

DRAFT
MINUTES
MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE PRESCOTT PARK POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
7:30 A.M. – Tuesday, December 19, 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 – December 6, 2017

Councilor Dwyer moved to accept the minutes of December 6, 2017, seconded by Ms. Aichele. Motion passed.

3. Committee Discussion Re: Parameters for 2018 Event and Performance Schedule

Ms. Lurie-Meyerkopf stated that she likes the 3-5 year agreement option for non-profit organizations because year to year is difficult when trying to obtain sponsors, donors, etc.

Mr. Gordon stated he also agrees with 3-5 year approach, but would like there to be a connection of a potential consequence if there was a violation egregious enough, such as going over the limit of attendees, noise, etc. and be able to take a second look at the contract.

City Manager Bohenko stated that this is a guidance document and the City Attorney can add a clause to terminate the contract if any unforeseen circumstances arise.

Chair Watson stated that once construction starts on the changes recommended by the Master Plan it may impact an upcoming season and then once completed there will be a limit of 1200 people in the bowl area.

Discussion ensued regarding various points of the final report with the consensus being that there has been a lot of compromising and balancing that has gone into this final document and the bottom line is to keep the Park First model forefront.

Chair Watson recapped the minor revisions made to the final document.

Mr. Gordon moved to adopt the final report and recommendations as amended. Seconded by Mr. Barker and unanimously approved.

4. Public Comment

Beth Margeson – thanked the committee for their work and although the vote has already taken place, she would have preferred Option B, year to year contracts. She continued that the Prescott Park Arts Festival programming dominates the park and feels people cannot use the park as a public park.

Renee Giffroy, NH Arts Assoc. – thanked the committee for their work and stated the NH Arts Assoc. is looking forward to bringing visual arts to the park and agrees that the Park First model should be foremost in reaching licensing agreements.

Tom _____, Rye, NH – stated he admires the process that was undertaken by the committee but feels that the Prescott Sisters Trust document should always be the guidance in making decisions about the Park and neighborhood surrounding it.

Chair Watson thanked the Committee members, City Manager Bohenko and Assistant City Manager Moore for working together over the last 8 months.

City Manager Bohenko thanked the committee as well for the recommendations of guidelines to follow going forward.

5. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 a.m.