

July 13, 2020

"McIntyre 2020 Moving Forward" Survey

Statement prepared jointly by the City Council McIntyre Subcommittee and representatives of Redgate Kane, coordinated by Subcommittee Chair, Peter Whelan

Earlier this year, a newly elected City Council called for a reevaluation of plans to redevelop the McIntyre parcel at the center of our downtown. In 2018, the City selected Redgate/Kane as a development partner, and in 2019 approved a plan for redevelopment of the two-acre parcel. The City has been trying to acquire and redevelop this important property for more than 20 years.

The new City Council and Redgate/Kane have agreed to work together on considering changes to the proposed plan in the best interests of all residents. The McIntyre Subcommittee has been working with our development partner to explore possible changes to this major project. Both parties have agreed to put all litigation on hold as we work together in this effort. We are exploring providing more public open space, along with several other key points which have been identified in the process.

The McIntyre Subcommittee and the principals of Redgate/Kane have been meeting weekly over the past months seeking to resolve our differences and move the project forward. This process requires a great deal of compromise from all trying to get this project across the finish line with the National Park Service and GSA. It will require a financial commitment from the City to achieve certain possible changes to the project, such as adding open space or the return of the Post Office to the site. The City is actively discussing financial options with the development partner to achieve these goals.

The McIntyre Subcommittee working with Redgate/Kane needs citizens' feedback in a survey which you will soon receive in the mail. The City Council is committed to move this complicated process forward with our development partner and the National Park Service. We as partners are looking forward not backward in the spirit of getting a great project for the residents of Portsmouth.

The survey all residents will be receiving in the mail will help the McIntyre Subcommittee and Redgate/Kane craft a plan to move forward. We are all committed to achieving a project which residents can enjoy and be proud of on this key parcel in our historic downtown. The McIntyre Subcommittee and Redgate/Kane are not looking at this project as just another development project in our historic city.

We will have further public input as the process unfolds in the next few months with a goal of a successful new application to the National Park Service in the September/October timeframe.

We appreciate the residents' patience as we move forward with this project. The McIntyre parcel sits at the center of our historic Portsmouth, so it is critical that we get it right and make it the historic centerpiece in our historic downtown.