Four groups might be established:

Roads, traffic issues, trucks etc. -- Don McQueen expressed an interest in working on this issue. It was recommended that a PIRA executive member be appointed

To assist with the formation of a working group comprising interested citizens.

Protection of park-like nature of the Island (trees) - Barb Neild and Veronica Zehntner are keen to work on this issue. Alison Watt was noted as a PIRA executive member who might assist with the formation of a working group comprising interested citizens

Access issues (moorage, emergency access, enhanced ferry service, etc.) - Michael Maccoll is taking the lead on this issue and will head up a group of interested residents.

Development issues (including house-barging, planning guidelines, etc.)-- PIRA is looking at appointing a board member to work on this issue with a group of interested residents

Mention was made of the importance of the vision and values that were approved at the March meeting, and how we must use these as the basis for our work on the Island.

Communication is seen to be very important. Lots is happening but it is hard to get an effective communication system.

Some community members have negative perceptions of PIRA, which is probably unavoidable, but participants felt that with more involvement in working groups, more people could become "ambassadors" for PIRA.

Current Initiatives:

Liam outlined the overtures he had made to the City--and the arrangements(which are

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considerable) that he has made for city officials to come to Protection to talk about Roads, Parks, etc.

in the coming weeks. He stressed the need for us to keep communication to the City through PIRA and that nothing be done to disturb the very good relationship that now exists. In particular Chris Sholberg has been very willing to work with islanders on developing a mini-plan and it is important to maintain his involvement. Liam noted that

There are continuing discussions re housemoving and one or two of the city planners have expressed a willingness to come to a meeting within the next few weeks.

An Open House re the "Urban Forest" concept is being planned for P.I. in June.

There has been some movement on the question of moorage and emergency access.

There have been some developments with the city with regard to gravel and potholes

It was suggested that Liam give updates of the work of PIRA perhaps once a month- giving Islanders insight into the contacts he has made and the work he is doing.

Other Initiatives:

Barb noted that as well the Parks Board will be coming to P.I. on May 25th for the opening of the DIGS Community Garden.

Barb also noted that the Museum Society has made good progress on mapping Protection Island homes, and this will be helpful in a community mapping process.

Sometime ago a Nature Conservancy Group (Trudy Chatwin, Barb Neild and others) documented trees of significance on Protection Island.

Junkaway was noted several times as an excellent example of an effective working group.

Recommendations:

In order to maintain current momentum, it would be a good idea to invite broader participation in action-oriented working groups to move some initiatives forward.

It is important to have broad community involvement in a ground-up process. It would be valuable for community groups to be formed and have the opportunity to inform themselves about issues before inviting in "experts" from the City.

Increased communication -- perhaps a monthly newsletter? -- would be helpful.

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The PIRA board will meet on Monday and Liam will discuss the ideas that have come forward from this discussion.

Appendix 3 – Presentation made by Thora Howell - May 12, 2008

On May 1, an Ad Hoc brainstorming group met to talk about how Islanders could participate in a process that would allow them to become more pro-active in preserving the quality and kind of life we enjoy on Protection Island . The group was made up of people who had attended the two previous meetings and wanted an opportunity to brainstorm before bringing together people at a large community meeting. Several of those who attended belong to some very active community groups including PIRA, The Lions Club, The Museum, and The Garden Club. All but three members of the group had served or are serving on PIRA.

Recommendations:

There was unanimous agreement that we would like to see the current momentum maintained and in order to do that it would be a good idea to invite broader participation in action-oriented working groups to move some initiatives forward. Some participants expressed an interest in participating in working groups when PIRA sets them up. Barb Neild and Veronica Zhetner are interested in helping with a Trees and the Protection of the Environment Working Group and Don McQueen is interested in participating in a working group dealing with issues related to roads.

We all agreed that it is important to have broad community involvement in a ground-up process. It would be valuable for focus groups to be formed and have PIRA as the liaison with the city to invite planners to meet with them. We also agreed that it would be helpful for the task groups to have the opportunity to discuss and inform themselves about issues before inviting in "experts" from the city. This has worked well with DIGS and Junkaway.

Background for this presentation:

As you know there was a great deal of concern around the barging of the last house to the Island. A petition signed by over 80 people asked PIRA to contact the City to let them know of some Islanders concerns. That people were upset was evidenced at the Sunday meeting at Beacon House when over 80 people attended a session to talk about what had happened and what we needed to do. We were informed at that meeting, that Chris Sholberg, community planner, would come to Protection Island the following week.

At the meeting with Chris, Islanders identified their four greatest concerns: Trees, Roads, Access and Barging on of houses. However there were several other suggestions and issues that were brought forward. For example: reducing the need for trucks by having a community truck, and finding a way to make a mulcher available to the community. The discussion about roads indicated that Islanders needed much more time to talk through what they thought might be best. Other concerns brought forward will be found in the minutes of that meeting.

Subsequently, some of us talked about meeting to discuss how we as residents could be involved in the changes that are occurring on Protection Island, particularly as they relate to preserving the quality life documented in the Visions and Values statement. Rather than call a third community meeting, we felt that a small group could brainstorm and that is what happened, On May 1, 11 people met at Beacon House. The people who attended are as follows;

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Ralph Kirby Past PIRA board member wrote very good specs for barging on houses; PIRA-- roads

Mike Lamoureux Past PIRA member -- interested in trees

Michael Maccoll PIRA Community Garden

Carol Matthews Facilitator

Don McQueen Past PIRA Board interested in roads

Russ Morgan Lions Club

Barb Neild Past PIRA Board PI Museum Society Community Garden

Liam Taylor PIRA

Veronica Zehntner PI Fire Department Past PIRA Board Community Garden

Thora Howell meeting organizer in consultation with others

Invited but unable to attend

Kim Bjarnason Planner

David Essig Islands Trust experience

Jane Teskey Gardener Renter

Alison Watt PIRA Board

As you can see, it was a meeting of some concerned people to talk about how Islanders can be more involved in the development of the community and ways in which we can accomplish some goals at a community level--as the Junk Away people did when they dealt with the messy business of large garbage removal.

The people who attended are active in some of the community groups on the Island. Some have particular insights--Ralph did a remarkable job of barging a house onto the Island and had documented that experience. One of the members has a large number of garry oaks on his property. He has concerns about trees.

At the meeting everyone commended PIRA on the excellent job they do for the Island. They expressed appreciation for the terrific communication that PIRA has with the city. Almost everyone at the meeting agreed that having grass roots focus groups

around the issues of trees and parks, roads and traffic, access both to moorage and for ferry passengers and barging on of houses would be helpful: (1) It would make people more aware of our own Island and those things we can do locally to keep it special. (2) It would act as a support group for PIRA. (3) It could work on out-of-the-box solutions for some of the difficulties we have.

Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting - May 12, 2008

As an example: The tree bylaw isn't much help to anyone on Protection Island. Ways to preserve or replace trees will probably have to come from our own initiatives. We do have a tree inventory that was done a few years ago, which could be made available . It would serve to educate us. Perhaps the community could take on planting trees, replacing those that have been cut.

Liam spoke at the meeting about the overtures which he had made to the city

and the arrangements he has made for city officials to come to talk to Islanders. He expressed the wish that nothing be done to disturb the very good relationship that now exists with the city.

People at the meeting felt that Islanders would like to become more involved and more knowledgeable, that we look at a model of educating ourselves so that when city officials come we can engage in a dialogue with them.

Appendix 4 – Treasurer’s Report

Protection Island Ratepayers Association

Interim Financial Report to April 18, 2008

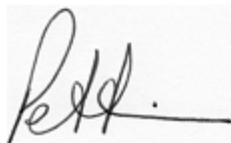
Cash flows from General Account Activity

Cash Balance Per Last Report	1,397.94	
Membership Fees	0.00	
Donation	0.00	
Other	0.00	
Total Revenue & Cash Balance		1,397.94
Director’s & Officer’s Liability Insurance	0.00	
Licenses & Permits	0.00	
Minister of Finance Filing Fee	0.00	
Office Expense (New Bank Cheques)	0.00	
Postage & Delivery	0.00	
Printing & Reproduction	0.00	
Property Tax	0.00	
Total Expenses		0.00
General Account Balance April 18, 2008		1,397.94

Cash flows from Dock Account Activity

Cash Balance Per Last Report	6,042.84	
Cash Received from Dock Fees, 2008/07	0.00	
Cash Received from Dock Fees, 2007/08	590.00	
Cash Received from Maintenance Contribution	0.00	
Total Revenue & Cash Balance		6,632.84
Dock Supplies, Advance	(-2,000.00)	
General Insurance	0.00	
Director’s & Officer’s Liability Insurance	0.00	
Moorage Fee	0.00	
Office Expenses (New Bank Cheques)	0.00	
Printing & Reproduction	0.00	
Total Expenses		(-2,000.00)
Dock Account Balance April 18, 2008		4,632.84

E. & O. E.



Peter W. Frewin
Treasurer