## TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUNDS CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2016 MEETING

A regular meeting of the Trustees of the Trust Funds for the City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire was held on June 9, 2016 at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Seybolt Building at Portsmouth City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 a.m.

Present were Trustees Thomas R. Watson, Phyllis Z. Eldridge and Dana S. Levenson. Also present were Michael Warhurst, Peter Torey, Christine Dwyer, David Moore, Judy Nerbonne, Molly Bolster, Judy Capobianco, Joseph Galli, Daniel Corcoran and Thistle Jones.

The minutes of the May 26, 2016 meeting were reviewed and, upon motion duly made and seconded, approved.

Payroll and operating expense checks were reviewed and signed.

Mr. Warhurst gave his Park report. He provided an overview of the Chowder Festival conducted by the Prescott Park Arts Festival last weekend. He noted that the recently-planted sod in the Hovey Fountain lawn suffered some damage due to heavy foot traffic, but, overall, the Park held up well. Mr. Warhurst also reported that he recently retained the services of Northeast Shade Tree to trim the linden trees which, due to their age, are prone to falling branches. Finally, Mr. Warhurst reported that the Dockwa boat reservation system is now up and running. Two reservations were received on the first day of operation. A discussion concerning the Dockwa system therein ensued. Mr. Warhurst and Mr. Torrey explained that, as currently in operation, the system consists of two components, the online reservation system maintained by Dockwa and a manual written reservation system maintained by Mr. Warhurst. Mr. Watson expressed his wish that the Park transition to largely online reservations before the start of next season.

Mr. Torrey provided his financial report. He advised the Trustees of the receipt of a \$25.00 gift from Kerri Poorman of Hampton, NH in appreciation for the good experience that she and her friends recently enjoyed in the Park. Mr. Torrey next distributed and led a discussion of the Revenue and Expense Summaries for the Park for the period ending May 31, 2016 and the Marine Maintenance Fund for the same period.

Mr. Torrey advised the Trustees that he has set October 1, 2016 as his long-anticipated retirement date as financial director to the Trustees. Each of the Trustees expressed his or her regret to see him go, but wished him the best of times in his retirement. Mr. Torrey promised to assist in the transition of his duties to another member of the City's Finance Department.

Molly Bolster appeared on behalf of The Gundalow Company to advise the Trustees of the Company's current activities. She reported that the Company currently has 84 school groups enrolled for sails. She reported that the Company will once again conduct its River Rats Camp for 12 children involving both sail and shore activities over a 2-week period. Ms. Bolster also reported that The Gundalow Company has partnered with Pickwick's Mercantile to operate the gift store of the Company. The store will operate under the name "Gundalow Company Traders."

Thistle Jones appeared on behalf of Pickwick's Mercantile. She explained that Pickwick's has commenced a free pedicab service in conjunction with The Gundalow Company, where individuals who buy tickets for sails at the Company's office on Marcy Street will be shuttled to the Gundalow dock and ramp. She asked the Trustees for permission to operate the pedicabs within the Park. Ms. Eldridge advised that current Park policies prohibit the operation of bicycles within the Park and, therefore, prohibit the operation of pedicabs. Mr. Watson noted, however, that Water Street, which crosses the Park, is a public right-of-way, and therefore is not subject to the rules governing the Park. Ms. Jones was advised that Pickwick's may use Water Street to transport Gundalow Company patrons to the dock, but not other parts of the Park, provided that the pedicab operators keep the chains barring motor vehicle traffic on the street in place when the pedicab is not actually passing through the entrance.

Ms. Jones also advised the Trustees that Pickwick's will be opening a new food service at 112 State Street under the name "Fezziwig's Food & Fountain." It proposes to prepare and sell bagged meals to Gundalow Company patrons to take aboard the vessel, and will deliver them to the dock. No sales or exchange of money will take place within the Park. After discussion, the Trustees unanimously approved the proposal, subject to the usual Park rules and policies.

Mr. Levenson reminded those members of the public in attendance at the meeting of the upcoming events in the Park and at City Hall, sponsored by the Blue Ribbon Master Plan Committee, allowing for comment and participation by the public in the master planning process.

The meeting was then opened to public comment.

Mr. Corcoran commented upon the archeological dig being conducted in the Park at the corner of Marcy Street and Mechanic Street in anticipation of the temporary widening of the street at that location as part of the preparation for truck traffic to and from Pierce Island during the construction of the wastewater treatment plant upgrade.

Ms. Nerbonne advised the Trustees that she continues to observe the presence of both dogs and bicycles in the Park throughout the day, contrary to current Park rules. Mr. Corcoran added that such activities are only likely to increase as they are barred on Pierce Island in conjunction with the construction work. A discussion thereafter ensued concerning the need to add additional signage on the perimeters of the Park, advising of the prohibitions. Mr. Moore inquired if the Trustees have a current design protocol for signage. Mr. Moore stated that he would contact Juliet Walker, the City's Transportation Planner, to ascertain what protocols the City maintains for Park signage throughout the City.

Ms. Nerbonne also enquired as to when the Trustees expect to address the question of the Art Festival's financial contribution to the Park for the 2016 season. Mr. Levenson advised that that discussion is expected to occur at the next meeting of the Trustees, on June 23, 2016.

Mr. Galli suggested that it would be helpful to the current Park users, including PPAF, The Gundalow Company and the New Hampshire Art Association, at least one of which is undergoing a long-term planning process, to know in advance how such fees will be determined in the future. Ms. Dwyer interjected that she believes that it would be premature to try to establish a fee system in advance of the master planning process. She stated that she believes the process should first be driven by the physicality of the Park and its capability of hosting certain

uses at a sustainable level before setting fees for such uses. She noted that the City has multiple, varying agreements with non-profit users of City-owned buildings, and each is based upon the nature of the building, its needs, and the nature of the user's activity.

Mr. Corcoran expressed his concern that parking in the neighborhood of Prescott Park can expect to significantly increase as Pierce Island becomes off-limits to parking during the construction of the wastewater treatment plant. He noted that the City has already removed several parking spaces on Mechanic Street. He expressed his concern that car owners are more likely to park further into the neighborhood, creating greater congestion. He stated that he hopes that the City is preparing a master plan on parking in anticipation of the treatment plant construction. Ms. Nerbonne added that, perhaps, parking should be part of the master plan currently being developed by the Blue Ribbon Committee. Mr. Moore advised that the Blue Ribbon Committee will likely address parking as a function of the impacts of activities within the Park, but will not attempt to devise a parking plan outside the Park boundaries. Such activity is beyond the scope of the plan.

Finally, Ms. Capobianco indicated that she had been able to witness some of the filming that had occurred in the Park related to the film project recently approved by the Trustees, and found the crew members to be very pleasant and the filming activity unobtrusive.

The chair reported that the next meeting will take place on June 23, 2016.

There being no further business, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Thomas R. Watson, Secretary