

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

March 25, 2026 - 5:15 – 6:30 PM

Conference Room A

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

Absent:

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

1. Agenda review

2. Vote to accept minutes of January 28 and February 25 meetings- *Motion made by Lennie Mullaney. Seconded by Jen Meister. Motion passed.*

3. Updates/wrap-ups:

--re-dedication of Each One: the Button Project/Community Campus- *A very nice event, the artist, Sarah Haskell, spoke eloquently and people were moved to tears. Many people were personally connected to the work and the events of 9/11. Demonstrates the importance of placing public art in the right location. Begs the question of potentially recording the stories from the artists who create/created art in Portsmouth to keep these stories and memories and make them accessible. The LGBTQ mural is also in the lobby at Community Campus and looks terrific.*

--update on potential meeting with Sister City Santarcangelo artist- *March 30 at 3:30pm in Conference Room A. There will be a translator.*

--Trust RFP questions (Ernie)- *Is now open for submissions. An applicant has asked a few clarifying questions, but otherwise it's been quiet in terms of questions or application clarification. We should send a reminder email about the upcoming deadline.*

--Nebi—sculpture changes, shoreline protection, phase 2 contract (Ernie)- *The artist is making some changes to the attire of the sculpture based on feedback from the committee as well as the Pouilots. Preparing the Shoreline Protection permit (S. Clancy).*

-- exhibit space updates (Mara and Lennie)- *Looking at this as a pilot. An invitational, with selected artists based on the space. The end of April is a projected deadline to hang the first show, May 1-July 30.*

--reminder Master Plan open house April 22, Community Campus- *PARC members encouraged to attend. There might be more opportunities for public art in less obvious places (outside of downtown).*

4. Review Jay Smith Park Refurbishment Plan (Terrence Parker)- *The memorial garden is on State Street across from Richardson's Market. Terrence provided some historic context to who Jay Smith was, as well as the first caretaker of the garden, Kate Crowell, also deceased. The park is in disrepair, suffering from neglect. Some funds to care for the park are tied to the trust set up by Smith. Terrence outlined the repairs and updates he proposes along with a sculptural head of Jay Smith in bronze to be created by Carl Aichele. Something for consideration is to include a plaque to let the public know who Smith was and his role in Portsmouth's cultural history. PARC to endorse the proposal to upgrade the park and send it to the City Council. Once the upgrades are made, PARC should spearhead a rededication to the memorial park.*

5. Review Hanover Garage RFP- *Discussion around incorporating the results of the Flash Vote on public art, and the community's desire for exterior and interior murals, sculpture, and engaging local artists. Discussion ensued about connecting interior murals with something outside the garage readily visible to the community. PARC will provide dimensions of the interior and exterior spaces that are applicable for art and seek better photographs and seek additional information from DPW.*

6. Fairy House sculpture location- *The original location in Prescott Park for the Fairy House sculpture is no longer available. Kate will check-in with FOSE about the status of the sculpture. We discussed the potential for returning to the original preferred location which was included in PARC's review. More details on a new location TBD.*

7. Public comment- *Randy Watson came with a "show and tell." He brought in a polished rock. He expressed his desire for a larger polished/partially polished rock somewhere in the city that showcases the beauty of the rock. It could be a rock that already exists.*

Next Meeting: April 29, 2026, Reminder: Longer meeting (5:15 to 7:30) to review proposals. PARC members will be notified in advance if we anticipate the longer meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Heather Krans. Seconded by Lennie Mullaney. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pearson