

MINUTES
MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
ON THE
PRESCOTT PARK MASTER PLAN
7:30 A.M. – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 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 (via teleconference); Stefany Shaheen, Citizen Representative

Staff Present: David Moore, Assistant City Manager

2. Consideration of Minutes – (October 11, 2016)

Ms. Eldridge moved to approve the minutes of October 11, 2016. Seconded by Ms. Shaheen and voted.

Chair Dwyer reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule including a discussion on governance on 11/30/2016 and the presentation of the final draft on December 5, 2016.

3. Draft Preferred Master Plan – Weston & Sampson Presentation

Mr. Bolinger began by stating that we are approaching almost a year working on this master plan process and feels it has been a good experience. He stated that on December 5th they will be presenting the final draft of the preferred plan and also do a budgeting report.

Mr. Bolinger and Ms. Ruane gave a brief presentation to receive feedback of the draft master plan concept.

http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/ppmp/BRDDesigndecisions11172016_compressed.pdf

Mr. Bolinger discussed the concerns that had been expressed by several committee members regarding relocation of the formal garden and although they do understand the concerns, they are confident that the experience can be recreated and improved. He stated the public comments indicated that people were fine with relocating but there were also those who did not want to see any changes to the Park at all.

Discussion ensued regarding the design proposals with the committee consensus to proceed with the relocation of the formal garden, adding boardwalks, change/add handicap parking, reconfiguration of stage area (still to be determined). They also expressed the need to not lose any existing dock space to the boardwalk and would like to ensure there will be an area for loading/unloading.

4. Public Comments:

Molly Bolster, Executive Director of the Gundalow Company – discussed her concerns with the Boardwalk and potential impact on their docking facility which was upgraded to ADA compliance through the CDBG. Ms. Ruane stated that the dock would remain or may be moved slightly depending on permitting etc. Ms. Bolster continued they are also concerned with the handicap parking location. Ms. Ruane stated they could incorporate a drop-off location.

Mary Krempels, - stated she supports the idea of having conversation areas, water features, flexible/portable seating and food options.

Zelita Morgan – stated she likes the diagonal option for the stage location. She continued that she agrees with Ms. Shaheen and Ms. Eldridge regarding the formal gardens and the special feelings that the current garden holds for people. She stated she is also concerned with handicap parking and would like to see bike racks added as well.

Beth Margeson – stated she also agrees with the reasons to keep the formal gardens where they are but also understands the reasons given by the experts for relocation. She asked where the Hovey Fountain went in the design presentation. Ms. Ruane stated they had to wait until they knew whether or not the formal garden was going to be relocated. Ms. Margeson continued that she is concerned with losing a lot of parking around the park and doesn't like the suggestion of having tables and chairs along Marcy Street. She concluded by stating she was incorrect in a previous comment and found that the Trustees of the Trust Fund do not have oversight of the Park.

Judy Nerbonne – stated she agrees that the advice of the experts regarding the formal garden should be taken. She continued that she doesn't want to see the Shaw Warehouse become the back of stage area and wants to preserve the maritime history of the buildings. She concluded that she would like to see the Liberty Pole remain in the same location and an acknowledgement of the Prescott sisters. She later added that Larry Yerdon of Strawberry Banke is willing to work with them as well regarding parking.

Judy Capobianco – stated currently, the formal gardens do not have children running through them and feels that the relocation and reconfiguration could open it up too much. She also is concerned with providing handicap parking.

Sandra Parr – stated she is also in favor of keeping the formal gardens in the current location stating that people can have that experience and then step out and go to the water for that experience.

5. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.