

MINUTES  
MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE  
ON THE  
PRESCOTT PARK MASTER PLAN  
7:30 A.M. – WEDNESDAY, May 18, 2016  
EILEEN DONDERO FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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 and Stefany Shaheen.

Member Absent: Mayor Jack Blalock;

Staff Present: David Moore, Assistant City Manager

Also in Attendance: Gene Bolinger, Weston and Sampson's Design Studio

2. Consideration of Minutes from May 4, 2016

**Mr. Watson moved to accept the minutes from May 4, 2016, seconded by Ms. Shaheen. Motion passed.**

Chair Dwyer stated that we are getting ready to enter the busy season for Prescott Park and wanted to get a sense of what is coming up in regards to the kick-off activities, etc. She next announced that the website is now live and contains all of the information regarding the Blue Ribbon Committee meetings and related activities and materials all in one location.

Assistant City Manager Moore explained the ability for people to leave comments on the webpage as well as subscribe to an e-mail list for updates and meeting notifications.

3. Discussion on kick-off meeting and other public input preparations

Assistant City Manager Moore distributed a draft summary of the Initial Prescott Park Master Plan Outreach as well as a draft schedule for the Kick-off meeting scheduled for Sunday, June 12, 2016. Mr. Moore then reviewed the 4 initial information/promotional events scheduled stating that all events will include a table manned with Weston and Sampson personnel, postcards to hand out with pertinent project information and dates for kick-off event and other public input opportunities, plans of the site and comment cards. He further stated he has spoken with Kathy Lynch president of Portsmouth Little League regarding 2 events at the ball fields who suggested 10:00 a.m. as it would be between games. He concluded stating that the first evening meeting will be held either June 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> at the consensus of the committee and the Park Presence Day is scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Dwyer clarified that the Kick-off Event will include a formal presentation whereas the Park Presence Day will be more informal.

Ms. Shaheen asked what is expected of the committee members during the various events. Chair Dwyer stated people can attend any of the “soft” events if they are available.

Mr. Moore stated that Committee members will be introduced at the Kick-off Event and the Evening meeting.

Mr. Bolinger stated there will be 2 members of their staff at all of the promotional events but they are viewing these as low-key events meant to introduce themselves and promote the larger events.

Mr. Bolinger then reviewed the tentative schedule of the Kick-off Event on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at Prescott Park.

Ms. Shaheen asked how we will get information out to people who are unable to attend any of these events.

Ms. Eldridge expressed the same concern as well as reaching out to other residents of the city other than those in the south end neighborhood.

Chair Dwyer stated that this is the beginning of the process and that outreach will be ongoing. She stated she has also reached out to the Chair of the Neighborhood Blue Ribbon Committee for their input and involvement.

Assistant City Manager Moore reiterated the availability for public input on the website.

Ms. Eldridge asked if comments made from non-residents will be sought out and accepted. Mr. Moore explained that there is a place for name and address on the comment cards and the website comment submission so this information will be tracked accordingly.

Next, discussion was held regarding the Kick-off event schedule and ensuring enough time for a presentation, discussion, touring of the entire park area, and how to include 4-tree Island. Mr. Bolinger stated he will incorporate the ideas into the schedule for the event. It was also discussed the various ways that feedback could be provided by participants including the comment cards, website, picture and video submissions, etc.

#### 4. Update from Trustees of Trust Funds on park operations

Trustee of the Trust Funds Chair Phyllis Eldridge reported on Prescott Park activities and the various types of requests they receive including weddings, yoga and other fitness classes, memorials, barbecues, etc. She stated that there is not amplification or alcohol allowed.

She then reviewed the various responsibilities of Park Superintendent Michael Warhurst and a small crew stating they do a lot with a little. She further explained the duties of Peter Torrey who provides monthly budget updates and stated that both Michael Warhurst and Peter Torrey are invaluable for their institutional knowledge of Prescott Park. She continued that there is a special

relationship with the Gundalow Company and Prescott Park Arts Festival and explained that there have been some conflicts over the last few years with the Arts Festival activities but some adjustments have been made to the schedule which hopefully will resolve some of these issues. She stated some other concerns are sustainability and overuse of the property. She stated the Gundalow Company has built a new handicap accessible dock as well. She stated they receive \$15,000 from PPAF and \$5,000 from the Gundalow Company annually. Finally, she reported that the Trustees have been looking into a software product to help manage the seasonal boat slip rentals, which matches the sizes of boats to slips available. She concluded by stating that their challenge continues to be balancing the needs of the park with the residents and announced that all meetings are open to the public.

Chair Dwyer asked how many weddings and yoga classes are held each year.

Ms. Eldridge explained that weddings are \$100.00 and that they usually average 20-30 a year. She further explained that yoga classes must be free so as not to be a commercial use.

Ms. Shaheen stated that there seems to be an inconsistency with the Gundalow Company being able to charge for their service, but yoga classes have to be free.

Ms. Eldridge stated that the Gundalow Company collects their fee off-site.

Ms. Shaheen clarified that a yoga instructor could then collect a fee on-line for their class in that case.

Chair Dwyer set the next meeting of the Blue Ribbon Committee will be June 8, 2016 at 7:30 a.m.

#### 5. Public Comment

Jeffrey Cooper – stated the Portsmouth Listens group would like to offer their services throughout the process as they have been involved in various city projects and have trained facilitators.

Beth Margeson – stated she is happy with this process to date and with the upcoming events for public outreach but encouraged holding some evening meetings at the Library when possible. She then suggested including Senior Services Coordinator Brinn Chute and the School Department to reach out to the senior citizens and parents of school children through their newsletters.

Ms. Shaheen suggested reaching out to the Portsmouth Housing Authority as well.

David Krempels – thanked the committee for their work and is excited for what the Park could become but is concerned with the conditions of the park at this point noting he has noticed graffiti and trailers on the property.

#### 6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.