

MINUTES
MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
ON THE
PRESCOTT PARK MASTER PLAN
7:30 A.M. – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2016
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM

1. Call to Order – Chair, Councilor Chris Dwyer

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

Members in Attendance: Councilor Chris Dwyer, Chair; Councilor Nancy Pearson; Phyllis Eldridge, Trustee of Trust Funds; Thomas Watson, Trustee of Trust Funds; Dana Levenson, Trustee of Trust Funds (via teleconference); Stefany Shaheen, Citizen Representative

Members in Attendance: Mayor Jack Blalock

Staff Present: David Moore, Assistant City Manager

2. Consideration of Minutes – (October 19, 2016)

Councilor Pearson moved to approve the minutes of October 19, 2016. Seconded by Ms. Eldridge, Chair Dwyer noted a correction on page 2, paragraph 2. Motion passed as amended.

Chair Dwyer reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule including the presentation of the final draft on December 5, 2016. She stated there will be another evening session held probably early January and a work session with the City Council on December 19, 2016. She concluded that the final report and recommendation will be presented to the City Council on January 23, 2017.

Mr. Levenson stated he still has one issue that hasn't been addressed by Weston and Sampson that he would like included which is how the space for the performances will be held will be managed/controlled in regards to donations/ticket sales and feels that it should be a part of the design and not makeshift.

Mr. Moore stated that there is a natural framing of the space and grading that will help define the space. He continued that it is a tricky issue in regards to how much do you design for a single use of the space and what happens when the event isn't taking place.

3. Follow-up Discussion on Governance and other Committee recommendations

Chair Dwyer stated that the Recommendations for Governance have been updated since the 11/16/2016 meeting and would like to review the document and take comments as we go along.

<http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/ppmp/11-29-2016%20-%20Draft%20Governance%20Recommendations.pdf>

Regarding I.B. Weston and Sampson final deliverables, Ms. Shaheen stated that she would like to see included the various types of lighting, seating, etc. that are available.

Mr. Moore stated he will convey that a style guide needs to be added to the list.

Regarding III. 3. Capital Improvement Plan, Councilor Dwyer explained that the Planning Board will review the CIP items first so they will need to be invited into the process soon. She explained that the line item will appear in the CIP as a placeholder with a determined amount of money set aside each year.

Next, Regarding III. 5. Blue Ribbon Prescott Park Policy Advisory Committee

Mr. Levenson stated he is concerned that those who have operating agreements currently are not necessarily aligned and wonders how they would decide which group would have a place at the table.

Mr. Watson agreed, stating that he feels it would be appropriate to have a member of Art Speak as the representative of those groups. He continued that he also doesn't feel it should be a Blue Ribbon Committee but a standing committee as it should not be something that is ended with each City Council because it is an ongoing issue.

Ms. Shaheen stated she feels it is important to recognize the advisory aspect as the committee will not be directly negotiating the licensing agreements. She continued that it would be a missed opportunity not to have the organizations represented and feels they could come together as a group and appoint their representative. She stated there has been a breakdown of communications over the last 5 years and there should be a person representing their particular issues. She agrees that it should not be a Blue Ribbon committee.

Discussion ensued regarding the makeup of the Blue Ribbon Prescott Park Policy Advisory Committee and whether it should be a blue ribbon committee or a standing committee.

Discussion ensued regarding which groups would require licensing agreements, who would be reviewing the specifics, etc. It was suggested that the City Attorney view review agreements in other city-owned parks for examples.

Mr. Moore presented the committee with the Trustees of the Trust Fund Public Forum Policy.

4. Public Comment:

Rick Becksted – stated he feels the way the Trustees of the Trust fund have run the park has always worked and now we are making things too complex and out of balance. He stated it comes down to the issue of sound. He stated everyone loves the Prescott Park Arts Festival, but it is about sound and communication. He stated as far as agreements, because of commercialization, once a non-profit takes a stance for profit, it is no longer non-profit and therefore 10% should go back to the Trust or the taxpayers for the wear and tear of the park. He would also like to have a sound company come in and review the sound technology we currently use and the impact of the neighborhood and have them design a sound system.

Dan Corcoran – stated he wants this to be a neighborhood park and people do use it year round. He stated that due to construction at the WWTF the parking spaces have been removed. He stated there are now several spaces marked out on Hancock Street now for 2 hour parking. He would like to see another 2-3 spaces added. Secondly, he has lived here for 37 years and the neighbors always got along with the PPAF until the last 4 years. He asked if the committee will also be making a recommendation regarding compliance with the noise ordinance which he feels would alleviate the problem.

Beth Margeson – asked for clarification regarding the proposed committees and that a more permanent committee will be in place after the transition. She asked if the committee meetings will be open to the public. Chair Dwyer stated yes. Ms. Margeson asked if Art Speak also represents historical aspects. Councilor Pearson stated yes.

Zelita Morgan – stated that if the advisory committee is going to be transitional and appointed by the Mayor she would like to see 3 residents be included on the board. She also feels that there should be separation of the decision makers and users of the park. She said that there should be a representative of the users to bring issues forward, but not have voting power. Next, regarding public/private partnerships, she would like to know how this would work for a public park. Councilor Dwyer gave the example of raising funds for children’s play equipment. She also would like more definition in the terms used in the recommendation.

Jane Nelson – stated she would like to know how the noise issue will be addressed with PPAF before any final agreements are reached. She related a conversation she heard about that consultants working for PPAF reportedly stated that the PPAF events could not be scaled down “because it needed to fill the city’s hotels, bars and restaurants.” She stated if the PPAF is looking to expand and already has a monopoly, so feels this needs to be addressed as there is currently no protection for the neighbors. Councilor Dwyer stated that the City Manager’s Office assumes the responsibility.

David Krempels – stated this last summer was very unpleasant for the neighbors but were waiting through the PPMP committee process, but now sees that 2018 is the date for finalization and is concerned for the upcoming season.

Zelita Morgan – stated that a goal of the master plan is to address the capacity issue and we know that there are events where capacity is exceeded so the city should take the lead in finding another location for these activities.

Judy Nerbonne – stated that it would be helpful to talk about compliance and what the best way to deal with non-compliance. She stated that parking needs to be addressed as well because every night people park on Water Street. She suggested a parking area over the bridge.

5. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.