

MINUTES  
MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE  
ON THE  
PRESCOTT PARK MASTER PLAN  
7:30 A.M. – WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016  
EILEENDONDERO FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1. Call to Order – Chair, Councilor Chris Dwyer

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

Members in Attendance: Councilor Chris Dwyer, Chair; Mayor Jack Blalock (until 8:55 a.m.); Councilor Nancy Pearson (until 8:40 a.m.); Phyllis Eldridge, Trustee of Trust Funds; Thomas Watson, Trustee of Trust Funds; Dana Levenson, Trustee of Trust Funds; Stefany Shaheen, Citizen Representative

Staff Present: David Moore, Assistant City Manager; Peter Rice, Public Works Director;

2. Consideration of Minutes from June 29, 2016

**Mr. Watson moved to accept the minutes from June 29, 2016, seconded by Ms. Shaheen. Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Presentation on Site Analysis, Opportunities and Challenges: Weston & Sampson

Mr. Bolinger and Ms. Ruane gave a presentation summarizing the condition of each layer of infrastructure of the Park highlighting Drainage; Sewer; Water; Electrical Service; Historical Structures; Seawalls; Piers; Pavements; Site Furnishings; Lamps; Trash Receptacles and Bike Racks; Edges and Fencing; Sculptures; Vegetation; Views; Climate Change and Entrances.

Ms. Shaheen stated that if this committee gets it right, the Master Plan will have done its job and is excited about the “waterfront promenade” concept that has been laid out. She stated that currently there are awkward moments along the walkway depending upon what time of day.

Ms. Ruane stated that the waterfront promenade is a big move and all of the layers have a design consideration and dogs and bikes can also be taken into account when the hierarchy is established and regulated.

Councilor Pearson stated she would like to see a clear access to the promenade.

The Committee members asked several questions of the consulting team as each layer was reviewed.

Mr. Bolinger and Ms. Ruane concluded stating that the next steps include a conversation regarding the analysis of the people and programming of activities in the park and then the conceptual design is something they are working on next.

Public Works Director Rice stated he is glad that there is no immediate capital crisis. He stated he agrees that the flow needs to change and looks forward to working with them going forward.

Discussion ensued regarding the public comments received and the Committee agreed via consensus to post the public comments received via the City's web comment form. In addition, it was agreed that the names and addresses would be redacted.

#### 4. Public Comment

Mary Krempels – requested the committee members to come to her home that evening during the PPAF concert to witness the sound level for themselves. She stated it is what they have to hear 6 days a week and although it didn't used to be a problem, it has become one since Ben Anderson has taken over the Festival.

Rick Becksted – asked if either Ms. Ruane or Mr. Bolinger personally inspected the buildings and existing stage. Ms. Ruane confirmed that she had along with the structural engineer and historical architect. Mr. Becksted stated he and his company have done work on the site over the years and feels the additional stages are not in good condition. He continued that he recently walked through the park on a hot day and found that a lot of people were sitting under the shade trees and feels that not all of these trees should be eliminated.

David Krempels – stated he likes the idea of the promenade that was outlined in the presentation. He reiterated his wife's invitation to come to their house during the concert as this is a very important issue to them and their neighbors.

Judy Nerbonne – stated she would also host people in her home. Secondly, she stated she appreciates the work done by the consultants so far and wanted to clarify that although the Fairy House Tour does utilize the trial garden area, they can go anywhere in the park.

Cathy Baker – stated that along with the park analysis, the programming of activities needs to be addressed, including how people will get there, where they will park, who will have to clean up after them, who is responsible for the behavior of the patrons, who will enforce rules, etc. She stated that people in the neighborhood need to be able to park their vehicles when they get home from work. Finally, she stated that there is not supposed to be drinking in the City Parks and there has always been quiet drinking during concerts, but now it is blatantly open drinking and people are loud when they are leaving. She feels that because Portsmouth is "party town" it is not being managed.

Chair Dwyer stated the next meeting will be held August 3, 2016 at 7:30 a.m.

#### 5. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.