

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

January 28, 2026 - 5:15 – 6:30 PM

Conference Room A

Members Present: Chris Dwyer, Ernie Greenslade; Beth Hartnett; Robin Lurie Meyerkopf; Lennie Mullaney; Jen Meister; Nancy Pearson, Mara Witzling

Absent:

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

AGENDA

1. Welcome and agenda review

2. Vote to accept minutes of December 17 meeting- ***Motion made by Lennie Mullaney; Second by Jen Meister. Motion approved.***

3. Updates/wrap-ups:

--resignation of Ellen Fineberg. - *This creates two vacancies on PARC. There is one person who has applied and is pending approval of the city council. The committee wanted to thank Ellen for her service and hope she might return in the future.*

--updated public art inventory updates and web page updates; PARC Meeting Materials | City of Portsmouth- *are now live.*

--re-dedication of Each One: the Button Project/Community Campus- *The mural has been moved to the Community Campus and the artist, Sarah Haskell is pleased with the change, as more people will see it and interact with it. Re dedication ceremony TBD once signage has been completed.*

--PRIDE mural temporary installation approval- *The city council approved the temporary installation.*

--next steps: art exhibit for City Council Chambers lobby- *Mara and Lennie will oversee and potentially invite outside contributors to help.*

--Bohenko Gateway Park update: Nebi maquette and donations; bench; sponsor benefits- *Raised \$64,000 toward the work. We applied for and received a \$10K grant from the Sawtelle Foundation. The maquette is near completion.*

The Sue Thoreson memorial bench planning is underway. Some funds will need to be raised for site preparation and installation.

4. Cod and the Mortal Sea maintenance request (Terrence Parker)- *The maintenance plan was not robust enough to deal with the strong winds coming down the river. To adjust for wind damage, some design elements were adjusted, i.e. shortening the cables from which the fish hang. For a longer term solution, there is a \$2,700 funding request to replace the cables with solid aluminum rods. The fish will still move but less freely and without as much friction.*

Motion to release \$3,000 (extra for contingency) from Public Art Trust CIP funds made by Beth Hartnett; second by Jen Meister. Motion approved.

5. Launch of RFP for Portsmouth 400th Anniversary Education & Public Art Trust (Nancy and Ernie)- *Feedback Lynda Schmidt from the Clipper Foundation suggested that we take another look at the application for clarity. PARC will run the process along with library director Christine Friese, similar to the Peirce Island project. As questions from applicants come in, we can post them with the answers on the PARC Public Art Trust web page for anyone in the public to see. An email list of potential applicants is started, but we are all encouraged to share via other channels like social media. Committee members are asked to review a revised information/application packet.*

6. Sister City Gift- *The Italian city of Santarcangelo di Romagna wants to give Portsmouth a luminary work similar to those the city is known for (Author Luminaries). Questions such as what it would say, how it is installed, and the size would help determine the cost and location. More info to come when mayor of Santarcangelo visits in February.*

7. Election of officers/staggered terms for committee members- ***Motion to nominate Nancy Pearson as Secretary made by Chris Dwyer; second by Lennie Mullaney. Motion to nominate Chris Dwyer and Ernie Greenslade as co-chairs made by Beth Hartnett; second by Jen Meister. Both motions were approved.*** *There is a procedural need to stagger terms so members can be reappointed. This is managed by Councilor Kate Cook working with the City Clerk. Members who want a shorter term or do not want to be reappointed should let Councilor Cook know.*

8. Review of draft annual report- *Chris Dwyer drafted a report to council. Members reviewed and weighed in. Chris will clean up the document and send it to the council.*

9. Goal setting for 2026- *Focus on projects that are funded; the Hanover Garage and the Schools.*

10. If time permits, begin discussion of High-Hanover garage opportunity. The committee reviewed images of public art in public garages collected by Beth, Ernie, and Chris as inspiration.

11. Public comment- *No members of the public spoke.*

Motion to adjourn made by Mara Witzling; Second by Jen Meister. Motion approved.

Next Meeting: February 25, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pearson