



PRAHA OUTDOOR
PERFORMANCE STAGE



July 1, 2024

TO: City Council

FM: Praha Outdoor Performance Stage Committee (POPS)/Forward New Prague Foundation

- Den Gardner, Chair of POPS Committee/Forward New Prague Foundation

CC: Josh Tetzlaff, Ken Ondich, Kyra Chapman

RE: Update on POPS

Good day. The following is an update on the POPS building project as July begins

1. The Praha Outdoor Performance Stage (POPS) Committee has raised about \$850,000 in three-year pledges. We believe \$750,000 of that is truly committed from a financial standpoint. (The \$100,000 difference is what I consider not 100% assured regarding the commitment. This is confidential of course.) Money is to be raised/secured until the end of 2025. **About \$300,000 has already been received and deposited in the Forward New Prague Foundation.**
2. We have generated donations from more than 100 groups/individuals/businesses through pledges, raffles, silent auction, etc. Those have been from buying a \$15 raffle ticket for the SUV giveaway, \$25 for a POPS t-shirt to large donations of \$25,000 up to a \$100,000 donation.
3. We expect (or have indications) that pro bono services will be provided in part, or all, for:
 - Excavation (\$10-\$25,000, depending on what terracing is determined, etc.)
 - Some utilities (through utilities commission) – (Amount TBD -- \$10,000?)
 - A waiving of general contractor fees if a particular contractor in New Prague is chosen. This is a value of approximately \$70-80,000.

- Some landscaping around the facility. Estimated \$5,000-\$10,000 in fees.

When the expected pledges, combined with pro bono services are added together, we believe we are between \$900,000 and \$1 million in cash pledges/pro bono services (or possibly more). Looking at the type of structure we are going to build, we are confident we can reach our goal. This will **NOT** prevent us from continuing to raise money. This will be done in earnest for the rest of this year. For example:

- An event at The Broz held June 1 will result in a donation to POPS. Amount TBD.
 - The POPS Gala II is set for Oct. 4 at the Park Ballroom. We expect to net \$15,000-\$20,000 (including the silent auction) at this event.
 - We have 50 or more significant potential sponsors that we will be personally visiting in the next several months. Some have assured us they will be providing a donation.
 - See below for info on an Aug. 7 “public meeting” on POPS.
4. With financial pledges somewhat assured for \$750,000, we are investigating a plan with Ken Ondich to create some type of “donation agreement” to result in POPS and the FNPF building the facility and then donating it back to the city. We are aware of a similar-type arrangement done with the city of Medina and the Hamel amateur baseball club organization for a grandstand in a ballpark owned by the city. Your city attorney worked with those organizations on that agreement.
 5. We will be holding a meeting for those who have donated, plus potential donors and community leaders on **Aug. 7 at 6 p.m. at The Broz** to update the community. We invite the city council, appropriate city staff and others to this meeting.
 6. We have sent an RFP June 1 (on behalf of POPS/FNPF) to design/architectural companies to get a bid **ONLY** on a permit-ready design for the POPS. Our goal is to have a design firm secured by early July.
 7. As you know, we have been working closely with Ken and MSA folks regarding the City Center site and the POPS location and space for attendees. We’ve had two meetings with Mike Lamb and believe he has all the input at this time as he creates a model for the City Center site and all its potential uses.
 8. Our goal is to begin construction in the spring of 2025 – assuming all appropriate issues have been resolved through this process with all the groups involved. We are told that projects of this type can (will) take three to six months to complete.
 9. We are continuing to work with Kyra Chapman on possible public grants. We are hopeful to garner some dollars through this effort. We have one grant thus far -- \$5,000 from the Mayo Foundation. All the rest of the funding is from families, companies, service organizations and others.

10. We continue to keep our stakeholders aware of POPS activities through our six-time/year newsletter. This comes out mostly between September and June, with a special issue during the summer if it's necessary. We will continue to provide updates through the e-newsletter.

The POPS Committee/FNPF group once again thanks the city for providing the land for the facility and maintaining it after it is built. This is an historic project for the city of New Prague. We are grateful for the collaboration with the city.

I realize you may have other questions. I will be glad to answer them as best I can. As you know, the POPS Committee is made up of 20+ leaders in the community representing families, businesses, non-profit groups, service organizations, city officials, school district personnel and others.

The POPS Leadership Team is:

- Den Gardner, chair
- Karen Steinhoff, vice-chair
- Sandi Loxton, secretary
- Bruce Wolf, treasurer
- Andy Beckius
- Dr. Jon Colling
- Steve Frost
- Joe Barten
- Lisa Brusseau
- Shannon Brusseau
- Brooke Sticha
- Tony Buthe
- Gina Fadden
- Larry Pint
- Pastor Ben Hilding
- Eddie Shimota
- Shannon Allen.

"It's Time!" has been our motto from the start of this project almost two years ago (fundraising just 18 months ago). Thanks for your time. It certainly is time to take the next steps in this project that will benefit the city of New Prague and its residents in many ways.