Members in attendance: Tom Watson, Chair; Chris Dwyer, City Councilor; Alan Gordon, Resident; Genevieve Aichele, Resident; Michael Barker, Resident; Robin Lurie-Meyerkopf, Art-Speak Representative

Staff Present: John P. Bohenko, City Manager; David Moore, Assistant City Manager

1. Call to Order and Introduction of Committee Members

Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

2. Consideration of Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2017

Mr. Gordon moved to accept the Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2017, seconded by Councilor Dwyer. Motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

3. Agreement Updates 2017

A. Prescott Park Arts Festival

Assistant City Manager Moore distributed the draft Letter of Agreement outline which City Manager Bohenko explained can be changed if needed and is for the 2017 season only.

Assistant City Manager Moore stated that since the last meeting, they have reviewed this in great detail with Prescott Park Arts Festival Executive Director Ben Anderson and have made some adjustments. He stated that the 2 other Agreements with the Gundalow Company and NH Arts Association will be on the May 1st City Council Agenda for approval, but the PPAF letter of Agreement will not go to the Council as there is already an Agreement in place for 2017 season.

Assistant City Manager Moore then reviewed the Letter of Agreement Outline. He stated that we want all of the operations to be successful and will work with the groups towards that goal.

City Manager Bohenko stated we are looking to be able to provide specific parameters for the 2018 season by early September in order to allow for the scheduling of the events and we will be using the 2017 season as a “living laboratory” for formulating 2018 agreements.

Councilor Dwyer stated she would like to know that approximate number of people that they think will attend events via the Tier system suggested at a previous meeting and then the actual number of attendees and actual start times.

City Manager Bohenko stated that the City will also have its own sound person to work along with the Prescott Park Arts Festival and try to be more interactive to prevent issues.

Assistant City Manager Moore continued with the review explaining that Item 4, Backstage Areas, had a lot of discussion during the Master Plan process and trying to utilize the warehouse space for temporary storage of the Arts Festival materials in order to reduce the footprint of backstage.

Mr. Gordon distributed a handout received from Prescott Park Arts Festival Executive Director Ben Anderson, who was unable to attend the meeting, regarding his thoughts on the Master Plan process.
City Manager Bohenko stated he received direction from the City Council that they want the backstage area reduced and continued that the City has taken extraordinary efforts to provide them space and have taken space away from our own staff. He continued that he has worked with Ben Anderson and provided the layout and specifications. He stated that both sides need to be flexible moving forward.

Ms. Aichele stated that it appears that Mr. Anderson was concerned because the area of the building they were given access has flooding issues and not with the square footage.

City Manager Bohenko stated he will check out the flooding issue but does not think that it is at level which would impair the storage use, as it has been used as such for a great many years.

Councilor Dwyer suggested giving them some concepts on configuring the area to make the best use of the space.

Mr. Gordon asked what the current footprint of the backstage area. Assistant City Manager Moore stated 6800.

Item 6, Water Street Lot, discussion ensued regarding the need to clarify staff parking and bus parking.

Mr. Gordon stated he recently met with a group of abutters and presented a list of their concerns including parking, traffic and noise.

Discussion ensued regarding Item 7, Sound, with City Manager Bohenko stating that we will be creating a sound management plan with a professional sound engineer. He continued that the ordinance is difficult to enforce no matter where it is as there are a lot of factors that can have an effect, i.e., background noise.

Regarding Item 8, Site Signage, Mr. Moore stated that Prescott Park Arts Festival did an inventory of signs last year and will be consolidating them with an eye towards aesthetics.

Next, regarding Item 9, Parking and Traffic Mitigation, City Manager Bohenko stated that at some point the Arts Festival needs to be responsible for parking, with the City providing some various options.

Councilor Dwyer suggested parking at the high school and Little Harbor School with shuttles as a pilot program. City Manager Bohenko stated he would not want to use Little Harbor School as that just creates another problem in a different neighborhood but would be open to the High School.

Mr. Gordon suggested Strawberry Banke or Mombo parking lots. Mr. Barker stated that we have been using those already.

City Manager Bohenko clarified that the Peirce Island lot will not be available for several years due to construction so alternatives will be needed.

Item 10, Gates and Roping, Discussion ensued regarding the Master Plan vision to allow movement of people through the park during events without passing through donation lines and the need for the PPAF to be able to collect donations.

Item 11, Alcohol, Mr. Gordon stated this was another strong concern with the neighbors and he feels that marijuana should also be mentioned in this discussion. City Manager Bohenko stated that the Police will not ignore it if they smell it.

Finally, Item 12, Blanket Policy, City Manager Bohenko stated that no tarps will be allowed and this will be enforced as it deadens the grass.
Councilor Dwyer asked if allowing the blankets and chairs to be set up 4 hours in advance could be changed to 2 hours instead.

Prescott Park Operations Manager Angela Greene stated it has historically been no earlier than 3 p.m. She explained that the staff arrives around 3:00 p.m. and any blankets left unattended at that point were removed and there is signage.

City Manager Bohenko stated he spoke with Mr. Anderson about changing the time, but he had concerns with doing that. He stated the rule will be strictly enforced.

Mr. Gordon stated that in the two previous agreements there was a financial component but didn’t see one in this one. Assistant City Manager Moore clarified that there is already an existing operating agreement with PPAF and that addresses the financial component Mr. Gordon raised, so only a clarification of the timing of the annual payment is included in the letter of agreement.

Councilor Dwyer stated that the 2 other agreements have a provision that there will be no corporate logos and wants to make sure this is consistent in all agreements.

4. Committee Next Steps

Chair Watson referred to his handout regarding “Big Picture” Policy Discussions for implementing governance recommendations of the Prescott Park Master Plan and preparing for the 2018 License agreements. He stated that he has listed 4 topics but is open to other suggestions.

Mr. Gordon asked when other parts of the Master Plan will be discussed i.e., the Boardwalk etc.

Councilor Dwyer clarified that this committee is charged with the operating agreements.

City Manager Bohenko stated that the Master Plan recommendations will be addressed during the Capital Improvements Plan process.

Mr. Barker stated he likes the layout of the issues and asked if there is any information that we can get from other cities regarding Topic 2, Factors in License Agreement Payments or determining Basis of Value for Agreements as well as examples of signage from other parks.

Assistant City Manager Moore stated he will work on getting the requested information.

Chair Watson stated that this is addressed in the Information Sharing and Discussion section of the outline.

Discussion ensued regarding the upcoming schedule for implementation of the outline and other topics to add including; access of park during events; layout of facilities; available space of facilities.

Ms. Aichele stated she would like a tour of the buildings as well.

Chair Watson asked when the fencing starts being erected.

Operations Manager Greene stated the load-in schedule has been provided to the City but due to the weather it has been pushed back a bit, but needs to be done by the 2nd week of May at the latest.

Chair Watson suggested the tour be done after the set-up is done.

Assistant City Manager Moore concluded the discussion stating that he has also provided the members with the
listings of Board of Directors for the three organizations as requested.

5. Public Comment

Sandra Parr – stated she appreciates the idea of having more than one “dark” night especially for those who do not live near the park and can then plan on times that they can go to the park when no events are occurring. Secondly, she stated that the Prescott Park Arts Festival is not responsible for the economic impact of the City and doesn’t feel that should be a part of negotiating the licensing agreements going forward.

Jane Nelson – distributed a handout of various news articles regarding the noise impact stating that many people in the City do not know what is happening to the abutters and feels that there has been hostility between PPAF supporters and neighbors. She also discussed her concern with PPAF non-profit status and their advantage of having a monopoly in a city park.

Beth Margeson – stated she recently learned that the city is exempt from all ordinances but clarified that it is not when it is acting as a proprietor, meaning that the Prescott Park Arts Festival would not be exempt. She continued that the decibel levels in the ordinance address the Festival issues. Ms. Margeson stated that regarding the use of Water Street for Staff parking, this would be the use of public space for private business. She discussed the enforcement of no alcohol in the park stating that there have been no citations issued and people are just told to put it away. She concluded that the purpose of this committee is to mitigate the impact to the park by the users.

Mary Krempels - distributed some information from 2014 regarding Prescott Park Arts Festival – Community Noise Impact Study and discussed page 4, stating that the decibel levels reported are above the range to cause hearing damage.

Judy Nerbonne - stated she loves the Park and feels that the Prescott Park Master Plan group worked well with the neighbors but feels that the noise issue is still not being addressed.

Mark Brighton – stated that there is a discrepancy between how people are treated for consuming alcohol in Goodwin Park and Prescott Park with summonses being issued in Goodwin Park but none in Prescott Park although there has been behavior in Prescott Park that sober people wouldn’t do. He stated he has addressed his concerns with the Police Commission as well and warned that if something happens with a drunk person leaving the Park, but city can be sued.

Dan Corcoran – stated that the Prescott Park Arts Festival should be responsible for enforcing the blanket rules and not a city employee.

David Krempels – stated he called the Police Department many times last year due to noise issues with the Police agreeing with him that the noise was unreasonable. He stated the Ben Anderson had provided a number to call if there were any complaints but no one ever answered. He would like a number provided that someone will be there to answer.

6. Adjournment

Chair Watson announced that the next meeting date is to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.