

TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUNDS  
CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
CORRECTED MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2016 MEETING

A regular meeting of the Trustees of the Trust Funds for the City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire was held on August 11, 2016 in Conference Room A at Portsmouth City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:34 a.m.

Present were Trustees Thomas R. Watson, Phyllis Z. Eldridge and Dana S. Levenson. Also present were Peter Torrey, Michael Warhurst, David Moore, Mark Brighton, Christine Dwyer, Joseph Galli, Sandra Parr, and Jeffrey McMenemy.

The minutes of the July 29, 2016 meeting were reviewed and, upon motion duly made and seconded, approved.

Payroll and operating expense checks were reviewed and signed.

Mr. Warhurst provided his Park Report. He described his most recent efforts in pruning the crab apple trees in the formal garden as part of the effort to control the disease that has infested them. He reported on the receipt of a request from the City's legal department to change the start date on seasonal slip rentals from April 1 to April 2 and the reasons therefore. He also reported on the brief delay that occurred in firing the canons as part of the salute to the Tall Ship parade due to the lack of proper insurance documentation. The problem was quickly solved.

Mr. Warhurst advised the Trustees of his receipt of a request from Melissa Dunham on behalf of Extra Life to hold a Pokémon Go event in the Park in September. The event would run from noon to 8:00 pm. The sponsor hopes that the event draws Pokémon players from throughout the region. Extra Life will set up a table for players to sign-up. Ultimately, the goal of the event is to raise awareness and donations for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. However, no solicitation will take place in the Park. The goal is to drive attendees to the sponsor's website. After discussion among the Trustees, the request was approved subject to the condition that the sign-up table be located in the public forum area and that the event be subject to all the usual Park rules governing use of the public forum area.

Mr. Torrey gave his Park report. He distributed and led a discussion of the revenue & expense summary and the balance sheet for the Prescott Trust Fund for the period ending July 31, 2016. He also distributed and led a discussion of the activity summary for the Marine Maintenance Trust Fund for the same period. With respect to the latter, he added that approximately 50% of the non-seasonal boat revenue last month was generated through the Dockwa reservation system.

Mr. Torrey also distributed and led a discussion of a summary of annual financial activity for all the trust funds. He noted that the fair market value of the trust funds is now close to its previous high in June 2007. Mr. Torrey then presented and gave an overview of a 10-year operation summary for Prescott Park Arts Festival derived from its form 990 filings for the period of 2006-2015. The report shows more than a four-fold increase in annual revenues during that time period and an increase in assets from approximately \$67,000 to over \$1,800,000 during

that time. Mr. Torrey noted that the assets include property and equipment as well as financial resources.

Mr. Torrey reported that he has been working with Judy Renaud of the City to train her as his replacement as accountant to the Trustees. He also reported that one of the certificates of deposit holding funds of the Pierce Trust comes up for renewal later this month. Given its current rate of return, he recommended that the Trustees allow the certificate to roll over for another six month term. After discussion, the Trustees agreed to do so.

The meeting was then opened for public comment.

Mr. Galli stated that he wished to respond to the recent article in the Portsmouth Herald in which the consultants advising the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on the Prescott Park Master Plan were quoted as saying that the activities in the Park are exceeding the capacity of the Park. In particular, while he agreed with the consultant's conclusions, he challenged the consultants' statements on the average attendance at PPAF events. He stated that he believes that their methodology may underestimate the actual attendance. He also noted that PPAF's executive director, Ben Anderson, has gone on record a number of times stating much higher attendance figures. Mr. Galli read from newspaper articles and other sources in which Mr. Anderson on several occasions has given attendance figures at major concerts involving Taj Mahal, Ani Defranco, Mary Chapin Carpenter, etc. as exceeding 10,000. Ms. Dwyer suggested that the attendance figures quoted by Mr. Anderson may have involved a certain level of "puffing" by him and may have been given without any formal method of measuring the crowds. She stated that she was pleased with the approach taken by the consultants.

Mr. Brighton next addressed the Trustees. He first distributed copies of the article in the Portsmouth Herald referenced by Mr. Galli. He then stated that he wished to make a number of points for the record including:

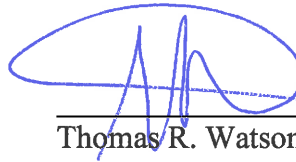
- He has recently been spending time in the Park in the early morning hours and has had an opportunity to observe the Park superintendent and his crew and believes that they are "true artists-in-residence" in the work they do in keeping the Park beautiful.
- He has observed that Facebook and other social media sites are filled with threats to those citizens who call the actions of PPAF into account or oppose PPAF's ambitions.
- In the community conversations concerning the Park, most people do not know the nature or intent of the Prescott sisters trust.
- He believes that Mr. French was correct in stating that the Park must be protected against alcohol drinkers. He believes; however, that Mr. French doesn't understand that it is the patrons of PPAF who are the drinkers, not random individuals off the street.

- He believes that trying to deal with PPAF is like trying to hold a “wolf by the ears.”
- He has read the 2012 Agreement between the Trustees and PPAF and believes that PPAF is not complying with its terms. He gave two examples. First, he states that the Agreement requires PPAF to utilize signs stating that donations for PPAF performances are voluntary. In reality, PPAF simply uses the term donation and gives the suggested amount. Second, he states that the Agreement allows PPAF to have four trailers in the backstage area. Presently, they have nine trailers.

Ms. Dwyer stated to the Trustees that she was able to attend the showing of *Ten Parks that Changed America* at the public library on Tuesday night. She observed the Mr. Watson was in attendance as well. She thought that the program provided a number of good ideas from the history of park building over the two and a half centuries that can be employed in the redesign and re-envisioning of Prescott Park. She was particularly impressed with how newer parks have addressed the question of “access” whether it be to the park or to water or other features in the areas surrounding the Park. She was also impressed with the developing concept of urban parks. Mr. Watson concurred with Ms. Dwyer’s remarks.

The chair reported that the next meeting will take place on August 25, 2016.

There being no further business, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 a.m.



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Thomas R. Watson, Secretary