

DRAFT

MINUTES

MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE PRESCOTT PARK POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7:30 A.M. – Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Conference Room A, Portsmouth City Hall

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

Staff Present: David Moore, Assistant City Manager (arrived at 8:00 a.m.)

1. Call to Order

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

Chair Watson stated that today's discussion will be regarding the Prescott Park Arts Festival which has been discussed at several meetings to date. He continued that he has developed an outline of some issues that would be subject to the City Manager's approval and the City Manager has asked that the Committee provide him with parameters early on so that the PPAF can have time to book acts accordingly. He stated that the Committee will address the rest of the issues still pending at the next few meetings with the final report due to Council by the end of this year.

2. Committee Discussion: Parameters for 2018 Event and Performance Schedule

The Committee reviewed the Draft Final Recommendations to the City Manager of the 2018 Event and Performance Schedule Parameters and made several amendments to the document as follows:

Schedule parameters are recommended to include the following:

A. Program Type and Mix:

- a. Future license agreements define the expectations for an overall program mix. There shall be a variety of programming to be offered in the Park with a musical theater production core to the Festival Season. In addition, all programming in the Park shall be ~~"family friendly"~~ **appropriate for all ages and an emphasis including a mix of opportunities** for local performers as well as local workforce.

B. Festival Season Start and End dates:

- d. This would not preclude separate approval of "Special Events" (ex. Chowder Festival, Road Race), which have traditionally fallen outside of the regular season schedule. All special events outside of the season bookends ~~are limited to Friday, Saturday or Sunday~~ **shall end by 7:00 p.m. if Sunday-Thursday.**

C. Program Times:

A choice was given to the committee for ending times and the following were selected:

- a. All programming Sunday through Thursday shall end at 10:00 p.m.
- b. All programming on Friday and Saturday shall end at 10:30 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding the amount of concerts per week and the consensus, excluding Mr. Gordon, was 3 events per week.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Chair Watson stated the amendments would be incorporated in the final report.

3. Public Comment

Beth Margeson – stated she is concerned that the Master Plan calls for a 1200 person limit and it has now been stated at 1500 as well as allowing 3 events per week. She stated that the PPAF is also advertising on a Boston radio station. She continued that the TAC should be reviewing these recommendations as they will review the life-safety and parking requirements. She stated that currently the facilities are not up to code. She continued listing various concerns including the decibel level, residential use of the park, financial impact of the PPAF events to the conditions of the City. She concluded that overall, nothing has really changed after all.

Ben Anderson– stated he wants to clarify the falsehoods that there have been issues getting people out during an emergency stating that there have not been any issues and they do have a system in place for emergencies. He discussed the maximum number of 1500 people stating there are many factors that come into play with the number of people who attend various events. Finally, he stated that he feels the season was an overall success and there have been improvements made in many areas.

Judy Nerbonne – thanked the committee for their work and listening to the neighborhood complaints. She stated there are still concerns but they want to work together with the PPAF, and wants the PPAF to provide the information the city has asked for.

4. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.