

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

April 29, 2026 - 5:15 – 6:30 PM
Conference Room A

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

Absent:

City Council/Staff: Sean Clancy, Councilor Kate Cook, Stephanie Seacord, Christine Freise, Library Director, Councilor Michelle Flynn (Zoom)

1. Agenda review

2 Vote to accept minutes of March 25 meeting: *Minutes were not distributed, will be reviewed next month.*

3. Updates:

- Fairy House sculpture location- *K. Cook. DPW and city manager worked with Councilor Cook to relocate the statue closer to the Players Ring building near a new garden, and closer to sidewalk. Will have stepping stones to mitigate trampling on plantings.*
- Jay Smith Park next steps- *C. Dwyer. worked with a Trustee of the Trust Fund to learn more about the Trust that was created for this pocket park. It was created as “An amenity to be enjoyed by the public.” Funds from the Trust have previously been used for expenditures for the art work currently in the park, creating a precedent for spending funds from the trust on artwork. The path forward is to go back to the funds in the trust to pay for the new sculpture proposed by Terrence Parker.*
- Nebi photos and contract in process- *E. Greenslade. The artist sent new images of the maquette based on feedback about Nebi’s attire. Her dress fabric is more leather-like and less gossamer. Negotiations are ongoing regarding the details of the contract between the artist and the City. As far as fundraising, we are still at \$64,000 after taking a small reprieve over the winter but are ready to hit the ground running with the new detailed photos.*
- Hanover Garage RFP- *C Dwyer. Committee comments have been incorporated into the RFP and sits with DPW.*

- Ona Judge mural unveiling May 23- *Reception and unveiling at 2:00. The author who wrote the book on Ona Judge will be there, as well as Manny Ramirez, the muralist and co-founder of Positive Street Art.*
- City Hall exhibit- *Mara, Lennie, Heather. The exhibit will open on May 13th. It was an invitational, inviting five artists, four of whom accepted. Artists will drop off works by May 11, and the sub committee will hang before the 13th. A press release is forthcoming to announce the exhibit. The artist will be invited (pending approval from the Mayor and city manager) to the Council meeting on May 18 and be recognized by the Council. The Portsmouth Poet Laureate program will be holding a reception on the same night.*

4. Santarcangelo gift- *C. Dwyer. Portsmouth's sister city, Santarcangelo di Romagna, Italy, is giving Portsmouth lighted poetry, created with neon lettering, to be hung as a lighted canopy of art. PARC proposes the location over Vaughn Mall. City engineers do not see technical problems with weather or location. Poles will hold up the lights so they do not attach to public or private buildings. PARC should set aside funds to replace any potential breakages. Installation will coincide with the completion of the Vaughn Mall utility and landscape upgrades.*

PARC will send a memo to the city council explaining the gift, the project, and its upkeep.

5. Review of Portsmouth Middle School mural concept (see background):
<https://www.thegoodofthehive.com> / NH Chronicle about his work- *Phil Davis, PMS principal on Zoom to answer questions. C. Dwyer walked through the process for how this Percent for Art process will work. The project involves a global art initiative called "The Good of the Hive" which is a mural about pollinators proposed for the PMS interior courtyard. The artist is from NY but has family locally. The outdoor mural will be made with water-based paint. The artist will conduct a public presentation. Scheduled for 2027 and includes 3-4 weeks on site.*

-Question about longevity of the work. Upkeep opportunities.

-Also about the timeline for creation- will it be when school is in session so students are able to watch and see the process?

-Will there be any student engagement?

PARC will make a recommendation to the City Council to accept this proposal.

6. Public comment- *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 M. Witzling. Second by J. Meister. Motion passed.

Motion to come out of non public. Made by R. L. Meyerkopf. Second J. Meister. Motion passed. PARC reviewed four proposals and came up with a list of questions and clarifications for each applicant to respond to by May 20th. N Pearson will contact each applicant with committee feedback on 4/30.

Next Meeting: May 27, 2026

Motion to adjourn made by L Mullaney. Seconded by J. Meister: Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pearson