

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES OF THE PORTSMOUTH

PUBLIC ARTS REVIEW COMMITTEE (PARC)

May 27, 2026 - 5:15 – 6:45 PM

Conference Room A

Members Present: Chris Dwyer, Ernie Greenslade; Beth Hartnett (Zoom), Heather Krans, Robin Lurie Myerkopf, Lennie Mullaney, and Mara Witzling

Absent: Nancy Pearson, Jennifer Meister

City Council/Staff: Sean Clancy, Councilor Kate Cook, Christine Freise, Library Director, Mike Casad, Parking Facilities Manager

1. Agenda review

2 Vote to accept minutes of March 25 and April 29 meetings: Two small typos were corrected. Motion to accept with changes by R. Lurie-Meyerkopf, Seconded by H. Krans.

3. Updates:

Good of the Hive Contract: The contract was approved by the city council. Work will begin in fall of 2027 so students can participate in process. This Percent for Public Art Project will be located at Portsmouth Middle School.

Codfish repairs: Codfish in “Cod and the Mortal Sea” at Bohenko Gateway Park are down for repairs. Because of damage from the wind, fish will be supported by rods rather than chains.

Nebi Contract: The contract has been approved by Anthony Alemany, the artist, and the city and payment for phase 2 has been requested. Moving forward, all additional payments (foundry, transportation, etc.) will be made with separate contracts.

Sijia Chen Bench: The contract for the Bohenko Gateway Park bench which Sijia Chen is designing in memory of Sue Thoresen is in process.

Ona Judge Mural: The Black History Trail’s Ona Judge mural was unveiled on May 23 and close to 500 people attended. The ceremony was deeply moving, according to PARC members who attended.

Fairy House Sculpture: The Friends of the South End commission is now installed in Prescott Park with plantings.

Santarcangelo gift: PARC’s recommendation will be considered at the June 8 city council meeting.

4. Hanover Garage RFP: Mike Casad, parking facilities manager for the city, shared some history of public art in the garage, including murals designed by high school students in the 1990's (these murals lasted 6 to 7 years and were painted directly on the brick) and the recent poetry project sponsored by the Portsmouth Poet Laureate Program. Some possible spaces for public art in the garage include space near restrooms and stairwells as well as the Ladd street entrance and the elevator. Murals are a possibility as is tile in some areas. Mike wants to be cautious about being too restrictive, since he doesn't want to limit artistic creativity. He did say that DPW has reviewed and are less concerned about projects inside the garage than projects on the outside walls. Chris Dwyer will tweak the RFP for this Percent for Public Art Project to reflect information shared and then provide back to DPW for additions, e.g., dimensions, photos.

5. City Hall Exhibit: The inaugural exhibit opened on May 13 and features the works of Seacoast artists Dustan Knight, Darlene Furbush Ouellett, Teresa McCue, and Kimberly Meuse. Located in city hall in the Eileen Dondero Lobby, outside the city council chambers, the exhibit space will feature rotating exhibits. This exhibit will be up until August 26. Organized by PARC members Lennie Mullaney, Mara Witzling, and Heather Krans, this first exhibit has been a resounding success. Some issues were discussed including how time consuming the actual hanging of the exhibit is and the need for a process for selecting artists. Lennie is speaking with the NH Art Association to encourage collaboration. The exhibit working group will re-convene to draft a call for artists for the Fall exhibit.

6. Vote to Segregate Maintenance Funds in Trust: Trustees of the Trust Fund have asked PARC to create a separate maintenance account. PARC had allocated \$10,000 for maintenance in the Spiraling Serenity project on Peirce Island and that needs to be designated for maintenance to be accounted separately.

Lennie Mullaney made the following motion, which Chris Dwyer seconded and was unanimously approved: "PARC agrees to put the remaining \$10,000 from the Percent for Public Art Project for Peirce Island into a maintenance account within the Public Art Trust."

Kate Cook specified that all requests for maintenance funds must go through PARC and the city council.

Chris will report to legal department and the trustees.

7. Public comments-No members of the public spoke.

***Non-Public Session:** Grants Review (91-A:3, reputational risk)

Motion to go into a non-public session made by Robin Lurie-Myerkopf and seconded by Heather Krans. Motion approved.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 24, 2026, 5:15-6:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ernie Greenslade