

**Mayoral Appointed Blue Ribbon Committee
Prescott Park Policy Advisory Committee**

Background

In April 2017, Mayor Blalock appointed the Prescott Park Policy Advisory Committee. Using the 2017 Prescott Park Master Plan as a guide, the Committee's charge is to advise the City Manager with respect to park policies; events, activities, and services in the Park; and operations of licensees and to serve as a communication forum.

The Committee is currently working to develop a series of recommendations for the City Manager's use in developing future license agreements with Park licensees. For this work, the Committee has identified a series of topics on which it will deliberate prior to finalizing its series of recommendations. These topics include: Events and Performances Schedule; Factors in License Agreement Payments; Sound Levels in the Park; Site Signage and "Commercialization"; and Layout of Temporary Facilities.

For more information about the Committee, including the Prescott Park Master Plans' recommendations for Governance, visit: <http://cityofportsmouth.com/prescottpark/pppac.html>.

Performance and Event Schedule Topics

The Advisory Committee has discussed the Performance and Event Schedule in the Park over a series of meetings. Below is a list of proposals discussed to date by the Committee. Some proposals conflict with one another; this is purposeful and designed to gather input on a number of proposals and different approaches discussed by the Committee.

Schedule Parameters and Approval Process

Concept: Establish schedule parameters for future seasons for the Prescott Park Arts Festival, which would be included in a future license agreement. In addition to planning for compliance with the parameters each year, a final approval of concert dates would take place prior to each season. Schedule parameters for the 2018 season will be provided to the Arts Festival in September 2017.

A. Season Start and End dates:

- a. Proposal: Festival season bookends should be established for the regular festival season. This would not preclude separate approval of "Special Events" (ex. Chowder Festival, Road Race) or other specialized programming (ex. "Community Showcases") outside of the "bookends".
- b. Proposal: Start of season should be no sooner than the Friday of the week school year concludes (using the Portsmouth School Board adopted school year calendar).
- c. Proposal: End of season would be no later than the Sunday night of Labor Day weekend. However, no events ending after 7:00 p.m. on a night before a school day will be permitted.
- d. Proposal: The regular festival season shall be limited to a defined number of consecutive weeks. This would not preclude separate approval of special events (see "a". above) outside of the "bookends". For reference, the 2017 Festival season programming takes place during 12 consecutive weeks.

B. Number and Frequency of Events and Performances:

- a. Proposal: There shall be two days per week where there is no performance or event on the stage or in the Park. This includes all event types, including those not requiring or utilizing amplified sound or music. Exception for daytime camp activities, grill reservations, weddings, yoga, etc.
- b. Proposal: The two “no performance” days, should be either the same days from week to week; changeable by the week (as scheduled prior to the season) or a combination of both.
- c. Proposal: Establish a maximum number of events by type (ex: concerts) by season.
- d. Proposal: Maximum Hours of Programming per Week. The amount of programming per week shall be limited to X number of total hours.
- e. Proposal: Maximum Hours per Weekend Day. In no one weekend day, should programming extend beyond a total X hours. Separate permission can be sought (at time of schedule approval) for exceeding the maximum number of hours of programming by day for special circumstance.
- f. Proposal: Establish a maximum number of events by type by week.

C. Intensity (audience size) and Performance Type:

- a. Proposal: Prohibit the scheduling of any event type that is reasonably anticipated to exceed Park capacity. Park capacity is determined to be X persons.
- b. Proposal: Establish a requirement to space (over time) performance events with reasonably anticipated large attendance. Note: In 2017, data will be provided by the PPAF on audience size for each event.
- c. Proposal: After establishing the audience level standard for the event intensity type, establish limits by each type. Ex. With X number of concerts permitted, up to X shall be permitted to be Level A concerts, etc.

D. Performance Times:

- a. Proposal: All programming Sunday through Thursday would be required to end at 10:00 p.m.; programming on Friday and Saturday would be required to end at 11:00 p.m. These are hard stop requirements and inclusive of intermission and delays of any kind to the program start, including inclement weather.

E. Program Type and Mix:

- a. Proposal: Future license agreements with the Arts Festival should establish expectations for program mix overall. The City expects a variety of programming to be offered in the Park with a musical theater production core to the Festival Season. In addition, all programming in the Park should be “family-friendly” and an emphasis should be on opportunities for local performers as well as workforce.