

Portsmouth Citizen's Response Task Force

Bridge Street Subcommittee Meeting

August 5, 2020

Present:

Russ Grazier, subcommittee chair and task force member

Deb Anthony, task Force member

Joseph Almeida, City of Portsmouth Facilities Manager

Kim McNamara, City of Portsmouth Health Officer

Stephanie Seacord, City of Portsmouth Public Information Officer

Josh Denton, Chair of Pop Up Portsmouth

Andrew Bagley, Secretary of Pop Up Portsmouth

North Sturtevant, JSA, Pop Up Portsmouth Board member

Tristin Law, Pop Up NH

Robert Marsillia, City of Portsmouth Chief Inspector

Patrick Howe, City of Portsmouth Deputy Fire Chief

James Petersen, Task Force Co Chair

Robin Husslage, Community Member

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

Work progress:

- Permits will be coming in the next two days
- Have Permit of Assembly Robert M. said he will have his plumbing and electric inspectors available
- Sheds are mostly completed – The Black Trumpet Shed and the Second will be shared by three restaurants Vida, Dos Amigos, and the Wilder.
- Tristan staggered the Porta Potties to ensuring better spacing
- Fencing will be a quick repair on lower lot due to high winds
- North is working on the issues with power requirements
- Joe and Russ have discussed the electric needs and it appears to be premature to address but there maybe an increased cost, perhaps there is more power than needed with less cooking equipment. This conversation is ongoing.
- There will be a phased opening. The food sheds and cantina will hopefully open on Friday (no theater) and Saturday would the Fashion Show on stage.
- North believes the Phased opening will be necessary to resolve all issues and concerns-particularly concerns about the power needed and in place.

Update on Permits

- Robert M stated that his electric and plumbing inspectors would be on site 8/4/20 to help expedite the permits. He suggested that if there is a phased opening there is still a need to permit for electric and plumbing.
- North noted the biggest issue is to get the Power done so that the electrician can make the final connections.

- Tristan noted that he believed there was about two hours of work to be completed for plumbing inspection and that should be ready by end of day tomorrow (8/6/20)
- Kim M noted that Health Dept. will inspect 8/6/20 between 11-1. She also needs to inspect the Food Sheds and cooking area, as well as Cantina. With the addition of a Taco Cart Kim noted that she would need to inspect the cart as well. Food permits will be for the first 3 weeks of operation.

Community Concerns:

Robin H spoke as a community member in the area directly impacted by the Bridge Street Project. She noted her respect and admiration for the work of the team. Noting however that she and her community have concerns regarding parking. She questioned what actions were being taken to facilitate parking at the Foundry Garage noting there had already been an uptick of street parking in the Neighborhood. Some ideas and activities that are already in play were discussed.

- The cost of entrance to the food court would be waived if you have a foundry parking ticket
- Stephanie reported that the City of Portsmouth is putting up several electronic message boards to encourage parking for the Pop-Up NH events to be at the Foundry Garage.
- These message boards will daily advertise the Foundry Garage
- There is information on the City Web site about parking at the Foundry Garage/.
- Russ G reiterated his efforts to ensure that as much messaging as possible is done by the City to encourage people to park at the Foundry Garage. He and members of the committee have been strongly advocating for the neighborhood.
- Tristan offered his contact information so that Robin and other neighborhood members could reach out to him if issues arise to effect quick resolutions.

Other:

- Schedule for the first 3 weeks:
 - Week One: Friday and Saturday only. Friday food court only and Saturday Food Court and Fashion show.
 - Week Two: Stage only on Saturday with Sam Robbins
 - Week Three: only some local bands (trying to ensure the venue is used for local talent and mitigate people from other states or cities from coming into Portsmouth)
- Food Court will Rotate each week the extra food shed with three restaurants: (Phase One)
 - Thurs (In extra shed) Dos Amigos
 - Friday (In extra shed) Vida Cantina
 - Saturday (In extra shed) The Wilder
 - Sunday (In extra shed) Dos Amigos

(Kim noted all these restaurants need to be permitted by Health Dept e.g. needs menu and operation plans for permits- also suggested not to add any new food operators for at least three weeks)

- Russ suggested that is venue should be a great opportunity to cultivate the Arts Nonprofits in the local community. Looking at presenting groups such as 3 S Art Space, The Theater Project, Music Hall, PMAC...he reminded the group that brining these folks to the space would require some lead time for each to organize an event. At least three weeks. Josh noted he would help with this project noting it would be good for the local Arts community.

- Kim noted that she would prefer not to see 5 shows on one weekend...concerns about health and too many people in the space. She noted she likes the first three weeks slow pace and being cautious.

- Current NEEDS:
 - North noted that there are only six-foot-long picnic tables in food court that will make it difficult to maximize dining space (e.g. a party of two would require their own six food picnic table). Still looking for some smaller tables.
 - There are no VIP tables in the Theater
 - Removal of the Parking Ticket vending machine to avoid people entering to buy ticket

Overall plan...start slowly, work out issues and concerns. Any seating changes need to be run by Health Dept. Permits need to be issued before any activity in the venue.