

FINAL
**MEETING MINUTES OF THE PORTSMOUTH
PUBLIC ARTS REVIEW COMMITTEE (PARC)**

June 24, 2026 - 5:15 – 6:30 PM

Conference Room A

Members Present: Chris Dwyer, Ernie Greenslade; Heather Krans; Robin Lurie Myerkopf; Lennie Mullaney; Jen Meister; Nancy Pearson, Mara Witzling

Absent: Beth Hartnett

City Council/Staff: Sean Clancy, Councilor Kate Cook, Stephanie Seacord

1. Agenda review

2 Vote to accept minutes of May 27 meeting: Motion made by L Mullaney. Seconded by H Krans. Motion approved.

3. LGBTQ installation. Motion to suspend the rules and bring forward the LGBTQ installation at Vaughn Mall made by N. Pearson. Seconded by L. Mullaney. Motion approved.

-LGBTQ installation in Vaughan Mall (Nancy)- The stakeholder group is looking to fundraise for a work of art in the Vaughan Mall. What are the steps to get permission to locate it there? Tom Kaufold explained the conceptual idea for the privately-funded 'Walk Through with Pride' (working title) LGBTQ public art project. It was decided that PARC and the Stakeholder group, in conjunction with the DPW would define a couple of sites within the mall and present it to the Council to accept. Next steps: Sean Clancy to set a meeting to set 3-4 sites so planning and fundraising can begin. PARC suggests setting a meeting prior to the July 22 public meeting on Vaughn Mall updates.

3. Updates:

- **Bohenko Gateway Park, Codfish repairs, Sijia Chen bench, New Endeavor signage, possible tour of Anthony Alemany's studio-**

Cod fish repairs were made to address wind damage. The replacement signage for the Endeavour has been installed and is much improved. Fundraising for the Nebi sculpture continues, a \$2,500 grant has come in. Opportunity to visit the sculptor's studio to preview the finished model, including a courtesy invitation to DPW. There is a draft artist contract for the Sue Thoreson memorial bench.

- **Future Percent for Art:** New Franklin School (c. 100K) and Mechanic Street pump station (\$200K) The New Franklin School repairs are being done over the next three years. The pump station is a bigger project and more visible. A public process and input will need to occur.

- **Hanover Garage RFP-** *The RFP is in the hands of the City for review before posting.*

- **City Hall Exhibit process.** Invitations have been sent to four new artists. Potential to partner with established groups both formal like NHAA, and informal like Seacoast Moderns.

- **PNH400 Education and Public Art Trust Fund.** A recipient has been chosen for the 2026 inaugural year. A summary of the debrief was circulated that will help inform the creation of a more clear and succinct application next year. The goal is to receive more diverse and engaging proposals.

- **Fairy House Sculpture, dedication planned-** Friends of the South End to coordinate.

- **Lower State Street Pocket Park** - The bust of Jay Smith is almost complete.

- **Santarcangelo gift-** City Council approved the gift and location in Vaughan Mall. PARC reiterated that there will be additional costs for installation and the City will be responsible. The sister city committee will follow up with Santarcangelo's mayor.

4. New Business

- Public Art Walking Tour - Robin will help to design three distinct areas for a public art tour; downtown, Prescott Park, Bohenko Park. Could be a self-guided tour using the archive we already compiled. App, digital, map, all options.

- My Mother the Wind, request for maintenance funds- The land beneath the statue is beginning to erode. PARC has been asked to contribute some resources for maintenance. We will need some info from DPW and costs.

- Vito DiBari potential install, 9/2027- The artist reached out to the City to discuss an art installation using AI that may be a precursor to a future conference.

5. Public comment-

Stephanie Seacord's position with the City is changing and she updated that she will continue to be responsible for the signage on public art. Also she is the liaison between the mayor's office and Shipyard.

Next Meeting: July 22, 2026 Note that time may be adjusted to 4:45 pm to accommodate attending the Vaughn Mall public meeting at 6:30 pm.

Motion to adjourn made by L Mullaney. Seconded by M Witzling. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pearson