



# Art-Speak

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH CULTURAL COMMISSION

## March 31, 2008 Board Meeting Meeting Notes

### In Attendance:

Jennifer Murphy Aubin  
Russell Grazier, *Chair*  
Chris Greiner  
Jane James  
Kay Maneen  
Anna Nuttall  
Sheila Shea  
Leanne Spees  
Deb Thompson

### Absent:

Ellen Fineberg  
John McCluggage  
Steve McHenry  
Blair Hundertmark

### Also:

Sue Cobler  
Lindsay Rose

Russ Grazier began the meeting at 7:05pm.

#### 1. **Review of Minutes**

The March 3, 2008 minutes were unanimously approved with one correction (\$4132, not \$5000, was spent from the NEA grant).

#### 2. **Treasurer's Report**

Leanne Spees presented the board with a budget as of 2/29/08. The budget showed a balance in the operating budget of \$26,720. Expenses in February totaled \$2,889. The board was also presented with a copy of the 990 form which was completed by Cummings, Lamont, McNamee, P.A. A motion was made by Jane James, with a second by Sheila Shea to approve the 990. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### 3. **Recommendation to City Council regarding Seacoast Mental Health Center proposal**

Russ Grazier reported that the Seacoast Mental Health Center requested that the City Council approve their proposal to place artist painted fiberglass cats and dogs on public spaces this summer. John Bohenko requested that Art-Speak review the proposal and



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give the City Council their recommendation. After some discussion, the consensus was to recommend that these pieces be placed on private property. A motion to approve Art-Speak's recommendations to the City Council regarding the Seacoast Mental Health Center's proposal was made by Jane James, with a second by Leanne Spees. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### 4. **Art Speak Funding for FY09**

Sue Cobler reported that Ellen Fineberg, Russ Grazier and Sue met with John Bohenko and Nancy Carmer regarding Art-Speak's request for operating budget support. At the May 5, 2008 City Council meeting, Russ will present Art Speak's request for UDAG funds for operating support. On April 21, 2008, Russ will present the State of the City address on Arts and Culture to the City Council. The Board was encouraged to attend both meetings. Selena Adams will speak on Art-Speak's behalf at the May 5 City Council meeting.

#### 5. **Task Force Reports**

##### a. **Overnight Art Funding**

- i. Deb Thompson reported that Overnight Art has received new pledges totaling \$2050. The Sheraton Harborside Hotel has agreed to be the reception sponsor. The reception will be held on Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>.

##### b. **Overnight Art Implementation**

- i. Chris Greiner reported that Sue Cobler, Steve Parkinson and Nathan Walker met in Market Square to review placement of Nathan's Overnight Art project. They chose the flower bed in Market Square as the selected site. Nathan was asked to submit detailed drawings of the base which were then approved by Steve Parkinson.
- ii. Checks were sent to all of the artists for their budgeted costs.
- iii. A schedule was created and submitted to the city manager for the installation of the projects.
- iv. Anna Nuttall reported that she and Sheila Shea met to discuss the educational component to Overnight Art. They will prepare packets for both parents and educators. They will also submit a letter to principals about the project.

##### c. **Islington Street Corridor Study**

- i. Sue Cobler reported that the consultants presented different scenarios for the Islington Street Corridor, based on logistics and community feedback, to the City Council and Economic Development Commission. They also presented their findings to the community at a public meeting at the Portsmouth Public Library.

#### 6. **Request for Art-Speak Participation in Seacoast Local Festival**

Anna Nuttall reported that the Seacoast Local Festival will be held on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm. The festival will highlight local non-profits and participation is free. The festival will be held on Pleasant Street between Me + Ollie's and Market Square.

#### 7. **Reactivation of Nomination Committee for July 08 Class of Board Members**

Russ Grazier requested that the Board Development task force is restarted. Jennifer Murphy Aubin was tasked with reconvening this committee. One of the new board



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members will be asked to join this committee, along with Sue Cobler, Blair Hundertmark, Russ Grazier and Jennifer.

### 8. Preparation for Coordinator's Annual Review

Russ reported that the board will conduct an annual review for Sue Cobler and will solicit feedback from both Sue and Board Members. Every board member will get a cover letter and questionnaire and Russ will compile those responses for Sue. Sue will also provide the Board with her feedback.

### 9. Action Items:

- Sue will provide Art-Speak's recommendation for the Seacoast Mental Health Center's proposal to John Bohenko and the City Council. She will also send Overnight Art artist bios to Anna and Sheila.
- Sheila will research grant opportunities for operating budget support
- All board members were asked to attend both the April 21 and May 5 City Council meetings.
- All board members were encouraged to attend the Overnight Art reception on May 29.
- All board members were asked to finalize any pending Overnight Art pledges and provide Deb with any new pledges.
- The Overnight Art committee will determine the location for Jason Probert's bench.
- Anna and Sheila will prepare Overnight Art packets for teachers
- Deb will email the Overnight Art logo to Anna
- Jen will reactivate the Nominating Committee and prepare a sign up sheet for the Seacoast Local Festival.

### 10. Adjournment

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm

Meeting notes taken by Deb Thompson, *Secretary*



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**March 31, 2008 Board Meeting  
Meeting Notes**

**Art-Speak, City Cultural Commission Board of Directors (alpha order)**

Jennifer Murphy Aubin  
Ellen Fineberg, *Vice Chair*  
Russell Grazier, *Chair*  
Christopher Greiner  
Blair Hundertmark  
Jane James  
Kay Maneen  
John McCluggage  
Steve McHenry  
Anna Nuttall  
Sheila Shea  
Deb Thompson, *Secretary*  
Leanne Spees, *Treasurer*  
Nancy Carmer, *Ex Officio*  
John Bohenko, *Ex Officio*