Minutes – October 16, 2023 -- Portsmouth Arts and Nonprofits Committee

Russ called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM

Members in attendance: Russ Grazier, Robin Albert, Jason Goodrich, Genevieve Aichele , Jeff Cooper, Councilor Kate Cook. Remotely: Barb Massar, Tina Sawtelle, Beth Falconer, Ellen Fineberg. Not present: Renee Giffroy, Courtney Perkins, JerriAnne Boggis.

Non-members in attendance: Sean Clancy, Stephanie Seacord (recording secretary)

Due to lack of in-person quorum, no minutes were approved and no other votes were taken.

Russ reported that the report from the Finance/Tax Assessors office on non-profit taxing is on hold until 2024.

1. **Cultural Plan Subcommittee Update:**

Jeff Cooper, Russ Grazier, Jason Goodrich and Genevieve Aichele discussed a tentative arts organizations tour for the ARG representatives on Tues/Wed Oct 17-18. The agenda for the joint committee work session scheduled for Thurs Oct 19 is intended to initiate the transition between ARG's community outreach/data collection efforts and the initial draft of the Cultural Plan. The debrief includes:

- Report on the Committee focus group
- Report on the community survey
- Report on the zoom focus group sessions
- Report on the live focus group

Barbara reiterated that the Cultural Plan Subcommittee is "all over the project" and is investing a significant amount of time and effort.

2. **AFTA Update (Robin Albert):**

AFTA reported its national data on October 12. As soon as the spreadsheet of participating organizations is confirmed the subcommittee will share the Portsmouth data with them – but is requesting that the information be shared only with sponsors or stakeholders and not with the public. The public release of data will coincide with Randy's visit Jan 11-12, 2024.

Visit schedule:

Thurs 11 Jan – Chamber breakfast, Portsmouth Rotary lunch at 12 noon

Fri 12 Jan – Nonprofit workshop at 3S – with more emphasis than last time on best practices for sharing the data in an effective way.

3. **End of the Year Report**

Russ and Barbara will coordinate the draft for presentation at the final City Council meeting on Dec 18 (deadline Dec 13). They will offer a verbal powerpoint presentation and hand out reports at the meeting.

Report will cover accomplishments since the Dec 2021 report:

- Timeline of how committee evolved from Covid Relief Task Force in May 2020 to now
- AFTA – top line results
- Cultural Plan
- Ordinance creating Cultural Commission

- Cultural Commission members (proposed for consideration 11/13 and voted 12/4)
- Marketing pilot
- Public Art Review Committee
- Request for ARPA funds

4. **Cultural Commission Applications**

Application form available on the City Clerk's page and on the Arts Committee page.
Deadline to apply is November 7 for one of the 12 positions:

- 4 cultural organization – nonprofits or for-profits – representative for the organization does not need to be a Portsmouth resident and should note s/he is applying as the organization delegate and use the organization's address
- 4 members of the community (Portsmouth resident)
- 4 artists (Portsmouth resident)
- 1 Alternate
- 1 City Councilor/1 staff

5 applications received so far

Barbara commented that she wished to acknowledge the work and transformative accomplishments of the Arts & Nonprofits Committee, especially that the Cultural Commission is now part of City government – an important and meaningful milestone. Russ seconded that the committee should celebrate 'what we all did together."

Meeting adjourned at 12:58 pm. **Next meeting, Thursday Oct 19, 10 am to 2 pm with Subcommittee.**

DRAFT