

# Foundry Garage Rooftop Project Update

Portsmouth Citizen Response Task Force subcommittee

*June 18, 2020*

The Citizen Response Task Force subcommittee met with city staff and a representative from the independent community workgroup on the Foundry Garage Rooftop Project on Thursday, June 18 at 8am via zoom.

## **Present:**

Russ Grazier, subcommittee chair and task force member

Deb Anthony, subcommittee member and task force member

James Petersen, task force co-chair

Peter Rice, Director of Public Works

Robert Marsilia, Chief Building Inspector

Todd Germain, Fire Chief

Patrick Howe, Deputy Fire Chief

Kim McNamara, Health Officer

Ben Fletcher, Parking Director

Mike Casad, General Foreman for Parking Division

Kathleen Cavalaro, Seacoast Rep, independent working group

North Sturtevant, JSA, a member of the Portsmouth Design Professionals Alliance

These notes are general in nature and are intended to document topics discussed and are not minutes.

- From a safety perspective, the project will need to include a 3-foot offset from all walls along the edge of the garage rooftop. This is to ensure nothing is placed on walls and no one stands or sits near the walls. At a minimum a rope along the edge with stanchions and signage.
- We will need a clear exit routes with barricades – 4- or 5-foot offset, particularly along the slope in the area currently designated for performances.
- Fill gaps at curtain walls (interior) for safety reasons – department of works will handle this.
- An important operational requirement: public announcements will need to be made at beginning of each event/performance to clearly announce exit routes and enforce social distancing. This must include a public service announcement about what happens if you need to leave quickly. (Leave building without vehicles in case of emergency.)
- Concerns about sheds need to be addressed. The city is not comfortable with cooking or food prep inside wooden shed. Inspection needs a layout design of shed. Commercial grade warming is required – no exhaust.
- Inspection is comfortable with current generator proposal.

- Stage generator could be positioned on fourth floor, one floor below the stage. Vendor generator could be positioned on the far end of the fifth floor, under cover and away from the stage. These are whisper generators, quiet for a generator but not silent.
- Three restaurant stations are currently in the plan, one to be occupied by Black Trumpet, and two that could be utilized by a variety of restaurants on a rotating schedule.
- All equipment used in restaurant must be commercial grade. Just refrigeration and warming. No cooking or prep on site. Designed like a temporary event.
- Food served out of sheds and beer from a beer garden station. All food and drinks consumed at tables, allowing for social distancing.
- Portsmouth restaurants have a long history of participating in temporary events and there is no concern about this.
- There was discussion of a dedicated egress path at interior of slope section for safety. Separating the egress with sawhorses would keep loose chairs from blocking the egress in the event of an emergency.
- It is not recommended to use paint on the surface of the garage, but it could be possible to use chalk paint. But not recommended.
- Masks will likely be required in theater section. Look to local guidance for mask wearing.
- Only one 3-bay will be required on site. A Rubbermade shed that seals completely when closed will work. Pipe in a 3-bed water supply with hot water, shared and not in any of the restaurant sheds.
- Fire department stated we need to avoid gas fuel for cooking or heating water, especially propane. An electric water heater is ideal. Larger tank type so you don't have a huge electric draw. James Petersen will look closely at the size of water heater.
- Biggest concern is fuel and type of appliances for warming fuel. Electric induction burner is ok. All appliances must be reviewed.
- JSA will design shed shells
- Kim McNamara will not be available for next four days. Dr. Bianca Monteiro can step in for questions regarding crowds. Kristin Shaw, deputy Health Officer is also available for questions.
- If a tent were used for beer garden, it would have to have certificate for flame proofing and would need to be properly anchored. The challenge is strong winds at the rooftop level. There are ways to ballast it, no ability to put stakes in. Discussion needs to be had with tent rental company.
- Umbrellas are possible for table seating with proper anchoring and flame retardant.
- Need to determine total occupancy, allowing for setbacks.

*Notes prepared and submitted by Russ Grazier, 6/18/2020*