

Portsmouth Citizen's Response Task Force

Bridge Street Subcommittee Meeting

August 19, 2020

Present:

Russ Grazier, subcommittee chair and task force member
Deb Anthony, task Force member
Joseph Almeida, City of Portsmouth Facilities Manager
Stephanie Seacord, City of Portsmouth Public Information Officer
Josh Denton, Chair of Pop Up NH
Andrew Bagley, Secretary of Pop Up NH
Tristin Law, General Manager Pop Up NH
Robert Marsillia, City of Portsmouth Chief Inspector
Patrick Howe, City of Portsmouth Deputy Fire Chief
Laura Brown, Pop Up NH Board Member
Ben Van Camp, VP Portsmouth Chamber Collaborative
North Sturtevant, JSA, Pop Up NH Board member

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

Questions Clarifications:

Russ asked for updates on week 2 and plans for week 3 and also noted he would like to address retail space moving forward.

Josh reported that week two had been very successful. 2 food sheds were in operation as well as the bar. Performances were everyday with great attendance. He estimated that approximately \$25,000 of revenue between the restaurants and performance venue. He noted they will have more numbers to give the committee and community to inform people of the full economic impact that the site is providing. Josh also noted that Pop Up NH would be hiring an additional 3 FT staff and 2 PT to manage the needs of the venue.

Hours of Operation: Pop Up NH clarified hours of operation will be:

Thur. 3-10

Fri. 3-10

Sat. 12noon-10

Sun. 12noon-10pm.

Notes of Interest:

There are plans to add non-alcoholic additional beverages other than water for visitors.

Tristan also noted that they were using the performance area for dining when there was no show to support the food vendors and increase economic impact.

Josh noted that allowing the street to be closed off during hours of operation had been a huge help and proved to be very simple.

The generator was swapped out for a smaller one to reduce noise for neighborhood and better serve the performance area. This will also reduce cost.

Tristan added that the venue and business activity was going very smoothly. He noted there had been a few issues with the food ordering systems but those were being worked out. Noting the attendance for the venue ranged from 95 on Thursday to 200 on Saturday night. He also thanked the City for support on Sunday when the generator needed fuel. Highlighting the amazing support even on a Sunday with Joe A had fuel delivered.

Questions and Needs:

Retail: Russ spoke to the need to include retail vendors as soon as possible to include them in the opportunity to increase their revenues.

Russ noted that there are three simple spots that vendors could set up during open hours of the venue to help promote sales. Given that the season is short (till mid-October) he expressed a sincere hope that vendors could be included before the end of August.

Three vendors would allow ample spacing, keep customer flow simple (promote one direction of pedestrian flow) and could use a touchless payment method.

Budget: Russ asked that Pop Up NH create a budget to address the actual financial status. Perhaps planning the budget (based on the early numbers) for September – October. (6-week budget), This would allow the community to see the true economic impact of this project.

Josh noted he would have a working budget within a week and Joe A offered to also have a budget from the City side of the project within a few days.

Cover for Stage: There was a lengthy discussion about a way to shade the performance stage. North noted that there are requirements for fire code that would need to be addressed. Patrick H also noted that Kathleen should get specifications for any covering they consider noting he sent Kathleen a link to the acceptable product and would send to North. North agreed to manage this issue.

Other:

Additional Seating: North noted he would like to see if seating could be addressed with proper distancing etc. He will work with Kim on a plan.

Current Businesses: The venue is being used by Dos Amigos, The Wilder, Vida Cantina and Black Trumpet

Upcoming acts include: Beat Night, Kenny Brothers, Footloose and Kong Moon