

DRAFT  
MINUTES

MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE PRESCOTT PARK POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
7:30 A.M. – Tuesday, October 31, 2017  
Players' Ring Theater, 105 Marcy Street

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

Staff Present: David Moore, Assistant City Manager

1. Call to Order

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

2. Committee Discussion re: Gundalow and NH Art Association

Chair Watson explained the Committee had last heard from the NH Art Association and the Gundalow in the late winter prior to their 2017 seasons. He invited representatives from both organizations to provide some summary information about their seasons in the Park for 2017 and vision for moving forward.

Renee Giffroy, President of the NH Art Association; Barbara Albert Board Member; and Lennie Mullaney NH Art Association member spoke on behalf of the NH Art Assoc. and to the materials they had submitted to the City and that were distributed to the Committee regarding their activities in the park in 2017, including the juried art show, number of attendees, and the success of their demonstration art programs as well as the new pop-in art class and new pop-up sculpture program. They spoke to the importance of the visual arts in the community and the park and how they would like to build that programming in the future to include instruction for adults and children. They provided background on the history of the organization including the vision of Grace Casey who was involved in the Arts Festival and the NH Art Associations in their early days in Prescott Park. They spoke in support of the Prescott Park Master Plan and its concepts including ensuring the Arts continue in the Park and advocated for public access to and use of the buildings for arts programming going forward. They recognized the logical connection of the Gundalow to the Sheafe Warehouse and its special connection as waterfront architecture and maritime uses that are connected to Gundalows, watercraft on the River and the story of the tidal estuary and river system of the Piscataqua. They spoke in support of the Gundalow programming that could expand to the summer months in the Sheafe Warehouse, similar to the expansion of Gundalow programming this year that took place in May and June a change for 2017 as well as September and October, while the NH Art Association programming took place, as has occurred traditionally, in July and August. They discussed their concept for their organization's use of a portion of the Shaw building to house its programs as well as growing their arts programming and instruction. They indicated their interest in maintaining their presence in this portion of the Park and provided background information about youth instruction in visual arts that had occurred in the past in.

The Chair then recognized Molly Bolster, Director of The Gundalow Company, Board Member Cynthia Hosmer, and Operations Manager Andy Goodell. Ms. Bolster began by describing the Gundalow programming and vision for greater use of the Sheafe Warehouse for similar programming as was offered in the shoulder months of the 2017 season this year. She described the positive public reception of that programming as well as planned expanded programming, which include public lectures on environmental issues, history, and maritime life of the Piscataqua region. She also spoke of the organization's interest in growing the programming in the Sheafe Warehouse, which is adjacent to the dock at which the Gundalow is docked and has tremendous potential for the educational mission of the organization. She also described the organizations ability to leverage its non-profit mission into support that could help preserve the building as well as build out the models, displays, and

educational materials they envision for the site.

General questions and answers took place throughout the discussion. Mr. Moore provided some clarification about the Committee's role in developing recommendations for the future license agreement. Including developing guidance for the visions shared with the Committee to date. He also provided clarification on the Master Plan, which includes substantial investments needed for the buildings, the concept of public access, and the mix of uses that are in keeping with the Park first concept outlined in the Master Plan. He referred to Appendix A. of the Master Plan as well as Chapter 5 which addresses the uses of the buildings under the Master Plan, which includes potential reconfiguration of the first floor of the Shaw to accommodate backstage facilities in support of the relocated stage structure. Other questions were raised about other Park space available to accommodate any type of the existing types of uses including office, storage, maintenance and public programming. The triangular portion of land that is part of Prescott Park that lies south of the Prescott Memorial Bridge off Mechanic Street was mentioned as well as the newly acquired City property around the pump station on Mechanic Street.

The Committee members thanked the participants for their information.

### 3. Next Steps - Chair, Watson

Chair Watson distributed a roster of planned upcoming Committee meetings, which he indicated Mr. Moore would finalize and distribute based on Committee feedback

### 4. Committee Tour of Prescott Park Buildings –

At the beginning of a tour of the historic buildings, Barbara Newton of the Players' Ring provided an orientation to that organization's space and use of the City-owned Marine Railway building and their upcoming planned preservation projects. The committee toured the Shaw and Sheafe buildings in the Park with Todd Croteau, General Foreman, and had an opportunity to hear from the PPAF, City, and NH Art Association and Gundalow how they set up and use each of the spaces.

### 5. Adjournment

Chair Watson announced that the next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2017.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.