

MINUTES
MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE PRESCOTT PARK POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
7:30 A.M. – Wednesday, December 6, 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: John Bohenko, City Manager and David Moore, Assistant City Manager

1. Call to Order

Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. He stated that both City Manager Bohenko and Councilor Dwyer would be excused at 8:30 to attend another meeting.

2. Minutes – November 29, 2017

Mr. Gordon moved to accept the minutes of November 29, 2017, seconded by Councilor Dwyer. Motion passed.

3. Committee Discussion Re: Final Report and Recommendations

Chair Watson stated that the next 2 meetings, this and December 19th, will focus on developing and approving the final recommendations to City Manager Bohenko. He stated there has been a lot of hard work put in by everyone and Assistant City Manager Moore. He stated that he would like to focus the discussion on sections with recommendations that have not been approved by the committee yet.

The committee reviewed the draft Final Report and Recommendations and suggested various changes which Assistant City Manager Moore will update accordingly.

At the conclusion of the discussion City Manager Bohenko explained that this document will provide guidance and reference for negotiating license agreements with the users.

City Manager Bohenko left the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

4. Public Comment

Molly Bolster, Gundalow Company – stated she acknowledges the challenge to come up with recommendations because one user is bigger than the others so not everything applies to all groups. She stated how much one entity impacts the park and the access to the park for example, and the Gundalow Company considers their footprint to be very light. She also discussed the issue of the city maintaining the property but related an instance where the Gundalow Company had to pay for the repairs to the gangway and dock even though those are city property as well. She stated they are seeking clarification on this issue as well as insurance requirements.

Assistant City Manager Moore stated there are discrepancies with different levels of participation by the users.

Mr. Barker left the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Councilor Dwyer stated that it could be looked at as a credit against the rent as this is how it is handled with other city properties through their agreements.

Ms. Bolster continued that they are eager to participate in the improvements to the Sheafe Building as well. She also discussed signage and merchandising stating they are also looking for clarification on these issues.

Mr. Gordon left the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Barbara Albert, NH Arts Association – thanked the committee for identifying their organization as an essential element in the Park. She stated they are also looking to increase their presence in the park. She discussed the Shaw Building and it being used as storage stating that it should be used for the public and not storage. She concluded stating that they want to be more visible and continue their relationship with the Park.

Ms. Aichele left the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Renee Giffroy, NH Arts Association – stated she likes the idea of having stakeholders on the next iteration of a committee and would like to be a part of it.

Lennie Mulaney – member of the NH Arts Association – stated they do track their visitors and they come from all over the world. She stated that all of their events are free to the public and you do not need to be a member to attend. She stated they also have a very light footprint in the park.

Judy Nerbonne – thanked the committee for the summary and stated she supports Molly's comments regarding fairness in the use of the park. She stated that the taxpayers of Portsmouth will be paying for the Master Plan improvements and she is concerned that people who contribute to the Prescott Park Arts Festival don't understand that it isn't going to the Park itself.

Beth Margeson – discussed the public safety requirements stating that all non-profit organizations have to abide by the codes at significant expense and feels that PPAF needs to be accountable to this as well. She further discussed the discrepancies of the user agreements and possible trust violations.

5. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.