1. Call to Order and Introduction of Committee Members

Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

2. Consideration of Meeting Minutes – May 26, 2017

Councilor Dwyer moved to accept the Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2017, seconded by Ms. Aichele. Motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

3. Committee Discussion: Continuation of Park Scheduling

Assistant City Manager Moore gave a brief update of activities since the last meeting stating that the Gundalow Company has begun its enhanced program utilizing the Sheafe Warehouse and has been well received by the public and the organization itself. He stated the Sheafe Warehouse will be turned over to the NH Arts Association for their regular programming and will return to the Gundalow Company. He continued that the NH Arts Association will conduct their regular programming as well as an art installation in coordination with Art Speak and more classes and programs.

City Manager Bohenko stated that he has received several e-mails regarding the first week of PPAF activities with the rehearsal going past 11:00 p.m. and the sound level of the first concert. He stated that there is going to be a new system in place that utilizes lights, green, yellow and red, to indicate the decibel levels as well as a kill switch if it is not in compliance as a last resort. He asked Ben Anderson to address the committee.

Councilor Dwyer stated that the issue of a guest sound engineer not complying with requested levels can be addressed in the riders of the acts with the expectations spelled out and payment contingent upon compliance.

Ben Anderson explained that he had never experienced anything like what occurred on Sunday evening as they had explained the rules to the sound engineer prior to the concert and they had understood. He stated that halfway through the concert the levels became high and they told them to turn it down, but were told by the engineer that the readings were false, but eventually they complied. Mr. Anderson also stated that they already do have a packet that they provide to the performers that includes the expectations.

City Manager Bohenko further explained the lighting system which will allow a maximum decibel level of 95 at the front of house at the sound booth. He stated that there are many variables that can affect sound on any given night and if there are issues, adjustments can be made accordingly. He further explained that there is also a new circuit for busses to use so they do not have to be left running. He urged people to be patient while the new system is put in place.
Mr. Gordon stated that the crowd felt big on Sunday and wondered if it was anticipated to be that large.

Mr. Anderson stated it is a challenge to estimate what a crowd will be as there are many variables on any given night. He stated they did not predict the crowd for the concert but the weather was good and it was the first concert of the season.

Discussion ensued regarding crowd sizes in the current space and the new proposed space.

Assistant City Manager Moore further explained the new sound system stating there will be a third part reviewing the equipment and doing data collection for a bi-weekly reporting of statistics.

Discussion ensued regarding the variations of the decibel levels for different types of events. Assistant City Manager Moore referred to the handout of Appendix B of the Prescott Park Master Plan which includes other activities besides Prescott Park Arts Festival events.

Next, discussion ensued regarding the environmental impact of the events on the park and the need for rest periods between events, other potential locations and extending the season for other organizations. City Manager Bohenko stated that he will bring in the Dept. of Public Works staff members to explain these issues to the committee at a future meeting.

City Manager Bohenko excused himself from the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Chair Watson stated that he feels that the issue of “dark nights” will need to be discussed more fully at a future meeting.

Next, discussion was held regarding performance times for the 2018 season. Variables that impact performance times include, length of performance, rain delays, intermissions, etc. It was discussed if the ½ hour rain delay then allowed the performance to be extended by a ½ hour. Chair Watson asked for a consensus of the committee which concluded the following: hard end times of 10:00 p.m. on weeknights; 11:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, with any rain delay to be accounted for prior to that time, and therefore, there will be no rain delay or intermission policy.

Councilor Dwyer excused herself from the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

Next, type and mix of performances was discussed with Assistant City Manager Moore stating that the community wants the variety of activities but there is nothing that prescribes it. The committee concluded that there should be a calendar with blocking of time frames with general guidelines of types of events in place. It was suggested that there is the anticipation of the city that there will be a musical play every summer and that the focus should be on local talent and all events should be family friendly.

4. Public Comment

Judy Nerbonne – showed a chart of activities in the park and the amount of time that there is sound involved including sound checks. She stated that the schedule of events is intense and has an impact on the neighborhood.
Ben Anderson – stated that the Arts Festival has been here for 43 years and 10 years ago when he came here, it was going bankrupt and closing. He continued that he now understands the reasoning for wanting “dark nights” and feels that the Public Works Department and his staff are working well together keeping the park green. He stated that movie night is low impact on the park and noted that even during performances there are places in the park for passive users to be in the park. He concluded that the hard end times proposed would be difficult.

Beth Margeson – distributed a copy of the Letter of Agreement outline (Draft date 04/25/17 and addressed various problems that have already arisen and not in compliance with the agreement. She also discussed the various laws and guidelines over the years which already endorse local and family friendly uses of the park. She stated that another point regarding the end time of events is that there is still the amount of time it takes for the people to leave the venue and the neighborhoods where they have parked.

Ms. Lurie-Meyerkopf left the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Paige Trace - stated she supports the Prescott Park Arts Festival and has trusted the City to take care of the issues but feels it is not happening. She continued that she doesn’t agree that 95 decibels is acceptable citing that 85 decibels is injurious to hearing. She stated that people have told the neighbors they should move if they don't live it, but wonders what the city would do without their taxes.

David Krempels – stated he trusted that things would be different this year but is distressed and angry because they are not different. He stated he feels their suggestions have been ignored.

Mark Brighton – distributed a picture of an individual holding a bottle of alcohol at a recent PPAF event, despite Mr. Anderson having announced no alcohol allowed. He stated this continues to be an issue and it needs to be enforced.

Assistant City Manager Moore clarified that the document distributed by Ms. Margeson has been updated from this version.

5. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.