Minutes for the March 31st, 2021 meeting of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee to Reopen Portsmouth 2021

Meeting location: Zoom

Co-Chair James Petersen called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and read the following declaration: Per NH RSA 91-A: 2, III (b) the Chair has declared the COVID-19 outbreak an emergency and has waived the requirement that a quorum be physically present at the meeting pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8, as extended by Executive Order 2020-25, and Emergency Order #12, Section 3. Members will be participating remotely and will identify their location and any person present with them at that location. All votes will be by roll call.

Roll Call of Members:

Voting Members Present: Co-Chair James Petersen, Co—Chair Mark Stebbins, John Golumb, Deb Anthony, Ann Birner, Karen Bouffard, Martha Fuller Clark, Alan Gold, Jim Lee, Valerie Rochon, Ann Weidman, Karen Conard, and Petra Huda.

A motion was made by Alan Gold and seconded by Martha Fuller Clark to approve the minutes of the March 31st, 2021 meeting. It was unanimously approved.

Health Update: Ann Birner gave the health update. She noted NH infection trends are trending up. Need to keep our guard up. Vaccines are being administered and are a bright spot in Pandemic. Will be updating Health FAQs on city website.

City Update: City Manager Karen Conard reported 16 approved applications for sidewalk dining, 9 pending, and 18 renewals.

Barriers will be placed when the DPW completes work on them. Martha Fuller Clark asked if students can take part in painting and beautifying the barriers...

Foundry place; period light bulbs will be replaced with brighter ones, looking to add more overhead lighting along Deer and Maplewood Streets to allay reported safety concerns by pedestrians leaving the garage..

Streets: Valerie Rochon talking about closing Ceres and Pleasant Streets during selected weekends, mixed response. Reported "Hit the Decks" will be extended this year and cover May 12th through May 16th. Ann Weidman reported the first or second week in June to beautify barriers, still fleshing out plans. Restaurants could choose to decorate portion of barriers facing their restaurant, maybe using high school students for artwork. Planters are being made to decorate the tops of barriers. Planters are also designed to stand alone.

A motion was made by Jim Lee and seconded by Martha Fuller Clark to go forward with planters and allocate up to $10,000 for materials costs, high school shop students will construct.

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Chair James Petersen remarked “the designed are beyond my expectations.” The motion to fund and construct them passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Martha Fuller Clark reported she will be meeting with residents to discuss street closures for selected summer weekends.

Public Comments: No one spoke.

Adjourn: Martha Fuller Clark moved to adjourn and Karen Bouffard seconded. On a unanimous roll call vote the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Lee, Acting Secretary

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