

September 14, 2016

Blue Ribbon Committee on the Prescott Park Master Plan

This document is a collection of all of the web comments received via the Blue Ribbon Committee's web page at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/PrescottParkMasterPlan.html>. This document will be updated periodically as more comments are submitted. At the Committee request, this document is to be posted to the website with the names and addresses of the commenters removed.

Blue Ribbon Committee on the Prescott Park Master Plan Online Comment Forms (Batch 1)

Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at 15:50:32
city: Portsmouth

comments: Hello friends! I'm writing as a private citizen today and not as the voice of our movement, Keep Portsmouth Loud. You'll be hearing from us all soon, but I hoped I could provide some help.

I would like to make the following points regarding Prescott Park Arts Festival and the use of the park.

1. Prescott Park Arts Festival is an economic engine to Portsmouth, contributing to an Arts economy that generates at least \$42M and supports at least 1200 jobs. Not least of which are at least a dozen actors, whose summer employment makes being an actor on the Seacoast somewhat economically viable. The more opportunity we can provide these people, the better, as it is much more expensive to hire someone back from New York than it is never to lose them in the first place.
2. Support for PPAF spawned, to date, the most populous grassroots movement on any Portsmouth issue, as measured by a social media opt in of over 5500 people with Keep Portsmouth Loud. I want to assure the committee not to overestimate opposition to the park and underestimate the support of these fine people.
3. PPAF has compromised on a number of issues in order to accommodate its neighbors, and currently spends a full 10% of its budget to offset their impact on the park. They have cooperated with the city, and been approved by a majority of people elected.
4. A permanent stage is not only more attractive, safer, and deeply rooted in the intent of Prescott Park, it would also unquestionably return dividends to city and park revenues and the local economy at no expense to the city. We should not be in the habit of turning down voluntary, costless improvements to public land.
5. The Josie F Prescott Trust lacks the necessary returns to fully fund the operation and upkeep of the park, and without PPAF the total demonstrable value of the park to the City of Portsmouth is greatly diminished and the value of the city covering the shortfall is questionable.

Portsmouth has a plurality of beautiful green space, peaceful vistas, and quiet scenery. It's great. I enjoy Portsmouth in this way very often year round. There is never a time when these things are unavailable, and that's great. Those things are necessary.

What Portsmouth only has one of is an outdoor performance venue providing quality entertainment at prices accessible to all. These things are only available to some, some of the time. For one beautiful season every year they are available and accessible to everyone. That is also necessary.

Not only is it necessary, it's efficient as an economic engine for Portsmouth. In my informal research based on my connection with Seacoast Repertory Theatre, and our budget in comparison to PPAFs, PPAF is able to field a much higher benefit-per-dollar based on attendance and budget than SRT, for sure, and likely every other performance venue in the city. They are remarkably efficient contributors to that \$42M arts economy, with a budget of under a million dollars, 10% of which is spent on upkeep of a park they don't own.

I urge you to ignore ideas about active vs. passive recreation or squabbling about what the word "park" means in its original intention. Performing arts in parks is not a new concept, and many of the greatest green municipal spaces of the world house the performing arts: Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Toronto; all great historic cities with iconic parks that house the performing arts. Putting the arts in the park is not a new or unprecedented idea, and the idea that they are out of place or somehow detract from the idea of a park flies in the face of a tradition that well predates Prescott Park. Great cities have art presented in their beautiful public spaces. Are we not great? Should we not aim to be? Wouldn't it be the Prescott Sisters' intent to be?

I urge you to do whatever is in your power to let PPAF secure a home there with a permanent stage. A stage is an important space that creates permanent, purposed room for the Arts. Gardens grow flowers, fields grow grass, stages grow artistry, community, commerce, education. The design is elegant, safe, and it occupies a smaller footprint than the current stage. What a wonderful improvement. What a great opportunity to make Portsmouth better.

Thank you for your time and your dedication to what is, in my opinion, one of the greatest spaces in a great city.

Engage: Submit

Sunday, June 05, 2016 11:32 AM
city: Portsmouth

comments: This is one of the nicest parks in NH, so beautiful. It gets overused in the summer by the Festival. There certainly is room for a permanent stage with roof and a dressing room for music and other acts. There is no longer room for the play sad to say. Too much has to go on to support the big productions we have now. The stage at Henry Law park in Dover, or the stage at the fairgrounds at Stratham Hill come to mind as the scale needed at PP.

Portsmouth as you know is a very busy place now, we need to keep PP a beautiful place for all to enjoy. Engage: Submit

Sunday, June 05, 2016 1:07 PM

city: Portsmouth

comments: My wife and I moved to Portsmouth seven years ago and we've been very happy that we did. From the outset, we've felt that the summer Prescott Park Arts Festival, and particularly its concert series, is one of the best things about Portsmouth. Please don't curtail the Arts Festival. And please make sure that the mini-backlash to the Festival that seems to have emerged recently, from a small number of people, doesn't lead Ben Anderson to get frustrated and take his talents elsewhere.

Engage: Submit

Monday, June 6, 2016 at 14:26:09

city: Portsmouth

comments: Have your studies adequately addressed the following??

Is there a SAFE maximum capacity for events at Prescott Park? If so, how would you plan to impose it? If not, why not?

Is there a master traffic and parking plan for events at the Park? How do you plan to safeguard resident parking during the time of events? Has resident signage been considered? Has any new signage for street parking been considered?

Is there a plan for handling emergency situations during events?

What is a safe decibel level for music as you consider the adjoining residential neighborhood? Engage: Submit

Blue Ribbon Committee on the Prescott Park Master Plan
Online Comment Forms (Batch 2)

Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 17:31:03
city: GREENLAND

comments: Just a few thoughts on the master plan. I love the park area. It's not a topic easily addressed, but I don't go because of parking any longer. Now we have that out of the way. Suggestions:
In the South they have "fishing piers" - areas that you do pay for that are docs where you can rent rods and bait and entire families go to fish and hang out. Fishing isn't the same here, but that is a good model to connect people with the water and activities. But I fish, so I know it isn't for everyone, but that area is underrepresented for fishermen. You see them standing on bridges and roads. I know you used to actually have to get a fishing permit on 4tree, but I suspect that was to keep riffraff away at night. Next item - comfortable seating areas. I am sure there is some kind of weather proof chairs that people can sit in and just relax or sun. There are picnic tables, benches, steps but really no place to comfortably lounge. A series of chairs along the perimeter in choice areas would allow for more passive use. More handicapped parking and a path improvement would be nice for older people. I can't recall if bathrooms are open outside of the shows - that's huge, people

can't stay if they don't have a place to go, water fountains, concession machines that are open when the park is open. Internet. A playground, could be a learning historic, even interactive experience, near the pool area would work. The shade canopies on 4tree are kind of dated, I can't explain why but they feel dirty. Bring back more open air space. Make access to the grill area more readily available. Supply charcoal for sale or bring in gas grills. A lot can be done in that area - it's underutilized. Allow dogs on leash, I can run my dog in one part but can't walk back through to town in the park. The fountain area is quite dark at times, open up the tree canopy and add more comfortable seating benches. These are my suggestions for this terrific park. The gardens and flowers are amazing, the views can't be beat, and shutting down the arts festivals due to NIMBY pressure is just plain silly in about every way. Wrap it up by 10Pm and like most cities, it's part of the act of

thriving as a community. Falling to pressures from people who just want to see the condoization of everything is not a good thing. How hundreds of people who speak with their voices by attending said events overrules the few who complain that their city is vibrant is astounding, but I understand, taxpayers versus consumers. Portsmouth is an amazing City and planning is key.

Engage: Submit

June 8, 2016 at 09:33:15
city: Portsmouth

comments: Please make the future of the Park one in which the events planned do not overwhelm the capacity of the Park. Keep it filled with gardens and peaceful fountains, and artistic sculpture and poetry. Do not let it become a stadium like atmosphere designed to hold more and more people, necessitating expanding provisions for their needs at the expense of the natural beauty of the Park. It is the connection to nature that we need to preserve, and already the diminishing views of the water by the crowding of the shoreline is harming our visual link to nature. Try to remember that Prescott Park is a haven for beauty. We need to preserve it as such. This. Is a scientific as well as a romantic concept.

Engage: Submit

Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 14:40:28
city: Greenland

comments: My friends, neighbors, and family plan our summers around Prescott Park events. The all ages affordable high quality performances are the highlight of the summer. It's where we catch up after the long winter, and where--every single time--we say to one another how lucky we are to live here. I've watched the Arts Festival's evolution since the very beginning. Prescott Park is a gem, and the Festival is a gem. People are well behaved and appreciative, everyone gets along. Where else can little kids, teens, seniors, locals, visitors come together in such a welcoming and diverse place of beauty? It ain't broke, so please don't go looking for an excuse to "fix" it.

Engage: Submit

Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 13:43:36
city: York

comments: I attend a variety of performances throughout the summer at Prescott Park. Generally the performance is coupled with dinner before and most likely coffee or drinks after. The vitality and diversity that comes from the arts and Prescott Park is phenomenal. Please continue to support, encourage and promote the wide variety of colors which make up the Prescott Park palette. It is a jewel which most communities would die for.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 12:40:24
city: Portsmouth

comments: Dear Members of the Committee,

As a lifelong resident of Seacoast New Hampshire, I have fond memories of the Prescott Arts Festival reaching back many years. I think that in many ways, the festival embodies the spirit of the city - a welcoming community rich with history and culture. In my mind, Portsmouth is Portsmouth largely due to the presence of the art festival and I simply can't imagine summertime here without it.

I've therefore been surprised at the recent rise in protests and complaints. While I'm sure these grievances have merit, I wanted to take this opportunity to put in my two cents. I unequivocally support

the Arts Festival, and I have never met a single person in the community who does not. Apart from its immense cultural importance here, it also has a large economic impact. It draws many consumers to Portsmouth who shop and dine downtown. Property values in Portsmouth are rising dramatically due to high demand. Where do you think this demand comes from? People are drawn to Portsmouth for the kind of community that the Arts Festival promotes.

I know this is just one voice in many, but I feel compelled to speak out in response to those who wish to co-opt this community for themselves. Thank you very much for your consideration on this matter.

Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 14:48:19
city: Portsmouth

comments: Don't get rid of the Prescott Park Arts Festival!! As a member of this community I can't imagine our town without this amazing experience and entertainment. This festival provides so much for our community. It brings people together, business to the town's shops and restaurants. And also to add on a more serious note, with the dilemma of drugs during these years this festival provides a safe fun place for recovery. It gives people working in the program a new option of fun and entertainment!! As a member of this program I would be so saddened to see this go. This town of ours is a great place to share with our neighboring communities. Thank you for reading this and I hope this short explanation will help sway the whole community to agreeing what great things this festival does for us!

Blue Ribbon Committee on the Prescott Park Master Plan
Online Comment Forms (Batch 3)

Sent: Friday, June 10, 2016 8:49 PM
city: Portsmouth

comments: We need Prescott Park is Portsmouth's Concerts, theatre , movies , gardens , vistas gatherings and walk Park! Individuals, & Family after family can testify to this. The city of Portsmouth guidelines that have been set seem to have worked fine in the 40 years it's been here , let's not let a few take our park to stricter limits. It was here when they came , they chose to live beside it. They are fortunate for that and should be thankful. All the work it has taken to have such a great place is obvious Please protect it for now and our future generations . I am thankful.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 9:20 AM
city: Portsmouth

comments: As a life long resident and member of Prescott park arts festival, I fully support them and EVERYTHING they do, including putting a roof on a new stage! It's a great resource for locals and tourists alike and one of Portsmouth's most prized possessions. If we're not fighting for the arts, then what are we fighting for?

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 11:26 AM
city: Portsmouth

comments: I will be unable to attend the public forum meetings this coming week, but want to raise my hand in support of outdoor music, movies, plays, and fun in the park. As my kids grow old enough to appreciate such events, it would be a shame for a few overly-zealous members of the community dictate new restrictions on activity in the park. Walking through or passing by on a night of music, film, or theater has been a great joy for me as a property owning citizen of the city. Please have the foresight to see the great benefits such activity has for our community.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 11:59 AM
city: North Hampton

comments: The plan for Prescott Park while appearing ambitious is incredibly short sighted

Considering the historic context of Portsmouth having had open views to the water which are pretty much gone... This over development reduces gathering areas to see the water and more importantly removes significant areas of public use that are limiting rather than contributing.

Not to mention upkeep and other costs that will be incurred by creation of additional structures..

The plan for parking by the water... Are you seriously considering having cars be a view along with the ocean???

Not sure who worked on this but a lack of insight and overall use was not considered.

Someone had ideas but did not consider consequences and certainly missed the unintended but obvious economic and ecological issues...

Leave it lets upgrades and improvements to what is there be done but don't make this into a fun house feel where it is only open during limited hours for use.

Whoever consulted you on this was either too eager to please or just doesn't consider long term impact with such plans...

Engage: Submit

Saturday, June 11, 2016 12:31 PM

city: south Berwick

comments: My family loves pp. I saw my first live theatre there as a young child (Seymooore!). I love bringing my kids and out of town friends for dinner and a show. It is the heart of what makes Portsmouth magical.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 1:25 PM

city: Portsmouth

comments: I would like to express my full support for Prescott Park Arts Festival, and plans for building a new covered stage. I have been a seacoast resident for the last 9 years (Kittery for 6 and Portsmouth for the last 3) and I also run a downtown business. I began enjoying the events in the park even before moving to the area and every summer I anxiously await the release of the summer line-up. I personally attend at one or more event per week, once they start up, and I often urge my friends from out of town to come visit to see the plays, movies, and especially the amazing concerts.

Our city is changing rapidly. New high end apartments and luxury condos seem to be going in daily. People want to live here, and I don't blame them. This is a great town! Leaving the affordable housing conversation off the table for now, we have to decide now what we want our city to be, and encouraging the art, culture, and character of our town now will help us from becoming an obsolete town of existing solely of empty vacation condos and wealthy retirees (nothing against retirees, but we need ALL ages and incomes here to keep us relevant and thriving). It is natural with the continued boom of Portsmouth that some updating and expanding of the Prescott Park Arts Festival venue would be needed. We should encourage that, so that we can remain on the forefront of "places to be" in New England.

On a different side of things, as the General Manager of Breaking New Grounds at 14 Market Square, I can say that reap the benefits of the popularity of the PPAF events, and on show nights we see a definite boost in sales. And we aren't even that close to the park! Improving their ability to be a premier feature (not only in our city but in this area) will continue to stimulate downtown shops, hotels, and hopefully, cafes.

Thank you for your time.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 2:30 PM
city: Portsmouth

comments: To whom it may concern: As a lifelong resident of the seacoast I wish to express my strong support for the Prescott Park Arts Festival. Prescott Park and its great programming a part of an important role in my family's life for many many years. I understand that a few vocal critics of the festival get frequent media attention, but I urge the city to provide stronger political and financial support to the festival than has been shown in prior years. The festival contributes immeasurably to our community both culturally and economically and deserves our full support. Respectfully,

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 2:35 PM
city: Portsmouth

comments: I believe the Prescott Park Arts Festival has become too much of a commercial venture. The Prescott sisters envisioned an open space, filled with natural beauty. I do not believe they wanted permanent structures built and noisy entertainment all summer. Thank you.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 2:45 PM
city: Madison

comments: Please keep access to Prescott Park as is, especially its use as a venue for concerts. It is a wonderful use of the park and brings many people from out of town to Portsmouth who then spend \$\$\$ on the businesses in Portsmouth.

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 2:58 PM
city: Portsmouth

comments: I am very happy with the way Prescott Park Arts Festival has been operating, and would like to see a permanent stage. Please do not change one of the best things in Portsmouth.

Thanks

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 4:38 PM
city: Exeter

comments: The beautiful waterfront park and its shows/venues have been an integral part of my family's life. We have enjoyed making family time to take our children to the exceptional entertainment for the past 20 plus years. My husband and I now take in the highlights during the summer with such fabulous shows as Taj Mahal and Judy Collins. We're planning a third go-round this summer. I have also

enjoyed Shakespeare. The Lobster Fest and Jazz Fest have offered wonderful times to enjoy summer. To change this feature of Portsmouth is disturbing since easy to access family times foster healthy children as they develop, art is essential to living a well rounded life, and children and adults alike thrive on the kind of beauty Prescott Park offers. Thank you.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 8:10 PM
city: Portsmouth

comments: My husband and I are huge supporters of the Prescott Park Arts Festival. We've lived here for over 35 years and love the summer program at the park and all that it offers. We think the park should support a new covered stage and any necessary upgrades to the facilities. Also, a more attractive railing on the river would be wonderful, when changes there may be called for. The Bangor, Maine waterfront is an inspiration. Since the National Folk Festival began there, they have vastly improved their public access and made improvements that have transformed the entire city. Also, locator maps throughout Portsmouth would help visitors find the park so that everyone would appreciate our incredible asset! Prescott Park... The best OPEN SPACE in downtown Portsmouth. Art, Music, Nature.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 8:19 PM
city: Portsmouth

comments: As a Portsmouth small business owner I can't stress enough what a valuable asset the Prescott Park Arts Festival is for our town and our local economy. It is a wonderful artistic Boon for the residents of the Seacoast, but also an incredible draw for the tourists that keep our vibrant economy alive. The more we can support the arts and projects like this one, the more our small City can thrive.

Ppaf is one of the reasons Portsmouth is in the top 10 of every "best of" lists. Please don't let a couple of squeaky wheels ruin or limit this amazing program that benefits tens of thousands of people.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 8:54 PM
city: Dover

comments: I am currently the musical director for the main stage production of The Little Mermaid as well as the musical director for the park's day camp. I have been attending events at PP since the mid 1970's. It is a vital part of the arts community and this tradition should be supported by the City of Portsmouth for years to come.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 9:02 PM
city: Dover

comments: My personal thought on Prescott Park is that it's about Community, and make sure that everyone can have fun. The Arts Festival helps make Portsmouth the city that it is, it's changed along with the city and what help Buisness and people come to the city. The Arts festival is one of two things that I think of when I think about Portsmouth, and they need a new perminant stage, as well as the ability to conduct concerts to minimal hassle. This helps everyone in Portsmouth, people will come and go out to eat and shop the shops before musicals and concerts. Without the Arts Festival what else would drag so many people into the city?

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 9:05 PM
city: Merrimack

comments: Many people in my hometown are ardent festival-goers every summer! I know a great many kids whose first theatrical experience was "Annie", "The Wizard of Oz", or "Peter Pan" at the Park. It brings a lot of commerce and recognition to the city of Portsmouth. Keep all the performances - they are of such renown to the NH area and beyond! Continuing to foster an artistic community in Portsmouth is so important. If anything, let's expand our scope!

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 9:15 PM
city: Hampton Falls

comments: I love Prescott Park! Ever since I moved to the Seacoast, I practically spend my summers there watching the shows, movie nights, and concerts. I would be devastated to see this amazing place and events go away.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 9:18 PM
No Town

comments: I would like to write a brief message in support of the Prescott Arts Festival. I know over the past few summers there has been some push back from locals. I have been attending shows here since I was little and my summer would not feel complete without making my way downtown to see the show. Thousands of people come out which is, in general, just good for the local business of downtown

Portsmouth. That sheer number alone should prove that the arts festival is beloved by many and should not go away.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 9:28 PM
city: Dover

comments: I know that over the past couple of years some people who have moved into the neighborhood near Prescott Park (where live performances have been a summer tradition for decades) have begun very loudly, and insistently to demand that such performances cease, or be modified in such as way as to make them, de facto, impossible.

Taking my family to the PPAF musicals, food festivals and concerts has been something I have loved about Portsmouth since moving there in 2002. I have even performed in some of those events. What a wonderful, colorful vibrant city is evidenced by the PPAF. it would be a cataclysmic mistake to allow the opinions of a relatively few (multiply them by the volume and repeated complaints and they may SEEM like more) to take away a cultural jewel that is a hallmark of the vibrant city that has earned so much recognition as a top place to visit and live. What's next, someone buys a condo near the Music Hall, complains about performances there and we turn it into a parking garage?

C'mon City leaders. Be strong. Take a stand with and for the greatness of your city. Keep PPAF going strong!

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 9:28 PM
city: Merrimack

comments: Greetings,

I wanted to let the committee know what a wonderful community engagement the park is, and how its offerings have been engaging to families even as far as the central New Hampshire area. The fairy houses at Strawberry Banke lead into the beautiful garden-where one year a real "fairy" was. My students who went with their families loved the fairy and walking around the garden.

Most importantly are the summer shows. As a child I saw many shows and though an hour + commute is far, it was worth it to see the summer performances. I distinctly remember seeing Oliver! one summer and being motivated to join the show myself when there were nearby auditions. These shows have fueled my passion for theater and were a piece of my decision to study theater education at UNH.

This summer, at least three families from Merrimack, NH will be coming to see the summer performance of The Little Mermaid. As a preschool teacher aware of the amazing quality of show offered, I engaged students and parents about the upcoming performances. The children love the songs from Little Mermaid, and noting the learning opportunity I have spread the word. With a center of over 300 children more families may choose to attend as well as word travels. These families will attend the show and engage local Portsmouth businesses.

Thank you for providing opportunities not just for the seacoast (where I resided for my college career) but for children and adults around the state. There is nothing I love more during the summer than Prescott Park's summer show. I am excited to see how the arts will grow as you develop the park.

Cady G. Hickman

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 9:32 PM
No Town

comments: I would be so devastated to see this plan impede on the Prescott Park Arts Festival! I've lived on the seacoast my whole life and I always look forward to it in the summer. I remember when I was younger and I saw Cinderella at the park, it was so magical for me and I even thought she was real. The memories I have of the Festival are so fond. Now that I'm older my childhood friends and I don't see as much of each other anymore, but we always come together and see the shows in the park much more than once. I feel like the Festival is what Portsmouth is known for, and it brings in so much life and activity to the town. Theatre and the arts are so important and make such a positive impact on the community. I love that OUR community has made such a beautiful space for that in Prescott Park. I'd hate to see that change!

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 9:33 PM
city: Durham

comments: The arts festival is central to our summer. Please make sure that the master plan helps make the festival even more wonderful!

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 9:37 PM
city: Durham

comments: I'm a college student and I enjoy going to the concerts and shows in Prescott Park. They're affordable and it's fun to go either with friends or I take my young cousins to see various shows. We always enjoy ourselves. This is an amazing addition to the community.

Engage: Submit

address: 725 portsmouth ave
city: Greenland

comments: It is readily apparent that a vocal minority has been manipulating these meetings to their own ends. Please stop allowing a loud but clearly a minority of the people to suppress the venues necessary to the well established culture of the city.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 9:46 PM

No Town

comments: I love the festival, and hope that it continues! It is such a blessing to the city!

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 9:53 PM

city: Portsmouth

comments: Let the festival take place fully in the park! We love the musicals and movies that are performed there! Let the artists back into Portsmouth instead of using our visions and then pushing us aside when you decide we're no longer needed.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 9:56 PM

city: Durham

comments: Prescott Park has allowed me to feel right at home in the Seacoast, I just moved here from a small town, and Prescott park keeps the small town feeling alive. The events are great for all ages and provides something for everyone. I've made friends and met great people while attending events!

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 10:02 PM

city: Portsmouth

comments: I love Prescott park and as a theatre professional I fully support the new master plans. The summer musical is a great place to bring your family for a night out. Also the arts bring \$41 million into the Portsmouth community every year so I couldn't understand why anyone wouldn't want to support this arts festival that brings in such a large part of that revenue.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 10:08 PM

city: Portsmouth

comments: My son Ryan is in the process of participating in his second production of the play put on by PPAF. It is crucial that these folks continue bringing us the Arts in it's many forms be it music, Shakespeare, movies, large and small productions. It encourages our young and old actors, actresses, singers, dancers, etc to be moved to create, learn and put forth their best. Those opposing this amazing plan should be ashamed of themselves for discouraging the Arts. It's not like there is a nightclub and it's sometimes rowdy and imbibed customers are wreaking havoc until 1-2am in the morning. Really folks? It is only until 10-11pm. I mean you moved to a downtown area and should have known that there would be noise of some level. I always say Keep Portsmouth Loud and those select neighbors complaining need to get over themselves and suck it up!!!!

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 10:09 PM
city: Greenland

comments: Prescott Park has been in my life for as long as I can remember. From attending musicals to becoming a volunteer to now working at the park alongside the hard-working, dedicated management team, my love for the park has only increased. I started working at the park specifically because of how much I love it there.

Portsmouth in the summer is a special time for the city and its residents, as well as visitors from near and far. I can't tell you how many positive things people have said to me since I began representing the park as a volunteer/employee are too many to count. People have built Prescott Park into their summer schedules as a tradition that has continued through generations. As an employee, I can say that the team at PPAF do our very best to deliver the most top notch performances, service and experiences to our patrons. This includes closely following the cut off time per the City, testing decibel levels up and down Marcy Street to ensure the noise is manageable, and openness to work with the City and our neighbors as best we can. Though I am not part of the management team, I have always been impressed with their attention and consideration to the issues that arise.

If Prescott Park were to shut down or reduce its offerings, I can confidently say that there would be many, many people disappointed to see such a wonderful piece of Portsmouth go. Prescott Park is an asset to the city and summers in Portsmouth wouldn't be the same without it.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 10:12 PM
city: Portsmouth

comments: Eliminating or even drastically reducing Prescott Park Arts Festival would be a mistake. The impact it has on the community is one that truly cannot be measured. Seeing people walk by the stage while the set is being built is remarkable. They are curious and excited, and the kids that run up asking employees what show it is this year is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the community support for PPAF. The packed audience once the performances begin are even more astounding. The festival produces a professional quality, family-friendly show that not only fosters new talent by casting ensembles of children, but extends the invitation to their performances to all members of the community by only asking for a suggested donation of about \$5.00. I've experienced, both first and second hand, that seeing a play or musical, particularly for the first time and particularly for a child, can be life-altering. That may sound like a dramatic way of putting it, but it is true none-the-less. It is a community based art form that the Festival is delivering into the hands of this community-one that is rich in the arts and culture. To take that away would go against everything I have ever thought to be true about Portsmouth and the people in it. I could go on endlessly about the positive impact theater, music, and the arts have on people. Those mediums foster empathy, a tremendous amount of responsibility, self respect, respect for others, an incredible work ethic and so much more. I am going to do my best to be at the meeting on Sunday, but please count this community-member's opinion as a check mark in the "keep the festival going" column. Thank you.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 10:12 PM

comments: You've got to keep the festival going, it's so important to the community. You will be doing a great disservice if you take away or reduce the arts in this community.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 10:45 PM

city: North Hampton

comments: My family has been taking me to see Theater Productions since I was born and one of the most frequent places they took me was to the Annual PPAF musical. It was a special event for us. We'd pack a cooler, our chairs/blanket and just relax and watch an amazing performance. It was one of the main reasons that led to my passion for theater. Not only can you see an amazing show at a more than reasonable price, but it also is a way to bond with close friends and family and share a memory. Its been a crucial part of my life since I can remember and I always look forward to each years production. I desperately hope that the PPAF continues to make memories for years to come.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 10:59 PM

city: somersworth

comments: My family was Portsmouth residents when we first came to enjoy the summer theater in the Park series. My children fell in love with theater. We have continued to enjoy the shows even after moving outside Portsmouth. My children have even been in multiple shows. It brings them a sense of community and provides them an opportunity to share their talents in such a wonderful and beautiful outdoor setting. I strongly suggest that the park continue to support this type of activity. Expanding the theater to more like a past expansion / vision project that was designed and not yet implemented.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 11:53 PM

comments: The Prescott Park arts festival not only brings culture and entertainment to large groups of people who would otherwise not have those experiences, but it is also a treasured annual tradition that is loved by a majority of the residents. The fact that a select few would try to rob the community of the joy and wonder that the arts festival provides is deeply disturbing.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 1:41 AM

comments: I love the Shakespeare performances Prescott Park makes available and other entertainment at an affordable cost. Please do not let this community event be ruined

Engage: Submit

Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 4:31 AM

comments: The Prescott Park Festival is one of the greatest things about summertime in Portsmouth. I can't imagine a summer without it. I used to participate in dance shows that would come before the summer musical, and I would end up staying to watch for at least one night. People come from all over, and they come early to get a good seat. The dancing was always just a little "extra" for those coming to the musical. Please know that many people enjoy the music, dancing, performing, etc. that comes out of Prescott Park. To minimize or eliminate those arts would be a true loss.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 5:36 AM

city: Derry

comments: The first time I visited Prescott Park was a few summers ago with my friends and cast of Shrek the Musical when we performed it in May of 2014. We all took a field trip down and we loved every moment of it, the performance, the experience, the actors we met after, it was amazing. This summer I'm able to perform with the festival, and it's like a dream come true. My summer job is doing what I love and pursuing my career with people whom I've met just this month and already become a family with. I pinch myself every day to remember that I'm not dreaming, and it's really something that's happening. The festival has restored faith in myself, and faith in the theatre.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 7:12 AM

city: New Castle

comments: I hear there is concern over improvements planned for Prescott Park...I urge you to please support these improvements...I've been bringing my children and now my grandchildren to the Park since the 90's and we look forward to watching the play every summer...we bring out of town guests who also love the outdoor venue...we've supported the Park as individuals and through our company because we believe it contributes so much to the quality of life experience in the town of Portsmouth that we love so much. We urge you to support the improvements that ensure enjoyment to future generations.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 7:35 AM

city: Durham

comments: The events held at Prescott Park are what gives the city of Portsmouth life. They draw happy visitors, friends and families to spend time together and appreciate the beauty of the city.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 7:36 AM

city: Portsmouth

comments: Hello,

Thank you for your work planning for a better Prescott Park. My husband and I have lived here for 10 years, our daughter for all 8 years of her life. We play tourist in our own city as we have in many other coastal New England cities and always come back from those short trips thinking to ourselves that Portsmouth has them all beat. Part of the reason is our arts scene, and I can't really express well in words how crucial it is that we hold onto it. If audio/technical changes can be made to appease nearby residents, let's do it. But there are so many of us who live in Portsmouth but outside of downtown who fear those few voices will squash one of our favorite aspects of live here merely because of vicinity, income, or persistence. Please, in all your discussions, remember that we live here, too. We drive into town and spend on dinners, shows, cocktails, we are locals supporting local business and arts and we love the park.

Thank you,

Engage: Submit

Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 9:02 AM

city: Rye

comments: Dear Board Members,

As a long time former resident of Portsmouth and now of Rye, I want to fully support PPAF. What an exciting organization that has built an inclusive venue for the City of Portsmouth residents and visitors alike. I have many friends in the south end of Portsmouth so I am there quite frequently visiting. I don't understand why a small group of vocal residents can be allowed to dictate what can and cannot happen at Prescott Park. It is a public area and has been there long before any of these residents arrived. Portsmouth is an exciting, viable city which has been at or near the top of many "best of" lists for a number of years. Please don't let a few vocal naysayers ruin what is an affordable entertainment choice for residents and all people alike. It would be a shame to destroy something so very special and which makes Portsmouth unique.

Sincerely,

Engage: Submit

Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 9:31 AM

city: Dover

comments: To The Prescott Park Master Plan Committee

I would like to note for the record that I am in full support of the Prescott Park Arts Festival and their plans to move forward and improve the park. I have been regularly attending park events for over five years now and even the slow progress that they have been able to make in that time has made a huge difference for the attendees. It would be great if they could get to a point where there was a more permanent stage and, more importantly, a roof. Thank you for your service on this committee and for taking the time to note my input.

Sincerely,

Member of the Leadership Seacoast Class of 2016 Member of the Spotlight on the Arts Award Music Jury Co-Producer of the Tiny Bit Rock Compilation for ArtSpeak Founder of the Music Mentors Program at UNH Member of the Seacoast Music and Arts Community since 1999

Engage: Submit

Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 10:54 AM
city: Kittery

comments: It's funny to me that citizens of the Seacoast who, like me, would like to enjoy a park as a park and not as an outdoor stadium with loud music with hordes of people are referred to as the "bad guys." Really? I'm a bad guy? I expressed my opinion online and was immediately bullied for sharing my opinion. I wasn't provocative. I simply asking if anyone else felt as I do. There is a saying -- Your Liberty To Swing Your Fist Ends Just Where My Nose Begins. The loud music has not always been in the park. I feel like the large events at the park are like a swinging fist and if I don't like it then I should stay away. Is that fair? I'm not trying to keep people from hearing music. There are tons of opportunities for people to hear music on the Seacoast. Why can't it be said that others are trying to keep me and others from enjoying a stroll through a world class park on a summer evening? I am literally afraid to press submit. I am afraid that my opinions will be misunderstood and I will be painted as a "bad guy."

Engage: Submit

Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 11:39 AM
city: NEWMARKET

comments: I strongly support Prescott Park Festival. I first visited Portsmouth seven years ago and I really amazed by the outdoor performance. This event is for everyone and we should keep it forever!

Engage: Submit

Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 12:12 PM
city: Uxbridge

comments: The musical performances in Prescott park are amazing. I worked for them during Shrek the Musical and not only did they give me a fantastic opportunity to get to know and fall in love with Portsmouth, it's also a great opportunity for kids to learn and grow not only the arts but grow as young professionals and learn the importance of responsibility and independence. Not many professional theater companies offer the opportunity that Prescott Park Arts Festival offers kids and young adults and I think that they could not only continue to help their kids grow but serve as an example to other professional theater companies that may want to incorporate an educational program in their season. The shows also attract THOUSANDS of patrons which can simulate Portsmouth's economy. People arrive before the show, go out for dinner, shop in the local markets, and tell their friends and family about the amazing time they had and the high quality production they witnessed in the middle of Prescott Park. Thank you for your time and I hope that Portsmouth will continue to host musicals at their arts festival.

Sincerely,

Engage: Submit

Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 12:33 PM
city: Durham

comments: The Prescott Park Arts Festival is wonderful asset to the Seacoast community. It not only stimulates the arts energy in the area, but also brought people from all over the states together, not just from Portsmouth. It's what makes Portsmouth an unique art central. It's our Seacoast version of the summer stage in Central Park, New York. I'd love to see it keep growing stronger and be proud of it.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 12:50 PM
state: Nh

comments: The park has been great I've been going to performances there since I was a kid. Don't stop shows at the park

Engage: Submit

Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 1:27 PM
city: Epsom

comments: Our family loves going to Prescott Park every year for the musical as well as the Shakespeare plays and music. I love that there is a fun, inexpensive way to introduce kids to theatre. We would hate it if you got rid of the arts festival.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 2:53 PM
city: Greenland

comments: Love to see the park continue to be a multi use public recreation and cultural venue for performance arts.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 4:30 PM
city: Portsmouth

comments: Since my hand writing is illegible, I'll put my comments here. This is for the consultants.

A. Concerning Four Tree Island

1. Large, underutilized.
2. Move large white sign out front on opposite side of road from Pierce Island sign. Make name bigger.
3. Place signs at bridge entrance for both 4 Tree and Peirce Islands.
4. Water entrance areas on either side of path need improvements - perhaps steps as on the opposite side of the island.
5. Add flowers and/or low shrubs along path.

6. Add signs with directional arrows which indicate what sites you are looking at (like on top of a mountain) - e.g. PNSY, Fishing Pier, etc.

7. Improve figure head signage with artist, info, etc.

8. Is this an alternative PPAF venue - the space may even be bigger than what's currently used, and no abutters to be bothered by sound.

B. Prescott Park

1. Light all paths.

2. Eliminate all asphalt paths and replace with either bricks or wood chips.

3. Better identify the anchor - was it from a ship?

4. More benches facing water.

5. People don't use steps connecting Sheafe area to PPAF area. Consider either wider, better steps, or no steps, just path.

6. More obvious signs on all buildings. Better historical markings.

7. Cover all of the PPAF back stage stuff.

8. Need a newer, safer, more attractive stage.

9. Use either cedar shake or brick for siding on all buildings (e.g. concessions building).

10. Lower flag pole signs and make them more visible.

11. Eliminate major asphalt areas in front of south docks and at public forum. Label and better utilize forum.

12. Add a bench between th public forum and the south dock to balance off the other one.

C. PPAF

In general, I love the programming. All of it. I am not bothered by the sound; I enjoy it. I think the issue really boils down to

communication. Does anyone really know what good stuff the PPAF does? Don't react to just a few powerful consistent negative voices.

D. Fairy House Tour

Be sure to visit during this weekend.

E. Create ways to interview non-residents at events.

Thanks for the opportunity to contribute.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 5:39 PM

city: Durham

comments: I just wanted to share how valuable I think the performances in Prescott Park are. There truly is nothing more magical than performing on stage in front of thousands of people in a beautiful park on the water. And, the magic is just as present when you're watching a show. The shows in Prescott Park are a big part of what makes Portsmouth so incredible, so special. You don't get the kind of opportunities that are given in Prescott Park anywhere else. The performances keep culture alive and they form a sense of community and teamwork, whether you're in them or in the audience. It deeply saddens me that their cancellation are being considered because they're the biggest gem of the city to me.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 7:01 PM
city: Stratham

comments: Please keep the arts festival the way it is! I go to a ton of events there and thus spend lots of money at local businesses before and after. Plus, the neighbors complaining is kind of like moving near a train track and then asking them to reroute the line....you know what you are moving next to and you don't get to change it to suit yourself.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 7:31 PM
city: Pembroke

comments: Every summer, I make the drive to Portsmouth some thirty or so times to attend events at the park put on by PPAF. Without fail, I arrive early, walk around town, do a little shopping, get a coffee at Breaking New Grounds... sometimes I'll get some local take-out to eat during the show.

Our state is aging, and it is vibrant, arts-supportive, eventful communities like Portsmouth and Prescott Park that attract and keep young professionals and families. It is a shame the proposed permanent stage was so negatively received - it is beautiful, safe, and elegant.

The arts are not antithetical to the park's public service mission - they go hand in hand, having a direct positive effect on the population, on the economy of the Seacoast.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 8:58 AM
city: Greenland

comments: Remove the awful chain link fences. If fencing is required use a more visually appealing method. Perhaps even tempered glass or architectural wire. I assume it is there for kids safety.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 9:10 AM
city: Greenland
comments: To whom it may concern,

Words cannot express how disappointed I am to hear that the Master Plan at Prescott Park may not even take place. This venue has brought my family and I so much joy and happiness throughout the years. I am disabled and it is very difficult for me to go to the bigger cities to see and enjoy live entertainment. PPAF is a place where I can go and feel safe. It's only a 15 minute ride from my home, so it is very convenient for me to get to. We've been enjoying all that PPAF has to offer since 2007. Our daughter (just 2 years old at the time)loved going to the park and smelling the beautiful, colorful flowers. We love to just walk around and admire the beautiful, well kept grounds. The annual musicals, along with the concerts are pure joy and entertainment. The first musical we saw at PPAF was Willy

Wonka. It was that musical that got our daughter to fall in love with theater. She performed on PPAF's stage for the first time in Shrek, The Musical in 2014, and then again in Peter

Pan, in 2015. She also enjoys watching her friends perform with their dance studios, and she gets so excited for PPAF's Monday movie nights.

I am reaching out to you, to let you know just how much Prescott Park means to me, my family, and to so many of the seacoast community. I urge you to please keep the arts alive in Prescott Park.

Thank you for your time.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 9:24 AM

city: Portsmouth

comments: While I have not been able to attend a meeting I wanted to let you know that I support PPAF and what this organization bring to this City. One of the reasons Portsmouth is so loved by residents and visitors is this arts organization. As I walked through town last night I noticed the streets were empty at 7:00PM. It is the arts festival that helps keep our town vibrant during the summer so businesses have a reason to stay open later. Please do not let a few voices destroy what this town loves. Thank you.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 9:43 AM

city: Porstmouth

comments: Hello!

Prescott Park in many ways is a cultural hub of the city. It is a place to gather, see performances and enjoy the waterfront. I visit the park throughout the year. I enjoy it as a place for a moment of reflection at the waterfront and I catch a show there whenever I can, whether that be at PPAF or The Players' Ring. One of the things that keeps me from spending too much time in the park is the refusal to allow dogs. In a town where I can bring my dogs to brunch at Popovers or shop through stores downtown, it seems silly to have a family park exclude two very essential elements of my family - my dogs.

From the time that I have spent in Prescott Park I have noticed that the appearance of the park could be improved. It seems odd to have an out-of-date wooden stage sitting in the middle of a beautiful park. I have seen plans for a new stage with a roof. I think this would be a welcome improvement. I would also like more seating on the dock areas and stabilization of existing benches around the docks. The chain link fences seem to be falling down in places. I appears it is time to replace them.

Thank you for asking for the public's input before a plan is created. I am excited to see the outcome of all of these input sessions.

Thank you,

Engage: Submit

Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 10:13 AM

city: Greenland

comments: The stronger argument here is that PPAF is a great centerpiece of culture to the city of Portsmouth. Reducing the number of active days would result in a lack of both culture and community that the festival brings to Portsmouth.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 12:04 PM

city: Portsmouth

comments: I was unable to attend Sunday, as I was out of town. But I wanted to give you a few comments of what I would like on the master plan from one citizen who uses the park, regularly.

#1: The enclosed stage - I really don't understand how one idea can make a handful of citizens so outraged. It's a no-brainer. Communities throughout NH have done the same in their parks and reaped the rewards for it. Look at Dover! They used to have concerts under a tarp in the courtyard and now they have a beautiful performance shell in their Henry Law Park. Not only has it helped with traffic, sound, and being able to still offer events in the rain, it has added to the ambiance of the park, as well. We want people to enjoy the park and that is done so via the special events and yes, they deserve to have a roof to protect very expensive equipment. I just don't understand how a few people can stop want the masses would like?

#2: Can we please move the treatment plant? Can we please have that space to enjoy? Do you know how many dog owners you have in Portsmouth that use that area as their only place to let dogs be dogs and run and play near the water? Not to mention, it's a great space for the rest of us who want to walk near the water. I live in Atlantic Heights and we had a dog park, tennis court, basketball court, and other green space that was closed by the city/state and it has made our community not so desirable. Don't take another space away. People who can't afford the McMansions deserve a cool space to hang out, too.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 3:14 PM

city: Portsmouth

comments: I did this instead.

<https://www.pinterest.com/kcavalaro/prescott-park-ideas/>

Engage: Submit

Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 5:53 PM

city: Kittery

comments: I support the Prescott park arts festival and believe it brings magic to the waterfront area.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 8:55 PM
city: North Hampton

comments: PPAF... Where do I begin? My daughters have literally grown up on the lawn at so many offerings by the festival... We recap fondly all of the annual musicals we've seen each year since my oldest was a baby... She's now 14...we've learned about some really great music, dance, theater...food events, festivals... To lose any of the incredible offerings at Prescott Park would be a detriment to the seacoast and it's people.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 9:32 PM
city: Stratham

comments: I support the proposed covered stage for Prescott Park. The summer performances in the park are a cultural treasure, not only for the residents of the seacoast of NH, but also for the tourists who keep the local economy humming. The covered stage is beautifully designed and is needed in order to ensure that musical and theatrical performances continue in inclement weather. A definite asset for Portsmouth.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 8:08 PM
city: Dover

comments: Wanted to let you know that we absolutely love Prescott park and the festival. It is great to be able to come out to such a beautiful park and enjoy a play or movie and live music. It is such a wonderful experience that I enjoyed as a child with my parents and now get to share with my children. The events are amazing and thoroughly enjoyed by my family.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 10:22 PM
city: Portsmouth

comments: I am a huge supporter of the Prescott part area and especially the arts festival. I absolutely feel a new stage is necessary as soon as possible and the design I've seen is beautifully functional and in excellent taste and so much safer. Kathleen cavallaro has had some wonderfully creative ideas for the area of the park which I'm sure you've received. There are many beautiful, fun additions to the park which invites families to visit and interact. And the potential for artist interactive use is limitless! A simple circuit route of fun exercise signs would be a family activity at any time, and it would encourage families to see and use the entire park. I would also hope that the businesses of Portsmouth and the surrounding area would help support the improvements to the park.

I moved to Portsmouth after visiting my son and his family in Dover and several visits to the park for concerts, plays and whale climbing (not me). I would love to be part of this exciting time for the community! Thank you!!

Please forgive any spelling or grammar goofs! I'm writing this on a phone.

Engage: Submit

Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 1:33 PM

city: Rye

comments: The Seacoast is so fortunate to have access to a public resource like Prescott Park. I have visited the park and attended events at the Prescott Park Arts Festival with my friends, my wife, my daughter, my parents, my siblings, and my nephews, and I look forward to doing so again this summer. I sincerely hope that a handful of naysayers don't unduly influence the vision for the park's future. It saddens me that plans for an upgraded stage have been delayed by a single obstinate voice, which appears to have outweighed the will of tens of thousands of residents and visitors. Let's build that stage! I moved to Vermont a few years ago to pursue a great job opportunity, but after less than two years there, my wife and I decided to move back to the Portsmouth area precisely because of the rich arts and culture available here. I want to live in a community that supports arts and culture without reservation. Regarding the park itself, I honestly like it the way it is, though I'd certainly welcome ideas for improvements. Direct access to the water would be very nice, though it's already available over the bridge at Peirce/Four Tree Island.

Engage: Submit

Prescott Park Walkabout Questionnaire Submitted via the Comment Form

I attended the Prescott Park Presentation on Sunday

I am a resident of Portsmouth

I am definitely for repairing anything that needs fixing, like benches, fences (ex. By the Peirce Island bridge) as well as tree work.

I am very concerned about the proposal to build a large stage with a large overhang. The open grass area from the stage out to the whale sculpture is really quite narrow as it is. An enlarged structure along with the existing tent & multiple storage containers would be, in my opinion, much too small for that small area.

I am also concerned how much Prescott Park has changed in the last few years – not all for the good in my opinion often summer crowds in the thousands, in a small space, and way too loud music.

Sincerely

Blue Ribbon Committee on the Prescott Park Master Plan
Online Comment Forms (Batch 4)

Sent: June 15, 2016 at 22:08:58

city: Portsmouth

comments: We live blocks from Prescott Park and enjoy every show and performance available during the summer months. It would be a shame to see the offerings limited as it attracts visitors and locals alike. It is a highlight for many friends that come to visit us over the summer. Portsmouth would not be as vibrant if PP was quiet during the summer. The quality of Shakespeare in the park allows us to stay local instead of traveling to NYC for a similar cultural experience. We're lucky to have such a high quality venue in our town.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 05:19:50

city: Portsmouth

comments: Please do not change Prescott Park, the Festival, the performances or anything about this amazing, beautiful joyful place. Prescott Park has been a year long tradition for my family, enjoying all of the summer performances, taking in the Festivals throughout the year and having a location just down the street where kids can play, adults can reconnect and the smells embody what the Seacoast has to offer. The residents of Portsmouth love having this gem in our community - it is good for the local economy and good for our community to bring people together. Please save the Festival, the Park and preserve The Joy that it brings each year.

Thank you,

Engage: Submit

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 22:08:58

city: Portsmouth

comments: We live blocks from Prescott Park and enjoy every show and performance available during the summer months. It would be a shame to see the offerings limited as it attracts visitors and locals alike. It is a highlight for many friends that come to visit us over the summer. Portsmouth would not be as vibrant if PP was quiet during the summer. The quality of Shakespeare in the park allows us to stay local instead of traveling to NYC for a similar cultural experience. We're lucky to have such a high quality venue in our town.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 07:21:43

city: Portsmouth

comments: As a long-time supporter of Prescott Park Arts Festival, I feel I should provide my thoughts regarding the Master Plan. The PPAF is a treasure to the city. Aside from the HUGE positive economic impact it has by bringing many people into the town for the events (who then spend money!), the events also bring people together and create a fun, family-friendly environment for all. Any resident should appreciate the efforts that the volunteers do and be grateful for it. If a few neighbors complain about the noise (which is not too loud nor runs too late), they should move to a more rural area. Living in a city is all about the "action" and the "culture". Ask anyone who lives in Boston or Manhattan if they mind the noise (which is MUCH more), and they will tell you it's the price they pay for the cultural benefits a city provides.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:23:02

city: Portsmouth

comments: I am so lucky to work for Heinemann which is a proud sponsor of Prescott Park and the numerous events that take place. Each year I have attended the various musicals with my family both through Heinemann VIP events and on my own. I love that the park is in such a lovely location. This year I will be signing my daughter up to take part in one of the Jazz Camps for music. Her band teacher Jimi Neel is one of the teachers and mentioned it to our York Middle School Jazz Band students. In the Yorks we do not have many places to attend of the variety and caliber of events that Prescott Park offers. I hope that the festivals continue as they provide wonderful enrichment for the NH and Southern Maine youth.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:16:10

city: Portsmouth

comments: I'm hoping to attend an on-site meeting 6/25 but wanted to comment about PPAF. I am in full support of all of Prescott Park Arts Festival offerings and activities. While I understand that the sound may have to be softened/deflected/turned down at times, I would not want to see the season curtailed/shortened. I directed shows for PPAF in the 80's, and support them now with membership. PPAF provides free entertainment to all ages and has a substantial economic impact on the businesses of Portsmouth. We know from the Americans for the Arts Economic Impact Survey, that arts and culture is a strong part of our economy. Unfortunately those dollars do not go back to the nonprofits, but to the business sector. Shortening or changing PPAF's schedule would have a negative impact the organization's income. So while I understand this Master Plan is about more than just PPAF, I wanted to state my support of that program within the Park.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:15:44

city: Portsmouth

comments: I would like to convey my thoughts on Prescott Park. I have been attending the concert events being held there for quite a few years now. Before then, the park itself with the beautiful flower gardens. The park is a wonderful place to have events such as the concerts. I look forward to seeing the lineup every year. The park has such a family fun environment feel to it. I have been very impressed with the updates of the park and look forward to more updates in the future. Even after you attend an event there, you can then walk around downtown Portsmouth and enjoy all of the stores and restaurants and take a stroll through the beautiful gardens. I feel that Prescott Park is a hidden gem to the city of Portsmouth and we should embrace having a park such as this one in Portsmouth.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:14:51

city: Portsmouth

comments: Heinemann Publishing is a Gold Sponsor for PPAF's 2016 season. Our employees LOVE the access they have to the movies, concerts, and all programs. We would be so disappointed to see their programming suffer. We hope to preserve all the things that make the PPAF art festival so good for our fair city and it's local community as well as the tourist community it brings in. We stand by PPAF and will do whatever we can to show our support.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:08:25

city: Portsmouth

comments: Good Morning,

I'd like to take a few moments to express my opinion regarding the issues surrounding the Prescott Park Arts Festival. In a world of constant news of fear and hatred; the community should be proud that the Arts Festival is able to offer positive, happy, community centric events. These events are the teaching moments to remind our society that happiness beyond a 5 inch screen still exists. Teaching moments to remind people to love thy neighbor and appreciate the place in which we live. As a resident of the south end living less than a city block away from the main stage; I fully support the Arts Festival. It brings me joy to hear the pleasantries of happy people embracing our community. I appreciate the economic support it brings to the local restaurants, shops, and museums. It is important to our community to preserve the park for future generations. Portsmouth needs to hold on to the noises of happiness before it is long lost to sounds of hate. That is what makes this City unique; the happiness that fills the air and clogs our streets.

Thank you for your time.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:07:22

city: Portsmouth

comments: The arts festival at Prescott park is for me, my friends and family one of the most vibrant and healthy offerings this community has. I truly hope that the city/community see and hear the silent majority that LOVE the festival and hope that it will be enhanced and not curtailed due to a few very loud voices. My thoughts and prayers are with the team as you seek to listen and find a way forward.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 08:56:39

city: Portsmouth

I've been in Portsmouth over 20 years and I'm a single father of three children. I can't tell you how much I appreciate Prescott Park and the PP Arts Festival. We've gone to more family events than I can remember, and for the last few years, we've been going to as many concerts as our schedule allows. The Festival is a wonderful place to bring families together so they can spend quality time together. In this day and age where everyone is on their iPhone, or kids are playing video games, etc, I feel that now more than ever the Festival is needed for our community. Please don't change the PP Arts Festival, there are too many people in our City that need it... Thank you,

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 08:50:38
city: Nottingham

comments: I am writing in support of Prescott Park and all the events the Festival holds there each year. One of my family's favorite things to do is go to Portsmouth and see these great events every summer. It's been a tradition for many years and we have seen the growth and popularity increase over the years. These events benefit not only local families, but also the economic focus of Portsmouth and surrounding areas. I hope that the committee considers maintaining or increasing the level of the festival in its upcoming plan. It really does benefit all. Thanks.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 08:49:14
city: Portsmouth

comments: Prescott Park and the variety of performances is one of the best things about living and staying in Portsmouth for the summer. Where else can you get amazing performances (musical & theatrical) at such a low cost...or free! ...so that the great talent and art can be enjoyed by everyone - not just those with lots of money. I feel so fortunate to live within walking distance to Prescott Park & to be a part of a city that enriches the lives of families and people of all socio-economic statuses.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 08:43:49
city: New Castle

comments: I love Prescott and all of the wholesome fun and entertainment it offers here on the seacoast. Prescott Park does an excellent job appealing to every member, gender, and age group in our community and is a wonderful attraction to tourists as well. This is a rare attraction to the seacoast that it seems EVERYONE is a part of. I have been attending Prescott Park shows and concerts ever year since I was a kid. So many memories here. Prescott Park's entertainment gets people in town for a fun evening. It brings people together. I've lived on the seacoast my entire life and if I know one thing, I know the seacoast is all about community. We live it, breathe it, support it, encourage it. Prescott Park is all about community too and it is sad to hear people complain about how much it offers to the community and to visitors. Especially when the season is just four months out of the year.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 08:36:40
city: Kittery

comments: To: The Master Plan Committee

I would like to pleasantly "voice" my concern for the music in the park. As we know surrounding neighbors have been voicing their negativity and opposition to cease or deplete the Arts/Music/Offerings at the Park; I am Pro-Festival because these performances are important for the community. It gives us locals an opportunity to come together with joint in common interest. To see people you don't get to see so often but when summer comes and the music schedule is announced; you're making plans with friends for every

Wednesday or know you will see them at the park. You can make new friends too! The age group is so wide-spread; it's a beautiful thing to see three generations enjoying a musical performance together and have friends bring their children out on a "school-night"...And, another great reason; school's out for summer so let the kids come out to experience LIVE music in their own backyard! It brings us all together.

I reside on the waterfront in Kittery; I can hear almost every play and event across the Piscataqua and quite frankly I love it. I know there's a difference with the neighbors that live much closer however I am just saying that it's comforting to me to know there are families, friends, and others having a joyous time in the park while I'm sitting on my back deck or even just have the windows open.

Please keep the Music going or change the time for it to start earlier.

Thank you,

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 08:29:20

No Town

comments: To whom it may concern. The reason I love this city is the creative atmosphere it brings. This town thrives off of local artist, creative thinkers and the outdoors. Bringing that together in live concerts and shows gives the people something to do. The less activities the people have to do in the town/city they live in makes them venture outside of that town/city. This leads to businesses suffering, higher drug and crime rates, and people moving to other towns. It allows for us to do something during the week. Something to look forward to after work. Cutting one program may not seem like a big thing to some people but it creates a domino effect. Keep the music alive.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:24:50

city: Barrington

comments: I've been told that there is a chance that the PPAF will no longer be able to run movie nights. Movies in the park are something I truly look forward to. I have family visiting from England in August and have already reserved my tickets. I can't imagine a more fun or more beautiful place to share with family.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:25:39

city: Portsmouth

comments: Growing up, I remember attending many of Prescott Parks plays and events with my family. I always enjoyed the performances and festivals as a kid, but now as an adult, I still make sure to attend the play each year. Portsmouth has so much to offer, especially in the sense of community. I have always felt so welcomed in Portsmouth, and it is due to happy, involving events like those that occur at Prescott Park. Without these events, I seriously feel that there would be great loss to the Portsmouth community as a whole. Children love these events, and adults do, also. Talent is performed and shared here, laughter is created, and so, so many memories. Theatre is an art, and I feel that Portsmouth has always been an artful town -- we need to keep it this way. Getting rid of these community events would be saddening. The fact of the matter is that people DO go to these events; you see it in the numbers, you see it when you attend the plays, for you have to

show up early to grab a good seat. People of Portsmouth, and of surrounding towns, love Prescott Park not only for its beauty, but for all of the memories each community member has created there. Many of these times being at the festivals and plays. It would truly be a shame to see the future of Prescott Park altered, and it would truly negatively impact the community as a whole.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 08:26:49
city: rye

comments: I love Prescott Park! We get together with friends every summer for an annual show. Each year that goes by our families have more and more children to share the magic with. The weekly concerts are a amazing local treat that brings culture and community to Portsmouth. Please keep it going!!

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 08:23:08
city: Portsmouth

comments: I am a long time resident of Portsmouth (30 years). The entertainment at the park has been a highlight for our family each & every year. I am now disabled and the summer concert series has taken on added meaning for me, my wife and our family and friends. This incredible venue is the only affordable and completely accessible opportunity for high quality entertainment and badly needed socialization. Winters here are long for those of us with mobility impairments and I can say without a doubt the concerts and shows in the park are the high point of my year. Portsmouth has become a vacation destination for both my extending family and old friends who come enjoy the downtown Portsmouth and particularly the PPAF with us. The activities, concerts & shows in Prescott Park are what make Portsmouth so much more than simply another quaint old town. Saying I enjoy the summer concerts is a huge understatement, I need them. They provide so much to the quality of my life and the quality of my beloved Portsmouth.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 08:17:45

city: Portsmouth
state: NH
zip: 03801

comments: Please continue to support the Prescott Park Arts Festival. The setting that Prescott Park adds to the dramatic and musical events is unparalleled. Musical performances, in particular, are something I eagerly await each season. They're one of the events, Like Market Square Day, that are truly unique and make Portsmouth a treasured gem in all of New England.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 08:16:22
city: Portsmouth
state: NH
zip: 03801

comments: I think what the Prescott Park Arts Festival does is wonderful! Never take away the arts!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 08:15:12

city: Portsmouth

state: NH

zip: 03801

comments: Good Morning,

I am writing in response to the issues surrounding the Prescott Park Arts Festival. As a local business leader and south end resident (I live directly across from the park); I completely support the Arts Festival. I cannot fathom the reasoning behind trying to put an end to such a great community series of events. It is a good thing for the city and people of Portsmouth as well as the surrounding communities on so many levels. These things make Portsmouth unique, these things clog our streets with foot traffic of happy people enjoying our city.

Thank you for your time.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 08:12:46

city: Dover

comments: We are not residents of Portsmouth, but we attend the festival several times throughout the season. We have thoroughly enjoyed all of the music, plays, and movies and it is something our family looks forward to every year. We often bring out of town guests and plan to meet friends from surrounding towns at the festival. It would be unfortunate for the festival to be limited because of a few vocal neighbors.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 08:03:33

city: Portsmouth

state: NH

zip: 03801

comments: I have parked my boat and/or have been on a friend's boat at the park for the past five + years, and find the festival and attractions at the park one of the many reasons I choose to stay living in Portsmouth and support the local economy. We have a unique atmosphere in our city and our celebration of art, music, theater, and food makes this place one of the best in the country. I would feel incredibly bad if the course of Prescott Park were to change due to the discouraging words of a few residents with a louder voice than the general population who enjoy the events at the park. If anything, I am in favor of the park expanding events and offering more services. I pay a premium to keep my boat at this location, and it is not due to the services, it's due to the fact Prescott offers the unique events and its close proximity to downtown. The boating services are minimal, and for the amount of money charged, the Park and what is currently offers is the reason I keep coming back.

I hope the true voice of the Portsmouth residents is heard and the Park can continue its growth and maintain its status as an attraction for all it offers.

Thanks,

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 08:02:52

city: Portsmouth

comments: As a Portsmouth business owner, I treasure the quality of life in this city. A key element of that quality is the Prescott Park Arts Festival. The Festival adds life and richness and has served as a strong economic engine for Portsmouth for years. The loss or reduction of the Festival can only hurt our community. I wholeheartedly support the Festival.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 07:53:02

city: portsmouth

comments: PPAF is the jewel of the City. I have been attending events there for 30 years and do not want the programming reduced. We need to maintain the current status. Our daughter performed in a play there as a child and benefited tremendously from the experience. My wife and I have enjoyed all of the Wednesday night events. It is even free if you cannot afford it!

Do not let a few people, most whom are new neighbors, take from us what we have come to enjoy for decades! It is so much safer and nicer in the evenings then it was years ago. Ask anyone who was in town in the 80's what the Park and that end of State Street was like at night - drunks, drugs, fights etc... Now it is an active hub for City performances!

PPAF is the heart of what makes Portsmouth a vibrant city!

Best

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:27:20

city: Portsmouth

state: NH

zip: 03801

comments: The arts festival is one of the primary things that actually brings us into Portsmouth from Durham. We don't just stop in for an event, we pay to park and then spend the day here from breakfast, shopping, the event and then ice cream afterwards. The residents don't seem to realize that the entire culture and appeal of the city benefits from these events. In Durham, we don't like the loud parties at the college but what would the town be without the college and vibrant youth? PPAF is the same thing!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:27:28

city: Portsmouth

state: NH

zip: 03801

comments: I am writing to express my support for the Prescott Park Arts Festival and my hope that the master plan will embrace and enhance the activities of the Festival. The summer concerts, in particular, under the stars with friends, are the arts highlight of the year for me and my family. Hearing nationally recognized artists, for such an affordable cost, at such a delightful venue, is a real enhancement to the quality of life in Portsmouth.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:27:48
city: Portsmouth
state: NH
zip: 03801

comments: I really enjoy all of the happenings at Prescott Park. I believe PPAF is a good community member. I love summer nights at the park, seeing friends, having a picnic and hearing some great music and plays.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:28:24
city: Exeter
state: NH
zip: 03833

comments: Dear Committee,

I am writing as a member of the seacoast community to express my support for the Prescott Park Arts Festival. This festival is a wonderful event for the entire seacoast community - not just for residents of Portsmouth. The variety of programming for children and adults is wonderful, and brings us to Portsmouth from Exeter several times every summer. It gives us the opportunity to spend the day in a great city that is only 20 minutes from our home. If the festival were to be limited or cancelled, I can only imagine this would have a major impact on the restaurants and businesses in Portsmouth in the summer months. Please vote to continue the festival for years to come.
Thank you,

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:31:27
city: Portsmouth
state: NH
zip: 03801

comments: The Prescott Park Arts Festival is hugely important to me, my family, and my friends. It's vital venue for the arts and it's a huge draw for visitors from all over. I would be devastated if anything were to jeopardize this important cultural gem that we cherish. It's a source of great pride to our community.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:34:30

city: Portsmouth

state: NH

zip: 03801

comments: I'm a financial advisor in Portsmouth. Each year I have a number of clients, representing DOZENS of people who travel from Mass. Maine and other parts of NH to coordinate seeing both me and a show at Prescott. All of these people usually "make a day out of it" stopping off at one of the museums, strolling downtown, and of course eating. I would hope that the programs could be expanded !!

Thank you

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:36:49

city: Rochester

state: NH

zip: 03867

comments: My children and I LOVE the festival events every year. It's such a beautiful and unique venue in the summer, we look forward to it every summer. It's something that brings us to Portsmouth and we end up spending the day here exploring the city. The talent is amazing too. Please keep it going!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:37:03

city: South Berwick

comments: Seeing the summer play with our best friends, sitting on a blanket under the stars, was one of the highlights of every summer. Prescott Park holds such fond memories that my husband and I chose to marry there, in front of the fountain, back in 1998. Thank you for the work you're doing to keep this place alive with beauty, theater, and music! It is truly a treasure.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:40:44

city: York

comments: Writing to say that PPAF is a great thing. I don't attend every show, nor even many for that matter, but I love that the people of this beautiful city and its surroundings have the opportunity to see top-notch artists of many sorts. The events are always well run, and they benefit the city and the Seacoast in so many ways. It makes the area more attractive to live and work in. Imagine Central Park in NYC without its programming! Anyway, I hope we keep PPAF strong!!! Especially as an employee of a local company that annually supports PPAF.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:43:00

city: Northampton

comments: For 15 years my family and I lived in Durham, NH and the Prescott Park Festival was always part of our summer adventures. The Festival was and is part of a urban community that is missing in the out lying towns. It defines a place as more than just shops and residences. It defines the summer season along the sea

coast. I would no more want to eliminate the Festival than close the beaches because the crowds make it inconvenient to drive to the Walmart.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:43:13

city: Portsmouth

comments: Although I am not a concert person...My family has completely enjoyed the plays. My daughter, who is in her school's drama club, along with club-mates attends various plays each year as their Drama Teacher likes them to see the process and cultural experience different aspects of the 'play'. People come together at this events and the experiences have only been good/positive.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:48:42

city: Rye

comments: I gre up in Rockland Strret and one of my first memories of PPAF is hearing from a classmate at Little Harbor, who lived on Gate St, that he fell asleep on summer nights listening to the music of Annie. I was jealous beyond belief. My other memory of the Park is exploring the gardens and flower beds and feeling as if they were huge, beautiful mazes, there just for me and my sister to run around. The Park and the Festival are a beautiful, important part of this city - one that inspired my childhood, and one that today urges me outdoors on summer nights to hear Martin Sexton and amongst my community (not home in front of the TV); it inspires kids to be actors and singers; it brings music shows my Nashville friends are impressed by; it enhances the life, lifestyle, culture, worldview, ambiance - and, it has to be said, home market values of our community. A Master Plan for Portsmouth is a wonderful opportunity to proactively manage and merge the visions, priorities, and potential of our town and community. It must, however, include PPAF.

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:53:39

city: Portsmouth

comments: Please keep the Prescott Park Festival with its public performances and activites. It's such an important part of the life of the city and brings many from far and wide--who support the downtown businesses and restaurants. Since moving here 5 years ago, we've been fortunate to attend several PP events and have always been impressed by the quality of the performance and their superior level of organization. Our fellow attendees have always been polite to each other and respectful of the park. A very enjoyable time all-around. It would be a crime to loose such a beneficial venue. Please keep it going strong!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:51:45

city: Portsmouth

comments: Good Morning, I am writing to express concern about Prescott Park Arts Festival. I understand that there are members of the community that would like events scaled back or eliminated all together; I can't express how devastating this would be. For the last 30 years I have attended the plays every summer. Sometimes I knew them, sometimes not, but being able to gather a community in an absolutely beautiful location to promote arts is something I'll never forget as a child and now something I pass on as an adult.

So much has changed in this city the last few years and this is a tradition that needs to stay. It's getting hard to recognize what once was so much history with the amount of new tourism and condos. This is something the locals love...maybe with the exception of a few but you can't please everyone. Year after year the shows are maxed to capacity. I remember getting to the park so early to stake out the best spot with my mom and then walking around the city enjoying all it has to offer. In a world where kids are so technologically based, these shows bring culture, laughter, and most importantly inexpensive memories that will last a lifetime.

I hope you consider keeping the authenticity of what the park has always brought to this city.
All the best

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 09:54:40
city: Portsmouth

comments: As a resident of Portsmouth for almost 5 years (and a Seacoast resident my whole life), I look forward to the Prescott Park Arts Festival (the concerts, the plays, etc.) every year. Portsmouth is an amazing town and the PPAF is such a welcome and added bonus to the community. I've attended almost every concert over the past 5 years, and each time, the performer/s are always so excited to be in our city and play in such a unique and beautiful spot. For a few hours each night throughout the summer, the PPAF brings the community together to enjoy the universal language of music and art; in a country (and world) with so much hate, how can this ever be seen as a bad thing?

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 10:09:12
city: Stratham

comments: I fully support Prescott Art Festival's current mission of continuing and increasing arts and culture exposure in the Seacoast area. Not only does this venue expose our region to the education, excitement, recreation and possibilities of self expression, the festival drives the Portsmouth economy by bringing customers to the city's restaurants and retail stores.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 10:10:43
city: Rye

comments: I attended Carousel, the very first show back in 1975, while visiting my grandmother. It's a memory that has stuck with me and now I love that there is always something that is creating wonderful memories for visitors and locals alike. So long as PPAF are good stewards of the land, let's keep this wonderful venue thriving for all.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 10:18:21
city: Portsmouth

comments: The Prescott Park activities and festivals is a GEM to this town! We are so lucky to live in an area that offers such wonderful shows and music! Its a great way to spend a summer evening with friends and grab a bite to eat and just unwind from a stressful week. Keep it just as is!

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 10:28:08

city: Rye

comments: As the city begins the process of evaluating and considering the future of Prescott Park, I want to submit that for many local residents, Prescott Park is a haven amid the ever-present (and in some cases downright objectionable) building projects in downtown Portsmouth. My family moved to the area full-time five years ago and have eagerly attended performances, plays, concerts and more in the Park. It is the highlight of Portsmouth tours when we have friends and family visiting. My children can't wait for the summer showcase plays and the family-friendly movies present a terrific and low-key way to gather and socialize with friends. Every single time I find myself listening to live music in the park on a summer evening ... enveloped in a community of diverse yet equally appreciative individuals, I look at the moon over the river and think "I wouldn't want to love anywhere else in the world."

Please don't change a thing.

Thank you.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 10:30:43

city: Portsmouth

comments: Have enjoyed the musicals with my family for many years. Please continue this great Arts Festival program!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 10:33:05

city: So. Berwick

comments: We love Prescott Park...from the plays, to the concerts, to the beauty of it all! The plays are such a huge draw. We have people who come from out of town to see the plays. Because we have brought our family, my son is now involved in plays at school and hopes to do a Prescott Park Play. In addition to the events, we always either get something to bring for dinner or go to dinner in town beforehand. The events do more for the community than offer something to do. I believe it's a very big draw to Portsmouth. I hope you keep those events happening!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 10:34:47

city: York

comments: As a longtime Seacoast resident (many years in Portsmouth, fewer years in York), I'm an ardent attendee of the Portsmouth Park Arts Festival. The lineup of top-notch musical talent playing there throughout the summer rivals any big city. I hope that while reworking the city's Master Plan of the park, that the city planners continue to value it the same way seacoast residents do. Thank you for your consideration,

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 10:37:44
city: Portsmouth

comments: I am writing to support the continued operation of the Festival and all of the other events open to the public. My wife and I thoroughly enjoy attending these and hope that they can continue unabated. Prescott Park is our Central Park and "holds the center" of the city for all to enjoy, not just by being a place of solitude, beauty, and peace, but as a lively, entertaining, attractive focus of our vibrant city.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 10:45:41
city: Hampton

comments: The arts are a VERY important part of the Portsmouth culture, and the wide variety of Prescott Park Festival offerings throughout the summer are treasured and highly valued by the Portsmouth community and the surrounding communities. I urge City of Portsmouth committee in charge of shaping a master plan for the future of Prescott Park to not take away or do away with the Prescott Park Festival!! This would be a HUGE disservice to the City of Portsmouth!!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 10:46:04
city: Rye

comments: I recently heard from a friend that there may be some changes in regards to what is allowed for performances at Prescott park. I wanted to voice that my family has been attending concerts/ plays there for the past decade and we truly look forward to the wonderful experience of sitting outside under the stars on a summer night and watching/listening to the talent in front of us. I think it would be such a shame to lose one of portsmouths truly treasured cultural experiences. I am certainly a supporter of continuing the outdoor performances at Prescott park!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 10:51:28
city: Dover

comments: I've been attending events hosted by PPAF since I was a little girl. I remember magic of Cinderella and the nostalgia brought about by The Wizard of Oz and I can't imagine a time when performances like this will no longer take place in Prescott Park. I know I do not live in Portsmouth and don't completely know the effects these events have on the surrounding neighborhood, but I do know that when you consider purchasing a house, you weigh things like what's around your potential new home and how that may impact your day to day living. I also think the Seacoast community (the vast majority) is not being considered in this decision and instead a select few want to change things for their benefit. What happened to the greatest good for the greatest number? PPAF brings the arts, music, and culture to Portsmouth and it's what makes Portsmouth, Portsmouth!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 10:54:24
city: Portsmouth

comments: Dear Master Plan Committee,

I am a resident of Portsmouth and wanted to voice my support for Prescott Park. It is indeed one of the greatest treasures of our community and it would be a terrible misfortune were it to be silenced or curtailed. As a community, we need these opportunities to get together and enjoy the presence of one another in a peaceful and fun environment. Having these low cost musical and theatre opportunities accessible to all is really an exercise in community building. It is also a great boon to tourism, giving folks something fun to do while they are here. I am sure the music and theatre is an additional reason to visit. We must continue to preserve those institutions and traditions that promote creativity and quality of life and Prescott Park is definitely one of them.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 11:03:23
city: Rye

comments: I love Prescott Park. It is one of my favorite places to go in Portsmouth simply because of the constant activities and fun that it provides for the community and the great opportunities it affords many in the Portsmouth area. Please keep it at full capacity and continue the generous arts program there.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 11:15:21
city: Portsmouth

comments: The festivals at Prescott Park are a fabulous way to enjoy a night with friends, family and the community. Please don't take away such a fantastic celebration of life, arts and music!!! It's ONLY a couple days in 365 days of a year. Thank you.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 11:24:32
city: Dover

comments: PLEASE keep the festival as it is! My family LOVES to go to Prescott park for movies, concerts etc. It's one of my favorite parts of living on the seacoast. I always bring out of towners there to show them just how awesome living in and around Portsmouth is! Thanks for all you do! I can't wait to take my family to the Little Mermaid this summer. We saw Peter Pan last year and were so moved by the fantastic performance!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 11:40:58
city: Portsmouth

comments: We have lived in Portsmouth since 1990 and from the beginning, Prescott Park has provided so much joy. Our firm has been a sponsor of the Arts Festival and we have all loved attending concerts and plays along with family, friends and clients. People wait all year to enjoy the benefits of the program and the park. It's another of Portsmouth's unique draws for the locals and tourists.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 11:43:10
city: Portsmouth

comments: The Prescott Park Arts Festival is a wonderful addition to our lively and growing City. It brings in people from all over the region, and provides much needed entertainment options for families. As shown by the huge crowds that attend every performance, it's clear that PPAF is well loved. The evenings that I spent last summer listening to live music outdoors or watching a movie were some of the best I had. I look forward to the schedule every year!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 11:58:39
city: York

comments: I think it would be a travesty to discontinue the PPAF. My family and I go several times every summer. My children group up watching School House Rock and many other children's plays. Many aspiring young actors have had the opportunity to feel what it is like to be on stage. We have a good friend whose daughter is amazingly talented and has been involved in several of the stage productions. What a great beginning for these young performers. I think it would be a terrible loss to the whole seacoast community. There are not many venues any more where just anyone can experience theater/entertainment at a reasonable price. Please keep the PPAF as part of your master plan. Very truly yours, Heidi Stevens

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 12:07:51
city: Dover

comments: The value and wonder that is generated by the Prescott Park Art festivals are truly one of the draws of our little corner of the world. Every spring I eagerly review the list of acts coming to the stage and plan family outings and date nights to be spent in Portsmouth, taking in the show and being a consumer in locally owned establishments. The festivals are a great attribute and need to be protected and nurtured to preserve the city's position as a center of culture. I urge you to remember that a park is for the many, and in an era when technology makes it easier to be remote, a festival is where we can still come together as a community.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 12:09:35
city: Portsmouth

comments: Please do not stop the Prescott Park Arts Festival! It's a large part of the community for families and singletons alike! We bring our daughter to the plays, and music events. It would be a tragedy to limit activities in the space due to neighbors complaining of noise. The park and festival have been a part of that area for years.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 12:12:28
city: rye

comments: Please continue to keep the performances (all kinds!) at the park. Our family has attended and performed there since 1993, something we look forward to every summer. It's OUR tradition!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 12:16:19
city: Portsmouth

comments: I love the Prescott Park Festival and don't want to see it limited in any capacity!!!!!!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 12:32:03
city: Portsmouth

comments: Please preserve the festival: it's been a family tradition for years to go. That particular area of Portsmouth will no longer be visited by many people if the festival is discontinued; that means less revenue for local businesses!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 12:32:32
city: Stratham

comments: I heard you are considering cuts to the PPAF. Don't!!! I have so many happy memories of that festival and feel it is one of the most special things that Portsmouth has to offer. I was a long time resident of Portsmouth (1990-2006) and have lived in Stratham since. Even as a child in the 70s I spent my summers in York and have so many fond memories of watching the shows with my cousins at the park. After leaving the area for a couple of years, I came back and remember living near downtown when I was single, walking, running or biking to the park in the summer just to peak at what was going on, and marvel how lucky I was to have this in my own backyard. Then I took my own children to the shows every summer. The Portsmouth Jazz festival has been a family tradition for almost 20 years. My siblings and I take my parents every year for their anniversary (54 years on July 7th). We attended the Newport Jazz Festival one year in the mid 90s, but then all concluded Portsmou

th was just as good and more fun. In the last couple of years I discovered the Wed. night music concerts. I attended almost everyone last year. It's my absolutely favorite venue for music. I still can't believe how lucky I am to have the opportunity to see great artists 10 minutes from my house for ~\$10. I have many friends who

feel the same (as you can tell from the attendance at most presentations) Don't take this away!! That is Portsmouth to me.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 12:38:58

city: Portsmouth

comments: Prescott Park is a treasured part of our community. I've been going to shows at the park since I was a teen. Countless tourists come to the park each year to see the shows and support our local businesses. We should support an expanded program at the park with our time, our voices, and our tax dollars. If the neighbors don't like the audio, they shouldn't have purchased homes nearby..... I live near the RR tracks, it is noisy, but I knew that before I bought the house..... All the Prescott Park neighbors knew it too, and if they don't like it, sell their house to someone who does..

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 12:39:30

city: Kittery

comments: I love the Prescott Park Arts Festival. It's a great summer tradition and a wonderful opportunity to unplug my kids from their video games and send them outside. Even if I'm home, across the river, it's always a pleasure to catch parts of a Wednesday night concert drifting across the rive on the the breeze. Keep it up Portsmouth!!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 12:41:58

city: Portsmouth

comments: Scaling back the festival to make it a more local event is OK with me. I preferred it when I could wander down there and put a blanket out just a half hour before the show and no one would charge me \$49 to do it. We have lots of local talent and the park would be a great place for their voices to be heard.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 12:42:47

city: Portsmouth

comments: Please do not eliminate the festivals and concerts from Prescott Park. As a citizen and employee of Portsmouth, these festivals and music events support our town, our local economy, and bring the community together. We need to keep Portsmouth upbeat, and encourage people to come together and support each other through music and community and local sustainability. Please continue to keep the festivals and music shows going in the park!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 12:44:48

city: Portsmouth

comments: I cannot imagine Portsmouth without PPAF, and what it brings to this city each and every year. I have gone to many of the festivals, plays and shows and have been beyond impressed each and every time. I think it would be a sin to dull PPAF's magnificent shine. The few that complain about the noise and the crowds are not understanding the significance that PPAF adds to this CITY, the key word is "city." To me a city means liveliness and people...that's exactly what PPAF adds and then some. Why are some trying to make something Portsmouth is not? I moved 10 years ago and over the past couple years, I have seen Portsmouth emerge and take on a new persona, a persona that I feel will destroy the Portsmouth the Majority of us know and love! Please do not dull PPAF's shine, keep it the way it is, spectacular and something most look forward to enjoying in the summertime!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 13:06:52

city: Hampton

comments: Please make sure the Prescott Park Arts Continue as I am a frequent visitor to the live theater and concerts in the park. I have been going there since I moved here in 1968. Not having this would be a great tragedy for those of us that have been partaking in this for years and for those generations coming up who have not yet experienced this wonderful right of summer.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 13:14:47

city: Rochester

comments: Attending performances at Prescott Park is a highlight of my summer. I have a family membership, and we all enjoy spending our summer evenings in such a glorious place. It is a place meant to be used and enjoyed and shared! Many times we have friends from out of town visit, and the Arts Festival is a place we are proud to share with them. Most nights at the Park mean dinner in a nearby restaurant or drinks out afterward. These businesses would certainly all be affected if there were no shows to attend. The Arts Festival also provides performance space for so many local children to get their start in the theatre, and a place to come back to with their own families later. The diversity of offerings is stellar, and Portsmouth has come to be known for this Festival. Reducing or eliminating it would leave a huge gap, and send many tourist dollars to other concert and theatre venues in Portland or Newburyport. The Festival has been in existence for many years, and people buying property in the neighborhood should be aware of this fact and not try to change such an important fixture in the city. Thank you for providing this opportunity to give feedback.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 13:19:13

city: Portsmouth

comments: I fully support the Prescott Park Arts Festival and all its activities. As a hugely popular program, the Festival has a very positive impact on the community by generating family friendly activities, tourism revenue for area business & general excitement about Portsmouth. Seeing these activities limited in anyway would be a detriment to the community. Please ensure that the public activities at Prescott Park have the committee's full support. Thank you for your time!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 12:38:30
city: Portsmouth

comments: I am in support of the Festival. I currently work in the city and have only met a number of people that are also in support and do not seem to understand where the negative feedback is coming from.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 12:59:57
city: Portsmouth

comments: I love living in Portsmouth. Part of the reason I love it here is the vibrant community and access to the arts. Prescott Park is, and always has been, a hub for the arts. Events that attract visitors are what allows our small city to support the restaurants, shops and festivals that we as residents all enjoy. The vocal minority claims they are protecting the traditional Portsmouth. It is clear however, that they are misguided in their efforts. I have been attending events in the Park for over 35 years. The plays and concerts are a Portsmouth tradition just as much as the stone sidewalks and well preserved historic homes are. It breaks my heart that a small group of very loud residents who have likely not been a part of the community in any other fashion but to complain and cause dissent, have brought us to a place where despite widespread support our access to the arts is at risk.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 11:28:04
city: Portsmouth

comments: I have been living and/or working in Portsmouth for the last 10 years. Every year I am amazed and fascinated by all of the events coming out of the Prescott Park Arts Festival. I am so happy that now that I have children I can continue to show them the fun and magic of plays in the park and concerts by the water. We are all ready to see the Little Mermaid in two weeks and meet Ariel! Taking away these events would be a huge disservice to many families and the community as a whole.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 13:42:37
city: Dover

comments: Prescott Park Arts Festival has been a part of my summer for many years. My nieces and nephew would come every year from Maryland to stay with us for a week and bringing them to the show at the park was always a highlight. Many family members would attend each time we went. As they have grown my shift has been to enjoying the music. The concerts are a meeting place for my friends and I each week. We revel in the fantastic artists whether known to us or not. It is such a fun family atmosphere. I have also attended movies, dance performances and the Shakespeare productions. This venue is an integral part of my summer fun. Thank you so much for providing such a fantastic venue and amazing programming for people of all ages and walks of life.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 10:54:24
city: Portsmouth

comments: Dear Master Plan Committee,

I am a resident of Portsmouth and wanted to voice my support for Prescott Park. It is indeed one of the greatest treasures of our community and it would be a terrible misfortune were it to be silenced or curtailed. As a community, we need these opportunities to get together and enjoy the presence of one another in a peaceful and fun environment. Having these low cost musical and theatre opportunities accessible to all is really an exercise in community building. It is also a great boon to tourism, giving folks something fun to do while they are here. I am sure the music and theatre is an additional reason to visit. We must continue to preserve those institutions and traditions that promote creativity and quality of life and Prescott Park is definitely one of them.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 14:14:39
city: Manchester NH

comments: Dear Committee Members,

As an artist and a musician who for some reason felt the need to get out in front of live humans and perform for them, and then eventually make it a career, I feel as though I should lend my input to the proceedings regarding Prescott Park. It began very early for me - I was taught guitar at age 9 by Seacoast area guitarist Brian Killough, and shortly thereafter I began performing live. That was 20 years ago, and since then I have released multiple albums with bands, toured the east coast with them, and then went on to what has currently become my life, which is my solo career. I just released my fourth album, and completed my ninth tour of the eastern US. I call New Hampshire my home, very proudly, while peers of mine choose to move away in pursuit of some sort of life they feel they might be worthy of living. My life is here in New Hampshire.

Last summer, I had the absolute extreme pleasure of opening for John Fullbright, a Grammy-nominated songwriter, in front of a massively receptive crowd at Prescott Park. I began the set and there were several hundred people watching. Three songs in, I opened my tightly clenched eyes to find that the park had filled up very nicely. Perhaps, it was the largest crowd I have ever performed for. It was a thrill. It was life-affirming. It made me realize that I had been on the right path for twenty years, even though there have been some roadblocks and naysayers prominently stationed along the way. That evening at Prescott Park, upon walking off stage at what was most honestly the BEST show of my LIFE, I strolled into the crowd and was overwhelmed with kind words and showings of creative affection, and many folks hoping to buy my record or have it signed. Everyone I came into contact with was happy, positive, and a supporter of the vibrant arts scene in New Hampshire. I talked to a

father whose son was beginning guitar at the same age I did, and just so happened to be taking lessons with the same teacher I did. I just heard recently that seeing me perform in the park that day was a big moment for that Father's son. That's nothing to laugh at or write off. Life consists of moments strung together, and some are looming large day-to-day, and others are just little ant hills to step over. My memory of that day at Prescott Park will stand like a pillar of hope in my mind until I am an old man. Weathered, perhaps wise, with an arm of wrinkled tattoos, sitting down and plucking a guitar somewhere, thinking back to my first real big gig that reminded me why I love what I do, and why I love people who support the arts. Without them, the world's energy is not at full force.

At the risk of sounding too self-absorbed, I'd like to draw this note to a close. I guess what I was getting at, is that the public needs incredible things like the Prescott Park concert series, because the average New Hampshire person is hard-working, proud, and they need a positive outlet and a platform in which to remind them of the beauty of the arts. Prescott Park is entirely too important for it to be hindered by politics, or by folks who feel their loud voices of opposition should be appeased by clinching the rope around the neck of

something like Prescott Park. It is far too important. I hope it continues for a long, long time. It is vital, necessary, and very very well done.

Thank you for your time.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 14:24:24
city: Kittery

comments: I'm a 37 year old lifelong resident of Seacoast NH. The Prescott Park Arts Festival is as much a part of the seacoast as Prescott Park itself. I remember going to the PPAF as a child, sitting on a blanket with my family, listening to music and eating white pizza from the Rosa. Now I do the same with my own step son, niece and nephew. PPAF is part of the lifeblood of Portsmouth, and it brings local young families to town. To let a small group of negative neighbors bring down the festival would be a travesty, and I believe it would cause irreparable damage to Portsmouth's economy and culture.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 14:26:29
city: Portsmouth

comments: Dear Prescott Park Master Plan Committee,

I am writing to voice my support for PPAF and the work that they do at Prescott Park. I am a Portsmouth resident and truly appreciate the opportunity to attend shows, concerts, festivals, and events at Prescott Park. Seeing movies in the park, listening to concerts, watching plays -- they are all part of summer in Portsmouth. Each year, going to shows in Prescott park is a way to connect with friends and community. Part of what makes our city so vibrant is our commitment to the Arts.

I have read feedback that is critical of PPAF shows, saying that they are too loud or a nuisance. I must vehemently disagree and state that I think the timing of performances is such that the noise abates at an hour that is reasonable.

PPAF is a gift to our community. It brings people together to celebrate, socialize, and enrich their lives. Thanks for your work on this committee. I imagine it often feels like thankless work, but all of us who enjoy performances and events at PPAF truly do appreciate what you are doing.

Sincerely,

Engage: Submit

Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 3:23 PM
Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 14:23:23
city: Portsmouth

comments: Our Matches at Big Brothers Big Sisters NH have thoroughly enjoyed going to shows, concerts, movies and especially to our annual Highlight Evening at the chosen play of the season. The excitement on our

"Littles" faces as they enter the park says it all! They bring blankets, picnics and settle in for a night of fun and entertainment. In fact some of our "Littles" have taken an interest in theatre since attending!
From a personal perspective my family has been enjoying the arts festivities for over 25 years. My children still speak about the wonderful childhood memories at Prescott Park's Arts Festival. I am hoping to one day share these fond memories with my Grandchildren! Where else can one picnic on the water while enjoying an array of top notch arts entertainment?

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 14:33:06

city: Kittery

comments: I'm writing in support of the current Festival schedule, hoping you will decide not to eliminate any programs. The summer season is short, so we need to pack in as much as we possibly can. I love attending the shows - be it a movie, concert, or play (Shakespeare being a favorite!). Sitting on the lawn by the water in the warm night air is a unique and almost transforming experience. I love bringing guests to the park, too! I hope the neighbors can try to embrace the noise and the crowds as part of the tapestry of Portsmouth - kind of like waiting for the bridge to go up and down - Relax and enjoy it - It comes with the territory!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 14:57:10

city: Dover

comments: I just want to take a minute to share my full support for the Prescott Park Arts Festival and all of its summer events, movies and happenings. This brings in tourists and makes family memories. As far as complaining neighbors go, if you are bothered by noise, you should not live in the downtown area of a thriving arts community. You should live in the country.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 15:51:39

city: Kennebunk

comments: We hope Prescott Park will continue to grow as it has been over the last ten years. As a yearly sponsor we have many of our employees travel to the Park to enjoy movies, musical and theatrical performances because of our sponsorship. It's one of the best responses we've had to an event we sponsor - our staff members get out to enjoy accessible entertainment and all that Portsmouth has to offer during the short summer months. We hope that people will be able to continue to access the park as they have done for years.

Portsmouth is actually a city and sometimes that entails residents having to endure the activity, energy, and yes, noise that make up a city!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 15:53:17

city: Portsmouth

comments: My business has sponsored Prescott Park Arts Festival for the past several years in the form of an in-kind sponsorship that has had us out filming many, many events. What happens in the park is very special, and is truly one of the things that makes Portsmouth so unique. To try to shape the festival into anything other than what it is would be doing an immense disservice to the city and to our local economy. Anchor Line believes in the magic of the Prescott Park Arts Festival, and we think you should too!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 16:20:59

city: Portsmouth

comments: I am commenting to the Master Plan Committee to support the Prescott Park Arts Festival in all its current glory. I attend movies, live music and the musical every summer. With everything Prescott Park has to offer I attend the Park's shows between 10 and 15 times a summer. It is such an amazing setting and always is a great experience for friends and family of all ages. I buy dinner downtown before and after shows. I am a resident of Portsmouth but so many non-residents have told me how much they enjoy the Arts Festival. I also manage Colonial Bicycle Company, a local business that has been supporter of the Arts Festival the last two years and will continue to do so. Obviously I am a huge proponent of the Ride your Bike to the Arts Festival Program. I ride my bike to the Festival every time and I ride my bike downtown for 95% of my trips to town. Most of the other 5% I walk.

Thank you for your time and for reading my comments. Please continue to support the great things that Prescott Park Arts Festival continues to offer.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 16:28:54

city: South Berwick

comments: Every year I anxiously await the festival lineup for the summer, and then pour over it with my sister as we decide what to attend. Trampled by Turtles, Shrek, The Milk Carton Kids and so many others have become highlights of our summers over th years. Many, many friends have been involved with the musicals in the park, and others spent their summers during high school working for the park at consessions etc. Prescott Park's music and theater scene are a large part of why I'm still in touch with old friends, as we run into each other week after week at these shows. It would be devistating to lose any part of this community that has been built around the Festival etc. if it is no longer offered. Please PLEASE don't get rid of this vibrant and iconic part of what makes the city of Portsmouth great.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 16:43:16

city: Dover

comments: Every year I have gone to Prescott Park an have enjoyed the plays & concerts. I have usually brought out of town guests with me to see the performances. We usually eat out an one of the. Restaurants and enjoy the downtown. The quality of the performances have been remarkable. I

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 16:53:43

city: Exeter

comments: Me and my family treasure Prescott Park's summer series. Each summer we make special plans to attend the children's theatre. This year we are adding the Sarah Watkins concert to our schedule as well. We park at Pierce Island and walk to the park. We arrive early and eat in town ahead of time.

Each time we go I sit there in awe that we have this amazing arts and culture available to everyone for just a few donated dollars. it makes us feel very lucky to live on the Seacoast and have access to such a high caliber production.

We love the park, the music, the theatre and hope to continue going for years to come.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 17:31:47

city: North Hampton

comments: I should very much like to see Prescott Park continue to be the place where people go to enjoy all that is offered, the theater, concerts or just a leisurely stroll by the water. I and my family have the park for many years. Please keep all programs in tack.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 19:08:31

city: Portsmouth

comments: The high quality of musical performers at the Park in recent years is something any city would be envious of having, and more impressive still is that families can hear them for an affordable price. While we think of these musicians as adult entertainment, any one who has been to the park on a summer night is aware of the many young people tapping to the beat on a blanket or dancing at the foot of the stage. The future of music and art will be shaped in the 21st century by these young folk. Don't let an annoyed vocal few - who let's be honest knew they were buying into a community that hosts music festivals - spoil it for the many of all ages.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 19:30:51

city: Portsmouth

comments: I have heard that the board needs to know how much I treasure the performances and productions of the Arts Festival. These summer performances always remind me of my early days in Portsmouth 29 years ago, and all the many summers evenings since then spent on the grass at Prescott Park taking in a show and feeling grateful to live in such a great city where nights like that are possible. Please continue with this wonderful and valued tradition. Thank you.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 20:23:09

city: Portsmouth

comments: It saddens me that a few neighbors of Prescott park are trying to dictate what goes on there. Prescott park is an institution in Portsmouth that should be persevered and treasured. Please save the park and the joy that the festivities bring.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 21:39:34

city: Portsmouth

comments: I filled out a form on Sunday for the main part of the park and write to share my feedback on Four Tree Island which I was able to walk to today.

In general, like the rest of the park, it looks a little tired, could use a new fence at the entrance. The trash receptacles and water fountains are dated. The structures could use some TLC. The path walking to the island needs some landscaping. That aside, the area is really lovely. It is open, you almost feel as if you are on the river somehow as you are surrounded by water and the views looking back to the City are amazing. You almost can forget the Navy Shipyard and its constant hum in back of you when you do that. As for the activity there, I love that you can picnic out there and even hold a fairly large gathering.

I wish it could be connected to the main park in some fashion either from some footbridge or causeway from either the Prescott Pier or the Sheafe Warehouse. I realize, however that the commercial fishing pier is there and that the large fishing boats have antennas that extend quite far up. It would be difficult to find a way around that. Alternatively, the bridge is going to be replaced and perhaps that could be expanded to accommodate more foot/bike traffic and angled in such a way or have an extension that connects the bridge to the path.

In general, I think connecting Four Tree Island to the main park should be a very high, if not the highest, priority. Please keep the parking there as it is convenient for picnickers. Not everyone is lucky enough to live in walking distance to it as we are.

Miscellaneous:

It is not clear if the City intends to use the triangle of land to the right of the bridge near Mechanic Street for the wastewater pumping station. I hope not and that that area could be made into a pocket garden or a picnic area, or just an area to sit on a bench and watch passersby. Right now, it's just this little forlorn piece of land.

It would be nice if some kind of historical exhibit could be mounted in the Sheafe or Shaw Warehouses describing their significance and the origins and of the park. In general, it would be nice to have those buildings more open and accessible to park visitors.

The PPAF takes up a lot of the Open Lawn B. It would be nice if all of their structures could be temporary so that they can be quickly taken up and down as needed (except for the concession pavilion obviously as that is newly constructed and permanent). It would be nice if the temporary structures could compliment the Shaw and Sheafe Warehouses. In general, the PPAF's footprint should be reduced.

In the formal entry, could the space be reconfigured to be even more like a public square facing the Hovey Fountain, like you have in Gramercy Park in NYC or in public squares in London? I do hope those bollards can be removed and the hardscape can be reduced.

As for the trees, I have been told that they are Norwegian maples, which are an invidious species and I think are kind of weeds. We have one on our lot, which was planted at the same time as the trees in the park and may have been from the same batch (Josie Prescott cleared our parcel around the same time as the "northern" part of the park). We took one of the trees down since it is not indigenous to the area. As soon as we can, we are taking the other one down. Are there any thoughts of doing the same with these trees?

As for activities taking place in the park, I'd like to see the park less active and more passive.

I'd be curious to find out from the consultants how the Sawtelle Pier, the Prescott Pier and the T Pier are being used. Do people fish on that a lot?

Some incorporation of bike paths. My kids learned how to ride their bikes in that park as did my husband and his sister many years ago. I know that biking is not allowed in the park but it seems that some kind of path right next to the river would be possible.

I know that the consultants talked about improving access to the river but it really can't be used in any kind of recreational way. It is very polluted (hopefully, it will be cleaned up in the near future) and it is very dangerous. It is not suitable for swimming due to its currents.

Lastly, my best guess as to what Josie Prescott wanted the park to be was more "ornamental" than anything else, I think she wanted to beautify the area with trees, flowers, grass but yet keep it as open space as well. I hope we can achieve that with this master plan.

Thank you.

Engage: Submit

Friday, June 17, 2016 at 07:25:06

city: York

comments: We look forward to and attend the events at Prescott Park every summer and have since we moved here in 1993. It is a great offering from such a small city. Let's keep it going!

Engage: Submit

Friday, June 17, 2016 at 07:42:18

city: Portsmouth

comments: Prescott Park is a wonderful asset for our family, friends, neighbors and the city

Engage: Submit

Friday, June 17, 2016 at 07:47:24

city: Stratham

comments: Prescott Park is such an important part of our Seacoast community. It brings people together- as families and as a community- and provides a significant impact to our economy. The growth and diversity of

offerings are critical- and my family has enjoyed so many of the different activities offered. I hope as you consider the future of prescott park, you continue to grow and develop this important community resource. Thank you.

Engage: Submit

Friday, June 17, 2016 at 09:13:54

city: Kensington

comments: I wanted to express my support for the new stage at Prescott Park. This is a wonderful summer venue. A great way and place to spend the evening with family, friends and co-workers. The new stage will be a true showcase for our community while not impacting the beautiful gardens and riverfront. It would be a true shame if this does not become a reality due to a few objections. As this is a downtown venue and location we need to look too the long term and what is best for the growth and support of the arts for our entire seacoast region.

Engage: Submit

Friday, June 17, 2016 at 09:30:29

city: Eliot

comments: I saw that there have been negative comments on the performances at Prescott park, but personally I absolutely love the performances held here! The actors and actresses are FABULOUS every single year! I love coming to watch these performances, and I will continue to come each year to see them!

Engage: Submit

Blue Ribbon Committee on the Prescott Park Master Plan
Online Comment Forms (Batch 5)

Friday, June 17, 2016 at 09:56:31

city: S. Berwick

zip: 03908

comments: The Portsmouth business community actively endorses the current Prescott Park Arts Festival Master Plan! The festival is a vibrant, positive addition to the City every summer. Portsmouth benefits from the many local families who eat out at restaurants before the show, as well as tourists who come to Portsmouth and stay at local hotels because they have heard about the Festival. We value the Festival's promotion of family-friendly entertainment in a venue unlike any other. The facelift to Portsmouth's harbor front that is inherent in the Master Plan is a long overdue and welcome change that will solidify Portsmouth's reputation as a family-friendly, beautiful, clean and safe place to live, work, and visit. Heinemann, an educational publisher and member of the Portsmouth business community for over 35 years, heartily endorses the Prescott Park Master Plan.

Engage: Submit

Friday, June 17, 2016 at 10:08:08

city: Portsmouth

comments: My family and I have been attending events at Prescott Park for over thirty five years. We applaud and support the programs that have grown with the city. I encourage the planning group to continue to find ways for the public to enjoy the park, its programs, and the river and not to limit or restrict use based on the myopic views and interests of a vocal few entitled residents.

Engage: Submit

Friday, June 17, 2016 at 13:38:39

city: Portsmouth

comments: I started bringing my daughter so many years ago, now I bring my grandson! He loves coming to see the live performances and to watch movies under the stars. These are special memories that last a life time! Please DO NOT stop the Festival!

Engage: Submit

Friday, June 17, 2016 at 11:45:34

city: Rye

comments: My son (now 9yo) and I have had the fortune of spending almost every Wed night at Prescott park since he was 2, watching music and meeting old friends. We've gone to every play at least twice a summer with friends. It's been a joy for us to spend gorgeous summer nights appreciating the splendor of sunsets and feeling the uplifting effects of many types of music. The summer festivals attract many people from ME, Mass, as well as people from other parts of NH, bringing in revenue to the many eating establishments in town. It would seem to me that in a world where is is so much violence that music would be the peacemaker. That the good spirited nature of the events be continued and appreciated by many for 1/3 of the year.

Engage: Submit

Friday, June 17, 2016 at 12:30:29

city: Dover

comments: I am writing about the Prescott Parks Arts Festival. I was a resident of Portsmouth for over 13 years, and one of the main attractions was the Arts Festival. And the offerings at the Park continue to be a major draw from my family and others.

As a single mother, i appreciated the access I had to wonderful plays and music. My daughter (now 12) was practically raised in the park during her summer months. In fact, I attribute her musical and theatrical interests to her early exposure to the arts. Without the low-cost access afforded by the PPAF, I would not have been able to expose my daughter to major folk and blues artists, such as Steve Earle, Taj Mahal, and Richard Thompson. Nor would I have been able to instill a love for blue grass music, without her experiencing first hand the artistic stylings of Carolina Chocolate Drops or Crooked Still.

Aside from my own vested interest in keeping the arts festival intact, I am writing on behalf of the clients of social service agencies in the area. Thanks in part to sponsorship from businesses like Secure Planning, vulnerable families in the region are able to access the park at reduced rates (often free). This permits low income families or those experiencing housing instability, for example, to experience healthy recreational activities that are often unavailable to them. Non-Profits like Seacoast Mental Health, Chase Home for Children, Community Partners in Dover, and Cross Roads House, are able to encourage recreational respites for their clients. The collective impact of the park on these families cannot be measured.

Engage: Submit

June 17, 2016 at 12:51:07

city: Portsmouth

comments: The Prescott Parks Arts Festival has been a fabulous resource and place of enjoyment for many years. Their offerings of performers over the past several decades has improved immensely over the years. With local artists, nationally recognized, various seating options, improved food offerings and restroom facilities, the family fun factor has been tremendous. My husband & I, our friends, family of all ages from 2 to 70 have enjoyed many a day and night performance. The staff, volunteers, participants and performers all treat the park and the community with respect and we support their continued endeavors.

As we presently have limited access point to our City's waterfront, (and as a resident who truly enjoys the seacoast life style), I would support adding public canoe/boat, kayak, access & rentals to the park's potential waterfront future plans (similar to Boston). This would be a great resource to allow residents/visitors to have access to the docks and potentially contribute financially to their on-going and presumably costly maintenance.

Engage: Submit

Friday, June 17, 2016 at 15:47:55

city: Kittery

comments: I love the Prescott park festival! I bring every out of town guest to see the great shows and performances. I love that they are on various nights of the week so that when I'm away on weekends I don't miss everything. I now live in Kittery after years in Portsmouth as is the case with several of my friends. The music festivals is where we meet, catch up and remember all we love about Portsmouth. Always great to run into other friends and to brag to people from away about the quality music and productions in Portsmouth- all for such a very reasonable price. It is a true highlight of the summer and the city.

Engage: Submit

Friday, June 17, 2016 at 17:28:58

city: Portsmouth

comments: The shows at the park are too noisy. I have lived in the South End since 1994, and events at the park have become *much* louder. I can hear it from my house a few blocks away even with the windows closed.

Engage: Submit

Friday, June 17, 2016 at 18:04:07

city: Dover

comments: Please do not limit the number of shows and concerts at Prescott Park. These events have meant so much to me and my family. We have so many wonderful memories of being there together. Now more than ever, families and children need to be outdoors and together. The events at your park take us all away from the troubles of the world and give us all hope. Watching the shows instilled a love of music and theater in both of my children. They learned a connection to the place they live. Now that both of my children have grown, they still have a deep love of community and are very involved. Please let the Arts Festival continue to fill up the children and their families. Prescott Park Arts Festival is one of the reasons I am so proud to boast that I am from the seacoast of NH. You have done so much to improve your facilities. It's come such a long way since we started coming a long time ago. I don't feel limiting its use now is what should happen. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my thoughts and I look forward to coming to many events this year. Happy Summer!

Engage: Submit

Saturday, June 18, 2016 at 09:26:12

city: Portsmouth

comments: Since Sunday at the Park I have been looking at it every day. A few more thoughts:

The current refreshment stand could be expanded to make a lovely cafe/tea room for visitors to park. I see outside table and chairs with umbrellas.

The other thought is about the parking that currently exists IN the park. I know parking is precious in Portsmouth, but that is taking up a huge amount of 'Park' green space Lastly, I hear people mention a children play area. There is currently a lovely playground very close to there. It is up by the swimming pool. I don't see our 10 acres being a play area.

Thanks for listening...

Engage: Submit

Sunday, June 19, 2016 at 09:59:31

comments: The Prescott Park Arts Festival brings the seacoast community together. I love going to events from the musicals to concerts. It is cheap, local, and a beautiful way to spend a summer evening. It is one reason why the Portsmouth community is so close and strong. There is nothing like attending a concert after a tiring day and seeing your friends and neighbors around you celebrating life together. I hope the PPAF is a tradition that can continue in years to come.

Engage: Submit

Saturday, June 18, 2016 at 17:29:07

address: Middle Street

city: Portsmouth

comments: How can you even think of listening to a select group of people about the Festivals at Prescott Park? How?? These Festivals are a tradition! It's something to look forward to. Especially in the Summer & Fall. Why would you want to turn away revenue for local businesses?

Family's, couples and friends come to these events. They are experiencing something new. Reliving memories and making memories. It's a great place for a date. It's history. It's a celebration. It's happiness. WHY...do you want to get rid of a tradition? In a world of technology and life goes by fast...It's nice to have something that is fun, wholesome and brings people together.

Engage: Submit

Saturday, June 18, 2016 at 14:05:08

city: Portsmouth

comments: FOUR TREE ISLAND

Conceptually, Four Tree Island is fine; a nice place to walk, relax, or have a picnic or cookout. The open space in the center allows families to play. Improvements would be new benches, tables, grills.

There is a wooden area/deck next to the water which is unattractive and needs repairs.

FORMAL ENTRY

Needs to have more of an impact on entering and be more beautiful and inviting (dumpster should be moved)... The two rows of large, tall trees bordering a new walkway would be beautiful. First thought was to get rid of the parking area, but we do think the handicapped and elderly should have an easy access to the park; perhaps a designated area for people to be dropped off. The water fountain seems to take up too much space; perhaps have a smaller and more attractive water feature.

FORMAL GARDENS - beautiful! perhaps new paths and better seating

OPEN LAWN A - Remove asphalt! Rusty iron chain link fence should be replaced with more attractive fencing. Whale lawn - fine except the rusty chain link fencing; perhaps new benches

OPEN LAWN B - a good venue for organized get-togethers the small beach: need to think about that one...

OPEN LAWN C - update benches, seating, fencing, waterfront

TRIAL GARDENS - Although beautiful, seems to take up way too much space. Maybe smaller groups of flowers that would allow a variety of seating

THREE BUILDINGS - Not sure what they are used for now (historical?) perhaps some small shops, coffee place, candy shop, ice cream shop, maybe could be used for small weddings, meetings
Engage: Submit

Sunday, June 19, 2016 at 14:57:56
city: Portsmouth

comments: We are strong supporters of the Arts Festival and the strong interaction it has with the residents and visitors to Portsmouth. We moved to Downtown Portsmouth more than 10 years ago and one of the strong attractions was the great relationship with the Arts of all types. Allowing our friends and neighbors to take part in Park activities make Portsmouth a special place to live.

Engage: Submit

Monday, June 20, 2016 at 07:15:34
city: PORTSMOUTH

comments: Hello,
I want to comment on the ongoing discussion regarding Prescott Park. We moved here over 10 years ago largely based on a visit to Prescott Park during a Summer celebration. I would hate to see the use of the Park restricted or reduced. In fact, I would like to see more activities offered.

Engage: Submit

Monday, June 20, 2016 at 07:18:17
city: Geneva

comments: I would like to express my support for the continuation of the Prescott Park Festival. Although I no longer live in the area, I grew up in Eliot, Maine and have many, many fond memories of going to Prescott Park

with my grandmother each summer to see the various plays that were performed. The one I recall the most vividly is Fiddler on the Roof. I always looked forward to taking our blanket and a picnic and sitting out under the stars to watch the plays. I believe the Committee would be doing a terrible disservice to the community to take away this Festival. In this day and age of everything electronic, it is nice to still have something old-fashioned to attend to bring us back down to earth at least for a short time. I would urge the Committee to keep the Festival and not listen to the voices of a few who want to do away with the Festival and who do not speak for the majority. Thank you.

Monday, June 20, 2016 at 10:17:27
city: Portsmouth

comments: I am strongly I favor of keeping the music and arts alive during the summer months at Prescott Park. My husband and I have made a financial contribution in support of the Prescott Arts and regularly attend the performances. Please do not allow a small group of naysayers to destroy the cultural fabric of the city. The performances and concerts are enjoyed by residents and visitors of all ages and provide unique outdoor family entertainment.

Engage: Submit

June 20, 2016 at 11:15:00

comments: I grew up watching the plays in Prescott Park, and now I'm majoring in theatre arts management. The impact the Festival has had on my life is profound. I can find pretty flowers anywhere, and there's waterfront access along the entire coast, but there is no where else that has a combination of free arts in a beautiful setting, and certainly none with this quality. PPAF is the best part of the park, of Portsmouth, and of the region.

Engage: Submit

Monday, June 20, 2016 at 12:16:57
city: Eliot

comments: I can not believe what is happening in "the neighborhood". The park has come a long way after many years of hard work. I'm not sure if this issue about cutting down activities is being brought about by long time residents or by "new" residents. People should have been aware of where they were moving to and if not, too bad. Learn to live with it or..... People from all around come to the events year after year until it becomes a tradition. Kids grow up and start the tradition with their families. It's a peaceful place as well. Pack a lunch, bring a book and just relax. I can't stress enough that we need to keep this going not only for the locals but for tourists. Think of all the revenue that is brought to the area for local businesses. Think about how many seniors volunteer to have a purpose for their sometime lonely life. It gives them a place to give back to their community and something to look forward to. Please keep Prescott Park going and growing.

Engage: Submit

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 08:38:59

city: newmarket

comments: I am a huge fan of the music series and attend everyone that I can - in my view the series brings people to the Portsmouth waterfront and make it a happening vibrant place - its great to see the activity and helps people who may not necessarily be able to have access to the waterfront really get an appreciation for it me and my friends always go to dinner in town before or after the show to help support the local restaurants

Engage: Submit

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 10:54:30

city: Portsmouth

comments: Since moving to Portsmouth in 1999 I have found Prescott Park to be wonderfully diversified. I loved the tulip garden in spring which framed the entrance. I enjoyed the music festivals. I enjoyed the Fairy House Tour with my kids (especially the bubble machine – well they did anyway). The moderate growth in PPAF has only made the park more of a treasure to the city.

I find think the current layout and use of the park very reasonable and community friendly. Could it be improved – probably but I’m not a landscape architect. I am a resident of the city that enjoys walking to the show during summer with my family. I enjoy grabbing take-out breakfast at Colby’s and eating it in the park on weekends (the shows do not run 24/7 throughout summer). I enjoy a movie. I love the fact that there are distinct areas in which you can do different things.

I am sorry some residents find it annoying. I find the Harley Davidsons that go past my house annoying. I find local law enforcements refusal to enforce our noise and speed laws annoying. People living near Leary field find the ballgames annoying. Many find the dreaded “red helicopter” annoying (went for a flight on Father’s Day” – it was great!). And skating – oh my! The atrocity of people getting out in winter and enjoying some fresh air. The point is, if we get rid of everything that annoys people, we wouldn’t have much of a city left. Parade Mall would still exist, we wouldn’t have our library or middle school, there would still be a small parking area at 100 Market Street, we’d likely lose Strawberry Banke as a museum as it would not be sustainable and the PPAF would fall as well. I guess we wouldn’t need a new parking garage. Again, I’m not an economics genius, but I’m guessing our property taxes would be higher as we try to cover basic infrastructure costs with the value of fewer properties and properties with less value (as we would be a less desired place to live).

Go back and revisit the original Master Plan for the park and look at how close the current park is to what was proposed. Not sure what the issue is with the current park other than it gets minimal funds to keep it maintained. The chain link fence needs replacing with something more fitting, pathways need some work, the fountains need extensive repair (if not rebuilding). PPAF, as it has been running, should be looked upon as a means to keep the park sustainable, not as an “out of control concert venue.”

Engage: Submit

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 11:15:36

city: York

comments: Congratulations on your endeavor to elicit comments regarding Prescott Park. It is a gem and worth the effort to create a plan for its future.

I would direct my comments on one aspect of the park. The Gundalow. Portsmouth and the Piscataqua River have such a rich maritime history-like your neighbor Strawberry Banke. With a mission to educate New Hampshire school children (all of the Portsmouth schools participate in our programs)about the environment and history of this maritime area, the Gundalow is a critical and dynamic component present in Prescott Park. As you know, these programs cost more than schools can afford. Thus as a non-profit, we also fulfill our mission by hosting other sails that allow us to run our these educational programs.

The presence of the Gundalow enhances the character of the park and Portsmouth. It emphasizes the rich maritime history of the area without creating any costs to the park. The Gundalow is a win-win critical component f Prescott Park.

Engage: Submit

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 11:22:32

city: Portsmouth

comments: I wish to express my strong support for the Gundalow Company's use of the dock at Prescott Park. Our primary mission is the education of students and adults about the Piscataqua Region maritime heritage and environment. Over 90% of our school programs are subsidized by donors to keep the cost to the schools as low as possible. We have over 90 schools and close to 3,000 students participate in our programs every year. Our mission is in keeping with the spirit of the purpose of Prescott Park.

Engage: Submit

June 21, 2016 at 11:47:45

city: Portsmouth

comments: To Prescott Park Master Plan Committee:

This will be my 5th summer living in Portsmouth, and one of the great things that "makes Portsmouth,Portsmouth" is the Summer Arts Festival at Prescott Park. I find my life enriched by the talent that I am able to walk to see on Wednesday evenings. I appreciate the recent upgrades to the restrooms and concessions, and I look forward to having a decent stage soon (the rickety old one desperately needs an

upgrade!). I also donate to Prescott Park Arts Festival each year in order to provide free admission to those who have less means and are able to enjoy the same concert that I get to enjoy, and otherwise may not. I understand that nearly half of those attending the Arts Festival do not pay, and this is a great service the Festival provides to the community.

I understand that it gets loud near the park on the evenings of the concerts, and some of the local residents would prefer it to be quiet every night. But the price of a great town is that people want to be here, people want to see it, and people want to gather and enjoy the culture that is Portsmouth. And a key component of the culture is the Prescott Park Arts Festival.

So in the summer, all of Portsmouth has to put up with the Harley motorcycle noise, helicopters, and even crowd noise on 10 or so Wednesday nights of the summer concert season.

I know there is an organized group that would prefer little or no noise on summer Wednesday nights. But there are many thousand whose lives are enriched by the Prescott Park Arts Festival, and look forward to spending our summers at home, rather than having to drive all over to find the culture to enrich our lives elsewhere.

I doubt we can satisfy the most vocal local residents who are making their own noise about the Festival, noise that I don't particularly enjoy hearing. And I encourage the Master Planning board to continue to work with the Festival to ensure that it doesn't continue too late into the evening, or too late into September. But please allow those who find our lives enriched by the Festival from late June through Labor Day, to continue to plan our Wednesdays around the outstanding concert series that the Festival has offered and continues to offer. I know that I speak for hundreds of other Portsmouth residents.

Thank you for your consideration. I will not be able to attend the meeting on Wednesday night, June 22, but hope that my message can be included in the discussion.

Engage: Submit

Wednesday, June 22, 2016 at 06:39:20

city: Dover

comments: The highlight of my families summer is music in the park, it's such a wonderful venue for music and shows. It's a great way to involve the local and tourist community. It's also great for the economy of the area. Keep these shows going forever. It's truely a gift to the town.

Engage: Submit

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 20:21:55

city:

Portsmouth

comments: Hi, I am writing to express my strong support of continuing the traditions that the Portsmouth Music Festival offers including all of the plays and concerts. Not only does the Festival bring joy to our family but brings the entire community together. It is something that makes Portsmouth wonderful and it would be a shame if events were reduced or ceased because of a few vocal opponents.

Engage: Submit

Blue Ribbon Committee on the Prescott Park Master Plan
Online Comment Forms (Batch 6)

Wednesday, June 22, 2016 at 08:17:48
city: Portsmouth

comments: I will be at Prescott Park on June 22, and unable to attend the meeting, but wish to express my support for the Arts Program.. and the roof on the stage.. We are dedicated supporters of the park and the arts program and love the work that Ben Anderson has done for us all. Thanks

Engage: Submit

Wednesday, June 22, 2016 at 10:38:55
city: Kittery

comments: I grew up on Pleasant Street, Portsmouth before, during, and after the creation of Strawberry Bank and Prescott Park. I have seen many changes to the City — some good and some not so good. I want to express my concern over what I perceive to be a cavalier attitude and easy approach to dealing with the noise at Prescott Park — just turn the speakers out to the river. I have lived in the Warren's neighborhood of Kittery for over 30 years (and in closer proximity to the park than a number of Portsmouth residents), so I can tell you that noise from the park does carry across the river. Not every time, but the sound does carry and it carries loud and clear. As recently as the day of the 2016 chowderfest, I was in my backyard on the far side of my house when I heard music coming across so loudly that I thought my neighbors must have opened their windows and cranked up the music. It was only after I heard the performer say that she was taking a break that I realized it was

from the park. I think I heard the Scarecrow's song asking for a brain so many times that I could recite it in my sleep! I ask that before the plans are finalized, that you consider the people on the other side of the river. Don't take the easy way out — use what Scarecrow hoped for — and take the educated approach. Please do sound studies to determine what are the best levels of volume and locations for the speakers so that we all may enjoy this beautiful area that we call home.

Thank you.

Engage: Submit

Wednesday, June 22, 2016 at 10:29:22
city: Portsmouth

comments: As Portsmouth's current poet laureate, I want to weigh in, again, as to the purpose of Prescott Park.

We will never please everyone with choices of venue, with sound levels, with numbers of participants, so it is good to be across the board and plan for variety.

My concern is the display of nature, and the connection to the elements that this provides. To me, Prescott Park is all about the gardens and the art exhibits. The flowers and their tending, combined with the water elements of the fountains splaying in the sunlight, and the nearby waterway, represent the

real and original intention of the place. These sisters may not have fully realized the dangers of Portsmouth being developed, but now that we are witnessing it, let Prescott Park stand as a select beauty of nature, as a provident garden, as a balm for our overcrowded spirits. Let not the gardens be overlooked or trampled by the planned events.

Make the memory of the generous Prescott sisters shine with the care we extend to the natural world within the domain of our lovely resource.

The rest may be good for the economy but the real Prescott Park is in the plants!

Engage: Submit

Wednesday, June 22, 2016 at 11:42:01

city: Newington

comments: I volunteer on the Gundalow. Thank-you for helping us provide an educational presence in the Park. I lead an historic tour around the Park's perimeter for young students before they board the Gundalow. Incredibly, the Park is surrounded by objects from four centuries of Portsmouth's history. Explaining these, I lead our students through 400 years of Portsmouth's development, from colonial campsite to a modern hi-tech and tourist economy. This density of history may be unique in America. I hope you will remember our wonderful historic heritage as you plan for the area's next 100 years.

Engage: Submit

Wednesday, June 22, 2016 at 14:26:21

city: Rye

comments: In my opinion the concerts theatre and festivals held in Prescott Park are a treasure to the community.

Engage: Submit

Wednesday, June 22, 2016 at 16:56:45

city: Portsmouth

comments: My family has lived on Portsmouth for 30 years. Since as far back as I can remember we have visited Prescott Park every summer. My daughter was 7 years old when she had a part in "Bye Bye Birdie." She is now 25. We still have the poodle skirt she wore in the production! We have enjoyed year after year, the main stage production, the concerts, the movies, and special events, like the Chowder Fest. The park needs some maintenance work.....and I would love to see some maintenance work done on Four Tree Island, where we have had many fun family outings. We have also enjoyed the Gundalow, the Players Ring Theatre, and have docked our boat at the Prescott Park pier. Prescott Park and all it has to offer makes our community exciting, unique, and provides wonderful entertainment for our family. Thank you for your time and efforts to make Prescott Park even better for our community.

Engage: Submit

Wednesday, June 22, 2016 at 20:33:13

city: Dover

comments: Sara Watkins in the park. Lovely music, lovely weather, a wonderful way to enjoy downtown Portsmouth!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 23, 2016 at 03:32:21
city: Portsmouth

comments: I'm traveling in Italy and won't be back for the upcoming meeting but please know that I support full utilization of our beautiful space. I look forward to the plays and concerts every year, and my guests are always amazed at how great it is to have such a space as part of our town. Please don't allow a vocal minority to diminish the schedule so many have come to appreciate. Respectfully,

Engage: Submit

June 23, 2016 at 07:01:55
city: Portsmouth

comments: My primary concern for the future of the park is access. After efforts to create a contiguous river walk linking Ceres Street with the park failed it is more important than ever to maintain unfettered access to the park's waterfront for residents and tourists alike. Often during PPAF events walkers along the waterfront are stopped by gates that request donations. It is also difficult for boaters to access the docks when these ropes are up. The arts festival or anyone holding events at the park should not be allowed to block access to the waterfront.

The other concern I have is over large events and the impact that they have on the park and the community. Shows with headliners that draw 10,000 person crowds don't belong in this park. With no ticket sales to regulate attendance these events open the whole city up to a host of problems from parking and traffic congestion to damage to the lawns and park infrastructure. If the arts festival needs to continue this kind of event to remain viable they should seek out a partnership with a venue that allows ticket sales so crowd size can be managed.

We have a vibrant arts community in Portsmouth and the arts festival is simply one piece of it. There would be a long line of groups willing to stage performances at the park if access was opened up to the local arts community.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 23, 2016 at 10:52:24
city: Dover

comments: I attended the Sara Watkins concert last night and it was wonderful! Every aspect of the show was so carefully and beautifully attended to by the PPAF staff, who were all super courteous and welcoming. I have been attending evens at Prescott Park since I was in high school, and can honestly say that I feel as though everything is managed better than ever. It was a lovely evening and I can't wait for the next show!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 23, 2016 at 13:54:27
city: Portsmouth

comments: Prescott Park has always been a special place for me and my family. My Mom, Grandmother and I love to see plays and this is/was one of our favorite spots. Now I get to take my children every summer for the same family bonding and special time. It would be so sad if this were to be taken away and my children could not share the same experience with their families some day. Prescott park is an amazing and special place for anyone and everyone to make special memories.

Engage: Submit

Friday, June 24, 2016 at 09:08:38
zip: 04976

comments: I applaud the Prescott Park Master Plan Committee for looking towards the future and keeping the cultural arts an important part of Portsmouth's identity. My connection with the Prescott Park Arts Festival goes back to its very beginnings and I have seen first hand how this important part of Portsmouth's history has changed the City for the better. The arts can be life changing and Portsmouth's reputation as a mecca for both the performing and the visual arts has served its citizens well. I celebrate your vision and your commitment to keeping the arts a central part of your beautiful City.

Engage: Submit

address: 105 Front Street
city: Exeter

comments: Summer in the seacoast is a magical time and the film and concert series that take place each year on the magical stage at Prescott Park are among those I hold dear to living in this area. Sitting on the grass under the stars, with a view of the water among a community of amazing folk with fabulous music wafting through the summer air. Seriously, does life get any better? Being able to expose my children to a variety of music and engage with both the arts and community in this environment encourages in them the same love I have for where we live and why it is important to be good stewards of the environment and shop local. We have such a short window of summer and are so lucky to have such ample opportunity to find room in our busy schedules to enjoy a show or three at Prescott Park, a night in Portsmouth walking, dining and shopping on the streets where we live. I sincerely hope the voices of few who are among the most lucky, living so close, don't complain away this amazing institution for the rest of us. We really need to be holding with a tight grip to that which brings us together with excitement and smiles, to dance together- the world needs more community and more music. I hope the master plan for Prescott Park is to let the light shine bright- not to silence the joy. See you tomorrow night for Mountain Yonder String Band.

Engage: Submit

Friday, June 24, 2016 at 13:39:05
city: Portsmouth

comments: I wouldnt change the way Portsmouth is and the awesome experiences I've had at Prescott park if someone offered me A MILLION dollars. Our community rocks and I hope it stays that way!

Engage: Submit

Friday, June 24, 2016 at 13:59:27
city: Dover

comments: Having concerts in the park deeply enriches the seacoast's culture, and I hope that the committee will continue to make decisions that support this unique and wonderful summertime tradition for years to come. I understand there is occasional backlash from a few vocal locals; however I would like to assure you that there are many more of us who support it wholeheartedly!

Engage: Submit

Friday, June 24, 2016 at 14:06:03
city: Portsmouth

comments: Hello, my name is Morgan Palmer and I am a 24-year old resident of Portsmouth. I love living here and I just wanted to relay that the Prescott Park Arts Festival is a major part of why I love living here so much. I know of no other community that has live music performances, movies and a play every summer offered to the public for no cost other than donating-if you chose. I know there are complaints about the noise and the park usage from time to time, but it is important to note that these events are a beloved part of this community. It draws in visitors each and every week, which brings new customers to the city's shops, bars and restaurants. While there are likely complaints made every week, remember to look at just how many people come to the park every single week to see the great acts Ben and his colleagues have lined up. These people LOVE the park and we want it to remain a lively part of our community.

Engage: Submit

Friday, June 24, 2016 at 14:11:20
city: Kittery

comments: I know there is a vocal minority that is pushing against the fun music and festivals that go on in Prescott Park in the summer, and simply wanted to say please keep the Prescott Park Arts Festival and concert series going. It's such a fun and artsy dynamic to the whole community, both sides of the Piscataqua enjoy it. Families with kids flock to enjoy the theatre and the music and the movies. You are not only promoting the city by having the festival in the park and tourism, you are providing memories for kids who get to enjoy the festivities. You are helping to promote community by its very existence. I've lived in a lot of places even though I'm just in my early 30s, but the Portsmouth area is one of the most enjoyable places I've lived because of the arts festival in the park and other festivals and The Music Hall and the beautiful square and various festivities in town throughout the year. They all help make the place an enjoyable place to live. I would like to ask as someone who lives only a short walk from the park

on the other side of the river that you all would please not do away with what has helped make Portsmouth feel like a community and fun place to live simply because a vocal minority doesn't like it and wants to spoil it for everyone else. I understand the concern for noise and hear the noise in my apartment on the other side of the river. It's not a problem and not as loud as various fireworks going off along the river throughout the year outside of the 4th of July and First Night. Thanks for hearing me out. I know I'm just one person but I hope you will keep the memories going for kids and families for years to come.

Engage: Submit

Friday, June 24, 2016 at 14:44:27
city: Portsmouth

comments: Prescott Park is a Portsmouth treasure. We love the various types of activities held as part of the festival and enjoy walking the paths, viewing the gardens and taking in the sights and sounds of the harbor. Most importantly, the amount of free and accessible entertainment for our family is just incredible. Thank you Portsmouth for keeping Prescott Park alive and well!

Engage: Submit

June 24, 2016 at 18:42:57
city: Portsmouth

comments: The summer concerts are the highlight of summer for me! Every year around February I start anticipating what awesome line up the new season will bring. It's such a perfectly executed event and is enjoyed by so many!!!
Engage: Submit

Friday, June 24, 2016 at 15:59:41
city: Portsmouth

comments: While I understand the Trust fund is not able to supply nearly enough money to support the Arts Festival, I have concerns about the increase in the amount of reserve seating and tables, therefore limiting the number of chairs people can set up with out the cost of reservations. I realise this one way raising funds, with various levels of membership receiving a reserve table or seating with memberships. My hope is with the new staging there will be more available seating without THE RESERVE status. I just did the very thing about which I have concerns. I reserved 2 blankets on August 11, so my daughter and grandchildren can attend the show along with a local family friend. The cost was \$98. I am thankful I can afford this NOW, but my concern is 35 years ago when I brought my children to the Festival I couldn't afford to RESERVE and depended on open seating.

The point is this how we build audiences who attend, enjoy and learn from the arts. Perhaps the suggestion there be a performance once or twice a season that is totally open to the public without the need for reserve seating is a viable one.

Many thanks to the committee and all the interested citizens that are willing to contribute time and thought the preservation of the park.

At the forum on Thursday evening 6/22 I thought we can ever go back to "THE WAY IT WAS". There are more people, more traffic, more technology, but we can participate in doing whatever we can to make the park better. A welcoming, fun, relaxing!!!! We have the opportunity to experience excellent music

and theatre/ even when it not exactly our taste. It is important to involve all age groups. It is today's younger generation who will need to love and support the park in the future. Lastly, I trust we can agree to disagree in civilised respectful ways. I may not always agree with Mark Brighton, BUT I respect his right to disagree and perhaps not understand the financing issues at the park. No one should feel pressured to donate/ the volunteer should understand this CLEARLY.

Engage: Submit

Friday, June 24, 2016 at 18:37:33
city: Dover

comments: I love the concerts in the park! Ben and all his crew do an amazing job, please don't take this away. I've been going for over 5 years and it would truly change Portsmouth for me. I feel like this is one of the last of these types of events that brings people of all ages together for such a wonderful time. Please let them continue!

Friday, June 24, 2016 at 20:16:02
comments: Hello!

I just wanted to say that I have lived in Portsmouth for 8 years and have enjoyed so many amazing memories at the summer events in the park! It is one more reason I choose to stay in this amazing city!

Engage: Submit

Friday, June 24, 2016 at 20:18:52
city: Portsmouth

comments: The plan to have a covered stage is fantastic! Portsmouth has had such a wonderful history of support for the arts and this is the next step! Thank you Ben and Mayor Jack!

Engage: Submit

Friday, June 24, 2016 at 22:14:07
city: Madbury

comments: Thank you for all the wonderful concerts held weekly at Prescott park. They are a huge thing for this community and something I am so proud to promote near and far about how great the community I grew up in is. I am proud to come back to the seacoast and call this place home in large part for the work you do and the level of community you foster. I grew up two streets away on Gardner st in Portsmouth within distance to hear the finale of every play from my bedroom window; within walking distance with my two year old little sister to come see the gundalow, play on the lawns and jump in the puddles; my driveway served as an additional place to park when friends would come in from out of town to watch a by donation concert of a big name musical group that little ole Portsmouth had managed to have come to our park; and close enough we all danced home after dancing the evening away rain or shine with my amazing community. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to keeping Portsmouth loud, weird, and wonderful. -From a REAL native of the south end.

Engage: Submit

June 25, 2016 at 07:27:43

address: 460 FW Hartford Drive

comments: I had the pleasure of going to opening night at PPAF last night. The Overtones were an opening act before the play and I was impressed that the Festival reached out to a small community organization to be a formal part of their very successful summer program. In addition, I was totally impressed with their commitment to sustainability, and their public service/game show program on the lessons of the environment prior to the play. Prescott Park Arts Festival may have grown over the years since I was involved in the early 80's, but its mission is still clear. We should be proud that we have an organization as well run as PPAF. Having said that, I do agree with Mr. Brighton's free pass concept, and wish there was some way to refresh the feeling that you have to pay \$10 to get into the Park. I do agree that this Festival is a treasure that deserves to continue and flourish. It seems it's the details that are creating issues. Hopefully by working out a master plan, many of these questions will be resolved. Thank you for letting me share my thoughts with you. Sincerely,
Engage: Submit

Monday, June 27, 2016 at 10:03:42

city: Portsmouth

comments: Please do not block the construction of a covered stage. This not only causes financial distress for cancelled concerts, but means standing around in the rain in hope that the shower will pass and the concert begin or resume. This is no way to treat the artist, promoter or audience. It makes no sense. The stage needs replacement and that cannot happen until a cover is approved.

Engage: Submit

Blue Ribbon Committee on the Prescott Park Master Plan
Online Comment Forms (Batch 7)

Monday, June 27, 2016 at 12:49:14
city: Portsmouth

comments: I attended the presentation at city hall on Wednesday, June 22 and appreciated the information provided. After listening to the public comments it seems to me that residents with Portsmouth longevity [lived here as children] express the greatest opposition to changes to the park along with PPAF use of the park. Younger residents, residents who strongly support the arts, and those who did not experience childhood in Portsmouth appeared much more interested in enhancing the park experience and continuing the use of the park for arts, children's play, and passive recreation. I support these uses as they are the residents who will be using the park in the future. As recreation changes with the times, park uses related to recreation should change also so that the park remains a vibrant, utilized part of the community [including enhancing accessibility]. Improvements that increase green space, provide a written history of the park, link the waterfront to the park, and unify the "5" separate areas of the park into a cohesive space [albeit with a somewhat different use at each area] are needed. There was some discussion on shrinking the "trial gardens" and that makes sense as long as the space stays open and green. I support making the public forum area more visible with more natural lighting from careful tree pruning. I'd love to see the parking lot removed and opened for more park space or possibly a children's playground.

Engage: Submit

Monday, June 27, 2016 at 23:00:18
city: Portsmouth

comments: I was not able to attend any of the input sessions but wanted to share my thoughts on the park - as a resident, not necessarily as a representative of a design firm that has worked with both the city and the festival. I am a regular attendee of the PPAF and greatly enjoy the programming that they offer to the community. There is no time that I cherish living in Portsmouth more than when I'm enjoying a concert in the park with friends and family. Or dance or Shakespeare or The Princess Bride. It is all very welcome and wonderful.

That said, the festival needs to find a permanent way to integrate with the park, and I don't think the process that has led to the stage design that they have presented is the best way to do that. More than designing the space, the city needs to design a lasting, transparent, apolitical system to partner with the festival and govern the use of the park. Keeping the festival under constant existential threat does not serve the city and its many loyal fans but heightens the sense that we live in a divided city, one that caters to the needs of a few squeaky wheels rather than the common good.

As far as actual design of the space, I would encourage the planning team to be bold. The stilted attempts to placate those that want to stop all evolution of Portsmouth's public spaces has resulted in disasterously failed architecture in many part of the downtown. The park will always be an important part of our history, but it has changed drastically over time and should be allowed to continue to do so. Removing asphalt and creating more usable green space for "passive recreation" is wonderful - integrating the systems and services required for the festival so that no one even notices them when it is not in session would be amazing. Creating some new and exciting landscape feature that can define the park as its own unique place - even better.

Engage: Submit

Tuesday, June 28, 2016 at 04:31:08

city: Portsmouth

comments: My family and I are avid, longtime supporters of Prescott Park and we are thrilled at the idea of a more permanent structure and continued programming via PPAF. Frankly, Prescott Park and the variety of community offerings and performances offered by PPAF is outstanding, and is one of the main reasons we decided to relocate our family to the Portsmouth community. We love Prescott!!!

Engage: Submit

Wednesday, June 29, 2016 at 19:52:16

city: Portsmouth

comments: I attended the Prescott Park Master Plan Walkabout on a Sunday and June and am grateful to have an opportunity to express my thoughts to the committee in a safe and thoughtful forum. My first visit to Portsmouth was to see a show at the Prescott Park Arts Festival as a young college student in the '80s. I later came to the city to become an arts editor and ended up buying a home here. I have been a longtime supporter of the arts and would like to start my comments by addressing the Arts Festival's presence in the park.

I have listened to both the residents of The South End and to The Keep Portsmouth Loud people. I can see both sides. I have watched the arts festival grow over the years, and feel it has reached a point where it has outgrown the park unless it makes some changes.

I have been in the audience when fights have broken out over inappropriate, drunken behavior or seating issues and I could find no security/staff person to help. At a Cowboy Junkies concert, a woman told a family sitting behind her that if they didn't stop asking her to sit down she'd flash her breasts at the kids. Again no security workers were in sight. If we are going to have thousands of people in the park, there should be ample security. If there is a concert, it would help to have designated dancing areas that do not block the audience's view.

Also, to ensure a safe and enjoyable show it would help if there was:

- 1) A limit to the number of people allowed in the park
- 2) Blankets only, no chairs, which are varying heights and block people's view
- 3) Some sort of handicap seating area

To ensure the integrity of Prescott sisters' deed and the agreement between the city and the arts festival, and in fairness to the residents of this city:

- 1) Continue the rule that blankets can only be put down at a certain time of show days so others can enjoy the park space.
- 2) Take away the Federal Savings Bank VIP seating deck, or make it mobile so it's rolled out for shows. It is unsightly & unfair that the arts festival has commandeered this piece of the grassy pavilion.
- 3) Stop renting out areas to those who can pay for them. I rent a space on a blanket every time I go to a show or concert & while I find this convenient, I am renting my own strip of grass for the night. Doesn't this go against the agreement between the arts festival and the city?

To respect the neighborhoods that hear the arts festival every night, start & end the shows earlier.

I often think of Central Park in New York and how its summer theater is paid for entirely by sponsors so there is no blocking off of the park. I think of the Hatch Shell in Boston, a grand amphitheater, owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation for a variety of cultural institutions to use. I wonder if the arts festival or the city could emulate one of these models?

I don't want the arts festival to go. I want it to be consistently enjoyable to patrons, conscientious of its size and privilege, and thoughtful to its neighbors. If it wants to be a bigger, more expensive entity, than it might work better somewhere else, like a grassy field at Pease.

If it's going to stay in the park then it should be managed in a way that fits the park's size and ensures the park's integrity. If the arts festival has squatter's rights, let's be clear about what those rights are, and make sure the festival continues collaborations with other artistic, nonprofit organizations in the city.

In other park matters, it would be incredible if there was public water access at Prescott Park. In my wildest dreams, there's a beach area.

We were asked what the best things about Prescott Park are: I love the flower beds, the fountains, the beautiful bricked area where so many wedding pictures are taken, the spots where we can stop and take in the majestic views of the waterfront and the bridge.

This is a small point, but it is nice to have no dogs allowed in the park. This means no worries about people not picking up after them, or allowing untrained dogs to jump all over people, as often happens when walking the trails at Pierce Island.

I'm not sure why so much of the park is paved. If it's not necessary, it'd be nicer if there were more green spaces.

Thank you for your consideration,

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 30, 2016 at 08:42:14
city: Dover

comments: I went to the Sarah Jarosz show last night and it. Was. AMAZING. The performance and artistry was incredible. I was not terribly familiar with her work prior to last night's show, but have been listening to her music all morning as a result of attending. I think that's what the PPAF and Prescott Park offer and why they are so important -- a beautiful place to experience art, surrounded by community and families and people who appreciate music and culture. I can't wait for the next show -- please keep up the outstanding work.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 30, 2016 at 08:43:56
city: Portsmouth

comments: Another wonderful summer evening show in the park! It's so nice to see so many people, especially families, come out to the park to spend an evening together. Portsmouth would be culturally

weakened without these events. It would be phenomenal to see a permanent amphitheater stage structure which could protect the artists and their equipment from the, often fickle, summer weather. To me that is one of the most exciting proposals in the master plan. Very excited to see that come to fruition!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 30, 2016 at 12:14:25
city: Portsmouth

comments: Hoping for some creative thinking about the best use of Shaw Warehouse--I am pretty certain its not for storing lawn mowers and tools..and garden fences. If there was a new maintenance building build down by Four Tree Island or by the boat launching area then the Shaw could be used by the festival as part of the back stage area for rehearsals and some storage--thus the chance to reduce the stage footprint by 30% (?)and certainly reduce the trailers etc. perhaps a reduction in the area of trial gardens would save on upkeep and create some additional recreation space in the park.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, June 30, 2016 at 12:10:06
city: Portsmouth

comments: Although was some disbelief when you suggested removing the Norway maples in the park I wanted to report (before I forget to do so) that when I was a Trustee I tried to implement a long term plan to remove the invasive and short-lived Norway maples and replace them with a variety of more appropriate trees. We made some progress with some oaks being added--and a Stewartia in the NW corner but there was resistance to removing mature trees. I would urge a 5 year plan to remove 3-4 Norways a year. Some areas (like the quay area) will be improved with less trees.

Engage: Submit

Sunday, July 3, 2016 at 23:55:00
city: Epping

comments: I Love Prescott park,I go there on my breaks walk around the flowers. Its a destination I bring friends to please keep it there, and i love the entertainment

Engage: Submit

Sunday, July 3, 2016 at 22:32:59
city: Rye

comments: Please don't change the wonderful summer programs! We've been attending since our kids were little & now they attend with their families. It's a tradition!!!

Engage: Submit

Saturday, July 2, 2016 at 14:41:56
city: Portsmouth

comments: Two years ago I contributed to the Arts Festival fund raiser for a new covered stage and concessions building. I strongly support a covered stage.

I do not support rotating the stage to face the water for the following reason. Today the side speakers face north and south. To the south is Strawberry Banke which creates some distance between the speakers and the nearest South End residences. If you rotate the stage you will be pointing side speakers toward the east where the residences are closer to the stage and thus will receive a greater volume of sound. This is asking for trouble.

Sound dissipates as the square of the distance. If you double the distance the volume drops by 4 times. If you halve the distance the volume will be 4 times greater. Rotating the stage will cause those on Mechanic and Hancock Streets to hear music at 4 times the volume currently heard by those on Washington.

Engage: Submit

Tuesday, July 5, 2016 at 22:25:26
city: Greenland

comments: I want to share an experience I had with you all today that REALLY brings home how important preserving ...and yes improving and growing Prescott Park and the PPAF venue is to Portsmouth's Business and culture.

I brought my son to Bowdoin college today and during the tour the guide was very excited about a visiting singer/songwriter called "The Tallest Man On Earth" that was playing tonight (july 5) in Portland. "The Tallest Man On Earth" is an incredibly talented artist on tour whose limited tickets performing at only small venues are running \$25 to 75\$. Our tour guide was excited because he was able to get two 25 dollar tickets with his student discount at Portland's State theater before they sold out.

My son said "You should just come to Prescott Park in Portsmouth because he's playing there tomorrow night for free". The next 15 minutes of the tour was spent with kids asking who else was playing at Prescott Park, how do you get there, how do you get these acts (they were pulling the website up on the phones), is it really professional theater, etc...most of these families were on vacation in Maine visiting and touring colleges and were excited about trying to work a Portsmouth visit into their plans! They were drilling us with questions.

My final proud moment was when one of the parents said "I wish we had a place like your park in Connecticut that offered all that for me and the kids. There not a lot to do in the summer like that"... with the rest of the tour (from all over the US) nodding in agreement.

I really want the committee to understand the JEWEL they have here in this park, a jewel that I think IS EXACTLY the intent of this park and the live performances they offer ... accessible FREE live performances... that enrich all residents and businesses of Portsmouth. WE ARE UNIQUE in the offerings and the quality and diversity that the park has been offering. Seeing the jaws of everyone on that tour drop when I explained what we had with Prescott Park made me realize how much we all take for granted what we have here. Shrinking or dumbing down this venue would drain the color from Portsmouth. We should be making every effort to improve and grow the park, and especially the live venue, to continue to enrich the lives of residents, locals, tourists, and everyone that comes to Portsmouth to show the vibrant life and culture of Portsmouth. It is so plainly obvious to me once you get outside of Portsmouth and see how people react, that this was exactly the VISION for the park, to be cultural heart and community for Portsmouth shared through the medium of live entertainment... and not just a sleepy park to take your morning constitutionals and lay down to read a book.

My son put it best... it's like some people move to a house by the sea and then petition the neighbors to move their ocean because it's running too loud at night...

Engage: Submit

Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at 10:11:07
city: Farmington NH

comments: I have been enjoying the Arts Festival at the park for decades. I remember going there on dates, with friends, and with family. I remember the first show I took my daughter to see there, and how happy I was to continue the tradition. The Arts Festival IS Portsmouth in the summer. When we go we go to more than just the show, we go to local restaurants, shops, get ice cream, it is a full day/evening. Is it occasionally loud? Yes, but it was there before the "new people/condos", to me that is like buying a house near an airport or train tracks, then complaining about the noise. What it brings to the area is irreplaceable, part of the traditions of Portsmouth, part of what makes up the identity of the city. No I do not live in Portsmouth, but I do travel to it frequently, and mostly in the summer because of the Arts Festival. Keep it going, and allow it to have movies, bands, plays the more variety the more people can enjoy it, and all the rest the city has to offer.

Engage: Submit

Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at 14:19:05
city: Portsmouth

comments: 1. Who controls the park? As Portsmouth has become a major tourist venue and Strawberry Banke and PPAF have grown, the usage is too intense to vest authority in the trustees of trust funds. The income from the Prescott trust is not sufficient for upkeep, but the park is a revenue-generator for restaurants and tourist-related businesses. Time for the city to manage the park. This is entirely legal as I read the conveyance, and now is the time.

2. PPAF: Don't let the south end vigilantes tip the festival into the red by trying to overly curtail it. Music and theatre in the park have been intentionally part of the city's management of the park since the 70s and the quality now is the best it's ever been. Josie and Mary Prescott allowed entertainment, and they wanted it for *all* residents. A small *minority* keep pressure on to curtail or even end the festival. The

current management has been ingenious in making great entertainment available to all within limits to the neighbors. Don't let the NIMBYs roll up the walls - we should stay the city of the open door. City control will stabilize it all.

3. Existing rules and regs on no political speeches, no alcohol, no commercial business are great and should continue.

4. Any way to keep the geese and their excrement off four tree island?

Engage: Submit

Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at 14:50:09

city: Durham

comments: Prescott Park, and it's summer arts Festival, is a true gem in our community. We have lived here for 10 years and have never missed a summer where we have attended concerts, theatrical performances including both the summer musical as well as Shakespeare performances at the park. I would like to think that those experiences have molded our youngest daughter to inspire her to pursue a career and technical theater. Certainly the summer musical has been a training ground for so many children and young people.

Last summer, our daughter worked as the spotlight operator for Peter Pan. She had several instances where she was approached in the lighting booth by intoxicated and belligerent strangers. Frankly, this was terrifying for her and detracted from her overall experience at the park. This summer, she accepted employment at the Park, but was only willing to work if she could be backstage where she perceived it to be safer.

I was dismayed to see today's fosters daily democrat article about the spotlight operators being harassed by an adult. I would like to ask that in your planning for improvements to the theater facilities, that you include some type of secure environment for The spot light operators so that they can work and learn with security that their safety is not at risk.

Many thanks!

Engage: Submit

Thursday, July 7, 2016 at 05:59:35

city: Portsmouth

comments: Just wanted to drop a line and let you know that I enjoyed the show last night. It was a terrific event and as always watching a show like that in our lovely city, in our beautiful park by the water is so special. The PPAF continues to put together such a great group of musicians, while still making it accessible to all. I am happy yo donate a little extra each time I go, so that someone who can't afford it can have access to these shows. Thank you for making this possible and continuing this program that is one of the many things that make Portsmouth such a wonderful city to live in.

Engage: Submit

Online Comment Forms (Batch 8)

PRESCOTT PARK MASTER PLAN BRC

Saturday, July 9, 2016 at 09:44:35

city: Portsmouth

comments: Just a quick note to express some love and gratitude for the Prescott Park Arts Festival. The caliber of musical acts is extraordinary, and the fact that it is all done for a voluntary donation makes the park and festival truly unique Portsmouth gems. Last night's concert, and the one on Wednesday were fantastic. Looking forward to many more summer shows.

Engage: Submit

Sunday, July 10, 2016 at 19:25:48

city: Kittery Point

comments: I would like to include my input into the Prescott Park Master Plan- I encourage the Master Plan Committee to continue the current use of the park for the Prescott Park Arts Festival (PPAF). It is my experience the PPAF adds great cultural and financial benefit to Portsmouth. Although I am not a Portsmouth resident I am a PPAF Member and contributor. I enjoy the diverse live arts presented by PPAF and particularly the live music. I often purchase food from downtown Portsmouth vendors during the PPAF events I attend. Additionally I have purchased tickets to see entertainment at the Portsmouth Music Hall after seeing the venues at PPAF. I typically spend the evening in Portsmouth including dinner, shopping/window shopping when attending the events.

I encourage the City's Prescott Park Master Plan Committee to fully support the PPAF permanent stage installation and support the PPAF Master Plan to continue to bring the family friend arts and culture to Prescott Park. thank you.

Engage: Submit

Sunday, July 10, 2016 at 20:59:44

comments: What a gift Prescott Park is to Portsmouth and neighboring communities. Brings us into town once or twice a week. We drop off chairs, do a bit of shopping downtown, have dinner and enjoy the city. You are so fortunate. We've been coming to the Park for years. The Festival is fabulous. Defines summer in the Seacoast.

Engage: Submit

Monday, July 18, 2016 at 22:13:25

city: Portsmouth

comments: Dear Trustees,

I was there, sitting right behind the walking path and noticed nothing crazy. Myself and my friend enjoyed the people watching of all ages enjoying the music. We had a family of 5 with 3 little boys under the ages of 6 enjoying the show and not at any moment did I see someone having a problem. I've been to many crazy concerts and this by far was not one of them. Not in any moment of the night did I feel

unsafe and that we had to have a police presence. It was one of the best nights this whole summer. Our streets after 9 pm are more dangerous than PPAF.

Last time I checked the park was a public place and at any point in time someone can walk through with alcohol, a dog ,or anything else for that matter. To punish PPAF or feel as though there needs to be security is ridiculous. Whose to say that garbage in those pictures aren't of those taking the pictures?

This city has a lot to offer and my family loves walking to the park and enjoying the concerts and movies. We will continue to do so.

Thank you,

Engage: Submit

Monday, July 18, 2016 at 22:12:47
city: East Kingston

comments: I was there to see Shakey Graves on July 13, and the crowd was not out of control at all. A lot of people were there, and they were all calm and well behaved.

This past Sunday, July 10, my wife and I brought our 12-year-old daughter to meet her friends while we saw Dawes. The girls took off and had a great time. No issues. No out of control. We love going because the crowds are great and calm...it's families bringing kids to see great live music.

Engage: Submit

Monday, July 18, 2016 at 22:05:06
city: Eliot

comments: Re: PPAF - I have attended at least one show in the park every summer since 1984 except for 3 years that I lived in Europe. I have never, not once, seen any show attendee even tipsy. Not once. Please dont start hassling people in the park. If a cop is needed a cop will be called by one of the thousands of phones sitting right there. Let the police fight crime.

Engage: Submit

Tuesday, July 19, 2016 at 08:41:40
city: York

comments: During the PPAF shows the area is blocked off by a ticket booths (asking for donations) and attached to these booths are ropes with red and blue flags. I wish I had taken a picture. Thus the only way to even walk thru the area during one of the shows is to go thru the booth. This is very intimidating and I don't believe is in the spirit of the original intent of Prescott sisters.

Engage: Submit

Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at 11:03:28

city: Portsmouth

comments: I am writing to express support for the Prescott Park Arts Festival overall. It has been a place where I have taken my young children for the last 5 years to enjoy live music, friends, and the outdoors. The experience is family friendly which is a refreshing feeling considering the current world we live in. We are always surrounded by friends and other friendly concert goers in the "kid-zone". The same goes for the plays it puts on each year - it is a true treasure to be able to share the musicals with young kids at such an affordable cost. From my experiences, there have not been people misusing alcohol or other substances during concerts. I do not feel there is a need for police to patrol the park.

That being said, there are concerts that are more crowded than others and draw from surrounding areas. On those nights, such as Shakey Graves, I am pleased to be able to say that PPAF responded with calling additional staff to help keep aisles clear for moving through the park venue. I have always appreciated the respectful nature of the concert goers, but also of the staff at PPAF who strive to keep it safe as well as pleasant for everyone. I think as long as PPAF is properly staffed and willing to keep aisles clear for emergencies then it is not necessary to have police there.

I always tell people that the PPAF is literally the thing I enjoy the most about living in downtown Portsmouth. It is one of the reasons I have justified the cost of buying a home in downtown Portsmouth. It is one of the reasons I have chosen to raise a family here in Portsmouth. Every single musician says it is an amazing experience to play at the park. Speaking for myself (and probably every person in the audience) it is an amazing experience to listen to live music in the park.

I wanted to share these positive thoughts and express gratitude for providing a safe and family friendly venue for residents and visitors to enjoy top notch music and plays. Please continue to support the PPAF. It is one of the things that makes Portsmouth special.

Thank you,

Engage: Submit

Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at 11:38:37

city: Portsmouth

comments: Double down on the arts. New permanent stage. More music. Encourage buskers, impromptu jam sessions and local bands to perform in the park when there is no performance scheduled.

Not just music, encourage guerilla theatre, poetry readings, performance art, puppetry, the entire world of creativity.

Engage: Submit

Date: 7/19/2016

city: Portsmouth

state: NH

comments: Dear Trustees,
I'm writing to you because I love the Prescott park arts festival and want to keep it vibrant and exciting. I moved to Portsmouth about 4 years ago in great part due to the park and the arts festival. While living on nantucket I visited Dover often to see my son and his family and a highlight of these visits was coming to

the arts festival for concerts with the family- 3 generations. We all love the concerts and plays. The children play, dance, climb the whale; while the parents listen to wonderful music, connect with other parents and I enjoy the whole experience. The arts festival is a magical place that is so special in any town and Portsmouth is so lucky to have it. My husband is partially disabled and the arts festival gives me a chance to get out and enjoy my family and great talent on many evenings- a breather if you will. I can also bring him down to enjoy occasional concerts. I have gone to probably 75 to 80 % of concerts and festivals and I have NEVER seen any out of control behavior or alcoholic disturbances. Never. The craziest behavior I've witnessed would be the wonderful joy that I see in the children playing and dancing in the park. I absolutely see no reason for police to be in attendance. My experience these past 4 seasons has been to observe all ages of people enjoying the beautiful evenings full of joy and shared community I am in awe of the planning and work that the staff of the arts festival does all year to give our town a wonderful, magical summer. I do not believe a small group of complainers should influence what the vast majority of concert goers enjoy.
Thank you.

Ps I would be happy to come to any meetings to speak further on the importance of the arts festival.

Engage: Submit

Saturday, July 23, 2016 at 08:49:38
city: portsmouth

comments: Please provide the PPAF a limited area and rule that number and types of performances are kept small enough to not damage the park and its' other uses, and keeps it in line with respect to the neighborhood

Engage: Submit

Monday, July 25, 2016 at 10:09:49
city: Portsmouth

comments: Comments submitted online to Master Plan Committee on Intensity/Frequency of Events 7/25/2016

Title: Intensity/Frequency of PPAF Events.

The primary downtown Boston outdoor event venues at the Boston Common and Esplanade Hatch Shell COMBINED have MUCH LESS INTENSITY than what we have in Prescott Park, and much further from residential areas as well. Bottom line, two much larger venues in a much larger city have much less intense use of considerably larger public park facilities.

<http://hatchshell.com/events.php>

Note the significantly lower intensity in terms of number of events and also note the performances - all the music is classical and local.

The PLAY takes place at another venue - Shakespeare in the Park at Boston Common and only for a short duration.

I saw them putting up a stage on a platform when I was in Boston July 9th weekend (yes, constructing it in JULY), an almost identical temporary setup to ours, complete with a much smaller enclosed fence backstage area.

<http://commshakes.org/performances> July 20-August 7th (a heavy schedule for those 2 1/2 weeks - see link below but only for 2 ½ weeks)

<http://commshakes.org/performances/performance/136>

Engage: Submit

Monday, July 25, 2016 at 15:35:14

city: Kittery

comments: We are very frequent visitors to Portsmouth and Prescott Park and heard the other night that comments were welcome. While we definitely support upgrade to the park's ability to host music and theater events, we believe that it is critically important to preserve the shade trees currently standing throughout the park and would suggest the strategic planting of even more trees for future generations to enjoy during our increasingly hot summers. The flower gardens are exquisite. We sincerely hope they are preserved (or even expanded) in the new plan. It may not be economically feasible to expand toward the water front, but we hope you are considering additions to that area as well. Prescott Park is certainly a jewel in the Portsmouth landscape and is one of the many sites I recommend to tourists and visitors as an Uber driver based in the Portsmouth area. Cities throughout America have not begun to tap into their own precious natural resources, while Portsmouth is decades ahead due to the foresight of previous planners. Keep up the great progress. You've certainly contributed to the city becoming one of the best places to live (and to live near) in all of North America. No exaggeration.

Engage: Submit

Monday, July 25, 2016 at 15:46:36

city: Portsmouth

comments: I live at 111 Gates Street, about 2 1/2 blocks from the stage. The intensity of events is exhausting! Six nights every week - often starting with 2:30 sound check and running until almost 11 PM. Some Saturdays and Sundays starting at 10 AM and running continuously until after 10 PM. This is a public park in the middle of a residential neighborhood.

Engage: Submit

Thursday, July 28, 2016 at 16:25:49

city: Kittery

comments: The Prescott Park Arts Festival is a summer centerpiece for Portsmouth, and the team there does an amazing job enticing world class acts, and juggling stakeholders, neighbors, fans big and small, from all over the Seacoast and all over the WORLD. When people ask me what my summer plans are, I tell them, "You'll find me at Prescott Park every Wednesday night." A very happy member. Any planning for the future of Prescott Park must include support of the Prescott Park Arts Festival, as an ongoing tent pole feature of our beautiful area.

Engage: Submit

At the request of the author, this document was submitted via the public comment form.

Arts Festival no longer compliments Prescott Park

Posted Jul. 29, 2016 at 2:01 AM

July 28 — To the Editor:

Prescott Park, with its beautiful gardens and waterfront view, is a gem to be treasured. There was a time when the performances held there were a nice compliment to the park. However, in recent years the PPAF has expanded to the point where it consumes rather than compliments the park, and has done so with a lack of respect to its surroundings. With approximately 100 events a season the opportunities for people to spend time in the park enjoying the beauty and quiet peacefulness of this gift in a natural state are greatly limited. The leadership of PPAF shows little respect to the aesthetics of the park. Instead of selecting appropriate shows for the space, they deface the park with an ugly, backstage area of trailers and a tent surrounded by a fence that blocks the water view from the lovely formal garden.

The PPAF shows a lack of respect for rules. The formal agreement between the trustees and PPAF states that public access through the park should not be hindered, yet roped off “donation booths” block access. Even though PPAF representatives claim they put no pressure on people to donate, they give out 500 free membership badges so those who are unable to pay won’t feel uncomfortable.

PPAF shows no respect for the park neighborhood. They boast of a big investment in a new sound system, but according to the July 13 police log, the sound level of a recent concert disturbed residents in two states. A respectful organization would not even consider exposing their neighbors to elevated sound levels six days a week.

Portsmouth is not starved for the arts. One of our city councilors has said that Portsmouth has more arts and culture than cities three and four times our size. It is time for PPAF to downsize to an appropriate size for its location – or move. But please do not move to my neighborhood.

Portsmouth

comments: The current PPAF has outgrown Prescott Park. If an Arts Festival is to continue at Prescott Park, it should consider the fact that such a Festival is located in a neighborhood. A festival should respect the neighborhood and the Park by controlling volume, number of performances, hours of performances and the effect of having hundreds and perhaps a couple of thousand people coming into a neighborhood to park vehicles. Consideration should also be given to the detrimental effect that thousands of people can have on the park itself.

Engage: Submit

comments: Below is a breakdown of events held in NYC's Central Park in 2016 and events held in Prescott Park in 2016. I believe there are too many performances in the park.

Please move the concerts/music festivals to either 3S Artspace or to Redhook Brewery. This has the advantage of allowing for alcohol use where it is illegal at the park, but where use of alcohol is widespread.

Please move the movies to The Music Hall.

Please keep the summer production and the shows put on by local non-profits in the park.

This will reduce the impact on the park.

Central Park, New York City

Acres: 845

Naumberg Bandshell

Classical Concerts: 5

Dates: 6/14, 6/28, 7/12, 7/19, and 8/2

Delacorte Theatre

Taming of the Shrew: 29 performances

Dates: 5/24 to 6/26

Troilus and Cressida: 24 performances

Dates: 7/9 to 8/14

Public Works: Twelfth Night: 4 performances

Dates: 9/2 to 9/5

Total Events: 57

Summit Rock

The Bacchae: 16 performances

Dates: 7/14 to 8/7, Thursdays to Sundays

Dana Discovery Center

International Music/Dance Performances: 12 performances

Dates: 6/9 to 9/4, Sundays, 2 - 4 pm

Rumsey Playground

Concerts: 48

Dates: 7/6 to 9/23

Great Lawn

New York Philharmonic: 2

Dates: 6/15 and 6/16

Central Park Film Festival

Movies: 4

Dates: 8/24 to 8/27

Total Central Park Events: 144

Total Central Park Venues: 6

Source: www.centralpark.com

Prescott Park

Acres: 10

2016 Schedule

Summer Musical: 36

Concerts: 22

Music Festivals: 3

Movies: 10

Miscellaneous Events: 29

Total Events: 100

Total Venues: 1

Source: Prescott Park, 2016 Schedule

Engage: Submit

comments: As a follow-up, no matter what level of programming is adopted for the park, I request that the programming go through the City's Technical Advisory Committee and Planning Board.

All new uses/structures in the city need to go through planning review to assess impacts, such as noise, parking, vehicular or pedestrian patterns, and figure out how they can be fitted into the location in which they are sited. This is desperately needed for the park programs, specifically the PPAF. The PPAF has grown and expanded and never undergone site plan review as a changed and expanded use.

Engage: Submit

comments: First, let me thank everyone involved with the Blue Ribbon Committee for the wonderful work that you are doing. Although I don't attend the meetings, I watch all of them, and I am truly grateful for all of the consideration that each of you is giving to the redesign of the park.

I know that representatives from Weston and Sampson have spent much time at Prescott Park at various times. I would encourage them to be sure to be at Prescott Park during Josh Ritter's concert, Taj Mahal's concert and Judy Collin's concert. Those will be the concerts that will draw the largest crowds and will give the park designers a better idea of just how many people do attend the largest concerts. We usually have 3 or 4 concerts a year that attract huge audiences. Please read the Portsmouth Herald's Seacoast Online article about numbers of people attending concerts. The numbers quoted are from Mr. Anderson, PPAF's president. I have included the link.

<http://www.seacoastonline.com/article/20130726/NEWS/307260395>

If you do not trust the link, simply do a google search for "Carpenter, Cohn event sets Prescott Park attendance record".

I would also like to suggest that headliner concerts drawing the largest crowds be moved to one of the proposed new athletic fields that the city is planning to build. It would alleviate large crowd impact on Prescott Park and provide an increased seating area for concert goers, particularly if bleachers are available.

Engage: Submit

comments: Forgive me for not including these other links to concert size in my earlier email. I would also encourage all of you to not only attend the concerts mentioned in my earlier email, but to attend the Lucinda Williams concert and possible Mavis Staples as well. All of the entertainers I listed in both emails are wonderful and should draw very large audiences. It should give you a better idea of what the park experiences during large concerts. I'm sure there are other articles written given concert size estimates, if you should choose to look for them.

<http://patch.com/new-hampshire/portsmouth-nh/difranco-fans-stake-out-blankets-early-for-concert>

www.seacoastonline.com/article20110729/NEWS/107290388

Engage: Submit

comments: I have just read the account of yesterday's meeting on park usage in the paper and I write to request that the solution to the intensification of the use of the park area by the PPAF not be to disperse it throughout the park, in effect a kind of PPAF sprawl. This would allow the PPAF to take over more of the park that it does now during the months when most people want to use it.

Unlike Central Park, which is 845 acres, Prescott Park is just 10 acres and can not accommodate having five or six venues like Central Park can.

Please move the concerts/music festivals to another location or, alternatively, relocate the festival to another parcel of land in Portsmouth that is not used during the rest of the year so it can recover itself.

Thank you for your consideration.

Engage: Submit

comments: The prescott park arts festival is perfect the way it is. My daughter has enjoyed the shows each year and even some of the music performances. It makes our city unique and gives it life. It adds business to local shops and restaurants.

Please consider what is in the best interest of the majority rather than the few that have nothing better to do then complain.

Engage: Submit

comments: Committee Members,

I am writing to you as a community member who uses and enjoys Prescott Park. I have attended free yoga in the park and have had family picnics in the park and on Four Tree Island. I am also a strong supporter of the Prescott Park Arts Festival. I attend nearly every concert and go to the musical yearly. It is amazing that such high quality performances are within walking distance of my home. I truly believe that this festival and the fact that the events happen in the outdoor space of the park is a major highlight of living in Portsmouth, and one of the big reasons we chose to buy a home in the city. We take visiting family and guests there and recommend it to others, because we enjoy it so much. And since I have lived in Portsmouth (10 years), the caliber of the performances has increased SO much. I appreciate that the park does get a lot of use in summer, but as all New Englanders know summer is short, winter is coming, and we really must enjoy every day of sunshine that we

get. And for me, events in Prescott Park are the way I enjoy summer. If the same events were held indoors, I would very likely not attend. I hope you will not be overly swayed by the complaints of few. I love the park, and I love the Arts Festival as it has come to be during my time in this city. And as someone who lives in Portsmouth, I want to see it continue to be a lively, vibrant, active city -- if I wanted quiet, I could buy a much less expensive and much larger home elsewhere.

Thank you.

Engage: Submit

comments: Dear City Council Members,

While thinking about plans for the 'new' Prescott Park, please don't let go of the Prescott Park we love today. For many years as a renter in town, Prescott Park was the only place to feel grass between my toes. One summer working at The Dunaway, I lost my grandma - we had just made plans the day before to watch Grease in the park - she didn't make it that year. But we have shared many memories as a family in the park, particularly during the Prescott Park Arts Festival and other events, like the NH Fish Festival. As a trumpet player, playing in band has meant visiting the island for practices in the summer and of course, it's an essential meeting spot for community members participating in the Halloween Parade. It's serene walking along the edge of the water, riding bicycles and smelling the salty air, and incredible to be able to enjoy premier music and art performances curled up on a blanket. Those moments are how our community interacts and meets one another. Having a place to go in the summer where you can lay a blanket down to rest in the warmth of the sun while surrounded by beautiful gardens is blissful. Performing on stage with PMAC was a dream come true. The open space and arts/community events held in the Park are vital to the soul of the city and the vast majority of folks who have visited for years, rented and/or owned in Portsmouth would likely agree. Please keep the arts and first-class music acts a part of your new vision. The community needs a place to congregate and share in the joy and happiness on the seacoast. Please keep these alive for my future children and theirs to enjoy. I simply couldn't imagine Portsmouth without the Prescott Park Arts Festival. Thank you for reading. Cordially,

Engage: Submit

Councilor Dwyer:

I understand your committee is seeking ideas on how to change present PPAF operations to make the Prescott Park experience more consistent with the wishes of the Prescott sisters. Kindly review and distribute the below for consideration to other Prescott Park Master Plan committee members.

Thank you

To the Editor:

Much has been written in your newspaper this summer about the Prescott Park Arts Festival's (PPAF) fund raising techniques and its controversial use of for-profit style entry gates.

Former City Councilor Stephanie Shaheen says park users have to deal with "awkward moments" when required to go through narrow, confined gates simply to get from one side of the park to the other. I feel intimidated and pressured to explain how I intend to use a public park to a PPAF gate attendant. Some more sensitive members of our community could even feel terrorized by the whole experience. PPAF's donation intimidation stations have all the warmth and welcoming ambience of the TSA bomb and gun screening stations at Logan airport. Can any of your readers explain the purpose of the walls and roof on PPAF's Prescott Park entry gates?

If PPAF must use donation intimidation stations, they should be relocated to cordoned off areas of the grassy sections Prescott Park. Here, this community's over-privileged, those that have annual incomes of say \$124,199 or more, should be asked to pay their "fair share", or full rate suggested donation. The rest of us normally-privileged and under-privileged would be asked to donate on a prorated basis based on

one's income, as compared to the rich. So if the wealthy's fair share suggested donation to PPAF was \$20 and one only makes \$62,000 annually, the suggested donation for that person would be \$10.00, \$31,000 annual income, \$5.00 donation, and so on. In this fashion, the PPAF would raise funds using the same philosophy as our community's other more progressive non-profits, namely, "From each according to ability".

In any event, the paved public walkways along the Prescott Park waterfront should be left wide open and un-barricaded, at all times, for pedestrians and cyclists to pass freely and enjoy as the Prescott sisters intended.

comments: Team,

I noticed a lot of negative press around the size and impact concerts have on both the park and the overall community. Realize that one event (Shandy Gaves) is not typical of all the other events or concerts. What makes Portsmouth special is Prescott Park and the venues.

I see simple changes, like having the stage face the water (e.g., noise complaints), to address as many "issues" as possible.

Also, who from the PPAF group is on the committee? I have to believe thier input would be invaluable in definging the long-term plan.

Let's coordinate as a community versus adressing the concerns issues from a minority group.

Engage: Submit

comments: My husband and I have been residents of Hampton for the past 6 years and have been members of the Arts Festival for the past 5 years, and we think the Arts Festival is wonderful. We love the concerts and think the plays are a delight, especially for children who may not be able to experience this type of entertainment otherwise.

We recognize that there have been some issues with noise and alcohol, and we hope this doesn't result in the end of this Portsmouth festival. We think the recent stressing of the No Alcohol rule may help, and we think the recent presence of a police officer is a good idea as well. We hope that small changes will allow the festival to continue for many years to come.

We would also like to mention that were it not for the Festival, we wouldn't make the trip to Portsmouth to shop or dine nearly as often as we do now

Engage: Submit

comments: I lived in Portsmouth for two years before moving to Exeter 11 years ago. Throughout that time I have attended many events at Prescott Park - movies, concerts, musicals... Trips to the Arts Festival are always a highlight of my summer. I have also introduced friends and family to the festival, and spent money in town before heading to concerts. I understand that Prescott Park is a public place, and when I lived in Portsmouth I enjoyed going to the park to cool down and admire the lovely gardens on hot days, but the Arts Festival does not detract from that. It adds vibrancy to the city. I appreciate living in Exeter where it is quiet (and generally boring) but Portsmouth is neither, and I feel as though residents of the city should understand and appreciate the Festival rather than fighting against it.

Engage: Submit

comments: We have been attending Events at PPAF for several years and always enjoy them. We have never seen any trouble, just people enjoying the show, the park and the beauty. It is terrible that a few people want to complain and cause trouble but that seems to be what is happening and it is a shame. The only change that has happened in the past few years that we do not like is the addition of tables. We feel that there are too many and people who bring their own chairs are getting pushed further back. Every time we are there we see more and more empty tables. Please continue to bring the arts to the people and ignore the naysayers. Thank you.

Engage: Submit

Hello Asst. City Manager David Moore and Chief Mara, (cc. to City Manager Bohenko)

A friend of mine photographed the Prescott Park recycle bins early on August 18th, the morning after the August 17th Woods Brothers' concert. Once again we have a return to evidence of a large amount of drinking in the park. The bins around the stage and on the city side of the park were those filled with beer, wine and even hard alcohol bottles. Was the officer not present that evening at the park? Did he merely stand by the concession booth (which in my experience is not where drinking has occurred in the past)?

I did not attend the event so do not have first hand experience, but the recycle bin evidence my friend found, much of which she did not photograph, indicated the problem has returned. In addition, I understand from another friend that the PPAF "party" that night spilled out into the residential neighborhood on the city side of the park.

PPAF has several upcoming concerts which will likely draw very large crowds. I would like to ensure that these are family friendly events with an environment consistent with that of a public park bordered by residential neighborhoods rather than that of a party or bar district. If you have any questions about these photos or other evidence of alcohol at the park which I previously submitted, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

P.S. I am sending the photographic evidence from my iphoto account in another email as the city servers do not accept larger files and iphoto truncates photo quality and size so hopefully the city servers can accept them.

P.P.S. David, Please enter this letter and the photos into the record for the Prescott Park Master Plan Committee.

**Ph Photos of Recycle Bins morning of August 18, 2016
post PPAF Woods Brothers concert**





comments: Dear Prescott Park Master Plan Committee,

I and my family reside across the street from Prescott Park. Both the park and the Arts Festival are things that we cherish and thoroughly enjoy. The park and the festival played a formative roll in my upbringing as I visited and attended many shows when it was Theatre by the Sea ~30 years ago and walked through and played in the park on many an occasion. Now I enjoy using the park to play frisbee with my children, going to the movies and shows and strolling through the grounds.

As with all great public spaces and venues with multiple uses, there are elements that need little further improvement and then areas of much greater need. Keeping this short and to the point, I'd like to advocate the points of strength of the park and the areas in need of improvement:

Areas of Great Strength

- The formal gardens (beautiful just need to fix some of the fencing)
- Four Tree Island (not PP per se but part of the package)
- The Sheafe Warehouse (great art show through the Summer)
- The Fairy House tour
- The Piers
- The PPAF - the variety of offerings (musical, concerts, movies, other - tremendous and will make a further note below)
- The newly renovated concessions area and bathrooms

Areas that would be great to see improvement

- Getting rid of all asphalt walkways - cobble them all
- Get rid of all chain link fences and replace with rot iron fences
- Re-establish access to the granite steps that lead to the river and provide more access to the river
- use tree and plant guards to lessen people's tendency to walk across areas that damage the grass around trees and plants that people don't need to be walking over. It's great to have the open spaces to play frisbee, picnic, relax, but there are many areas where people do not need to be cutting thru that kills the grass and damages tree roots.
- Embrace the PPAF with all it has to offer and continue to let it grow

On this last point, I'd like to emphasize the following. We live across from the park and relish hearing activity and the shows throughout the Summer. It has never been so loud to bother us. Further, we appreciate the sense of community, the statement of openness the PPAF represents, how inclusive the festival is, and how much it helps local businesses. On this last point, many people don't appreciate how long and challenging the Winter is in Portsmouth for many of these local businesses. Without a strong and vibrant film festival, the local community will not benefit from all the businesses that are able to squeak by during the Winter because they can count on the economic boost from the Summer that PPAF helps facilitate.

Specifically, I am concerned that the Committee make look to cut back on the number of outdoor movies shown throughout the Summer, or really, any curtailment of the current level (quantity) of programming. I believe strongly that the three main types of "performances" at PPAF (movies, musicals, and concerts) all target slightly different demographics and stages of a person or their families life. While my children are getting less interested in the musicals as they get older and have little interest in the concerts (not old enough), the movies are something we now relish going to together. I have little doubt that in coming years the concerts will be of greater interest. Finally on the movie topic, the

movies are truly targeted at the very local community level. Few people are coming from far away to see an outdoor movie in Prescott Park and the movies are amongst the quietest of the "performances" at the park (not, as previously stated, that we have had a problem with the volume of any of the performances).

In sum, I feel just as strongly about the needed physical improvements to the park as about the Master Plan's need to fully embrace the continued vitality and growth of the festival. I have just spent more of this note on the festival as it has been getting too much criticism from a vocal, often highly suspect, minority in 2016.

Thank you for all your diligent work on the committee and for your sincere consideration of topics covered in this missive.

comments: I am sending this msg along to the committee to let them know what a magnificent resource Prescott Park has been to our family. Through the years we have enjoyed the plays, concerts and other events that are managed on the property. We have made over 100 visits and I am amazed by the respect I see from all in attendance and the management. In all those visits we have never witnessed any people who were disrespectful or out of control even given the volume of folks in attendance. We would be very disappointed to see this change in any significant way. I would conclude by saying that this is one of the gems of not only the NH seacoast but all of NH and we appreciate all the effort that goes on to make it all happen.

Engage: Submit

comments: Prescott Park Arts Festival is one of the few places in town that consistently offers people of all ages to get together and enjoy the arts! The committee does a great job bringing quality performances to our great city. The Prescott sisters would be so happy that their wishes have been honored. Keep the arts festival!

Engage: Submit

comments: I know there is a small but vocal group of people who are trying to shut down the Prescott Park Arts Festival. Prescott Park and the events that happen there are a large part of what makes Portsmouth such a special place to live and visit. Over the years my husband and I have been able to hear and support so many different musicians, watched plays from The Little Mermaid to South Pacific to Midsummer Night's Dream. Last night I sat in the audience, in awe of Lucinda Williams, her band, and her music. At one point, tears welled in my eyes as I was suddenly reminded that the festival could potentially become a part of the past. As a citizen of Portsmouth for nearly 30 years, I cannot imagine a summer without the joys and experiences the PPAF delivers each and every year. When in town, visitors and family from away look forward to visiting the Park and it's brilliant offerings; the variety of choices is always excellent! Please know there are many, many more citizens in favor of continuing PPAF than those in opposition.

The sound system has been improve, which is great! My only complaint is about people standing and blocking the view of those people who are sitting on the grass. Many people bring their blankets & chairs early enough to get a good seat for the show, only to end up seeing the legs of a bunch of people. I am not opposed to dancing (I've been known to do it myself). I would love to see an area designated for standing & dancing that allows everyone else to see. Maybe raise the stage?

No matter what, we will always support PPAF! Keep fighting for the Arts and Performers in Portsmouth!

comments: My husband and I are new to the Portsmouth area. The concerts at Prescott Park was one of the main draws for us to move to the area. We have attended a number of concerts this summer and each evening has been most enjoyable. We wholeheartedly support the arts in all forms at Prescott Park. It is a real gem for the city of Portsmouth. We appreciate all of the hard work that goes into this organization.

Engage: Submit

comments: Dear Planning Committee,

My thoughts on the use of PP by PPAF. I believe using the park for approximately 10 weeks a year is beneficial to both tourists and probably more so. It gives us the opportunity to experience all types of music in addition to quality plays while also enjoying the outdoors, meeting new people and old friends at the same time.

I think that if blankets are causing damage to the grass, then don't allow them any more. Secondly, if the PPAF isn't paying the town enough for the use of the park, ask for double. The PPAF must have it since they were able to give Ben a large pay increase this year.

I know there was one concert this summer when some people were smoking pot and drinking, make PPAF hire off duty officers for concerts that are likely to attract a younger crowd.

I don't see any reason why the many should be punished because of the will of a few. It's only 10 weeks of the year, after all Thank you,

Engage: Submit
