

MINUTES
MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
ON THE
PRESCOTT PARK MASTER PLAN
7:30 A.M. – WEDNESDAY, August 3, 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; Mayor Jack Blalock; Councilor Nancy Pearson; 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

Chair Dwyer stated that the last meeting was focused on the infrastructure of the park and this time the focus is on park usage leading up to the conceptual design. She stated she understands that there will be more time needed between now and the next meeting. Next she stated that as requested at the last meeting, the public comments have been compiled and placed on the web with names and addresses redacted. She stated that there is a nice range of opinions and ideas of what the park could be.

2. Consideration of Minutes from July 13, 2016

Ms. Shaheen moved to accept the minutes from July 13, 2016, seconded by Ms. Eldridge. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Presentation on Park Usage Analysis: Weston & Sampson

Mr. Bolinger stated that a lot of progress has been made and a lot of time has been spent on the property. He stated they are at the point of reporting on the initial phase and know what needs to be replaced and repaired. He stated it is time to take all of the analysis, input from the public and observations by the design team and apply it to a conceptual process.

Ms. Ruane gave a brief presentation of the Use and Circulation of various areas of the park during the year through graphs and charts. The Committee members asked several questions throughout the various slides. Some of the concerns included the use of space of the Prescott Park Arts Festival during the off season for storage; noise levels of various events including during movie nights; preserving open space; wear and tear of the space and lack of use of other areas; views and dock areas; multi-generational uses.

(See <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/PrescottParkMasterPlan.html> for complete presentation)

At the request of the consultants, the committee agreed to hold the next meeting in 4 weeks to allow time for the conceptual designs to be produced for presentation. Chair Dwyer asked that dates for the next evening public input session also be discussed.

4. Public Comments:

Arthur Clough – discussed his concerns with alcohol use in Prescott Park during certain events and the No Alcohol ordinance is not being enforced.

Beth Margeson – thanked the consultants stating they have been very informative throughout the process. She then discussed the growth of the Prescott Park Arts Festival over the years and the rise of the noise level. She stated that some of the events being held now are not suitable for a neighborhood park.

Brian Kelly – stated Prescott Park was one of the reasons he moved to Portsmouth. He stated that that Prescott Park Arts Festival should be given the ability to control the crowds which they currently do not have.

Kathleen Cavalaro – stated she is envious of the Committee members being able to participate in this undertaking. She stated the feedback from the public is overwhelmingly in support of the Prescott Park Arts Festival and agrees that there needs to be accommodations made for the neighborhood but feels it should not be moved.

David Krempels – stated he appreciates the recent action taken by the City after a noisy concert. He continued that as a neighbor of the park, he is there often, except during the summer when he would like to be able to walk with his folding chair and picnic lunch, but because it is a concert venue, he has to drive over the New Castle and pay a fee.

Chair Dwyer discussed the lack of children activities at Prescott Park stating that there are several area parks with playgrounds including South Mill Playground, Peirce Island and several smaller pocket parks. She stated there are also some open areas for other passive activities such as Sagamore Creek.

The next meeting will be held September 7, 2016 at 7:30 a.m.

5. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.